

# Lassen County 2018 CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT





# COUNTY OF LASSEN

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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January 6, 2020

**Karen Ross, Secretary** California Department of Food and Agriculture  
And

**The Honorable Board of Supervisors, County of Lassen**

Supervisor, Chris Gallagher, Chairman, District 1

Supervisor, David Teeter, District 2

Supervisor, Jeff Hemphill, District 3

Supervisor, Aaron Albaugh, District 4

Supervisor, Tom Hammond, District 5

I am pleased to present the 2018 Lassen County Crop and Livestock report in accordance with the requirements of Sections 2272 & 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code. The report summarizes the estimated acreage, yield, gross value and sustainable agriculture of Lassen County's agricultural production for the 2018 calendar year.

The values presented in this report represent the gross value for products and do not reflect the cost of production, marketing, storage or transportation. It does not attempt to show county inventory, cost of production or net return to growers.

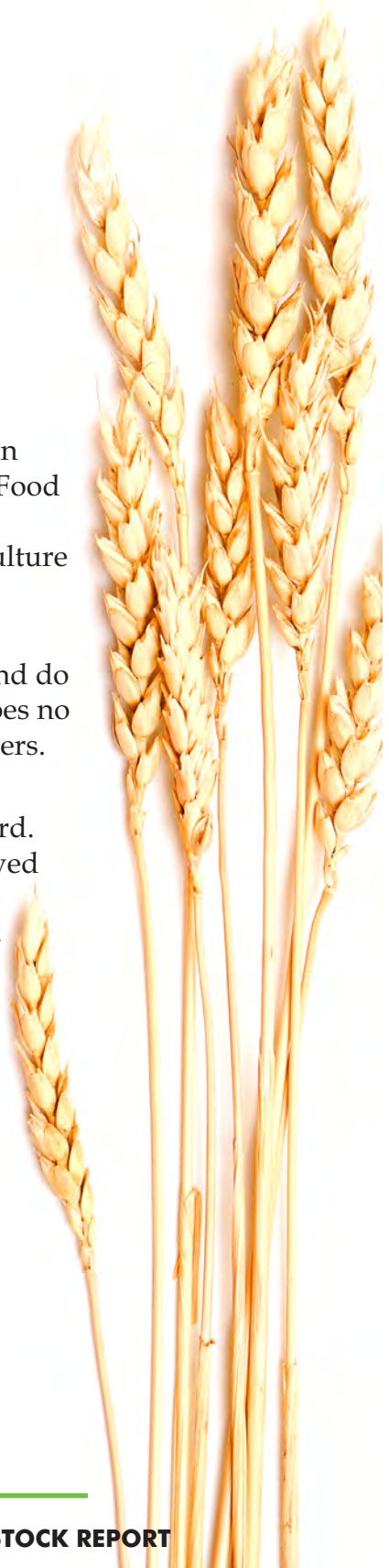
The total gross value of Lassen County Agriculture production in 2018 was \$144,588,657.00 surpassing the gross value of 2017, our highest total on record. The major drought felt by all of California finally came to an end. This allowed higher hay yields and better grazing for livestock which improved returns for local ranchers. Lassen County's biggest change came in our "Seed, Fruit, Vegetable and Nursery crops" sector. While acreage and price of wild rice went down, the value of miscellaneous nursery crops showed an increase of 29%. This increase was due in part to a large increase in acres of seed garlic and strawberry nursery plants.

I would like to thank the producers and public agencies that cooperated by supplying all of the data that was used in preparing this report. As well as my staff for all the effort that was put forth in compiling the final document.

Respectfully Submitted,

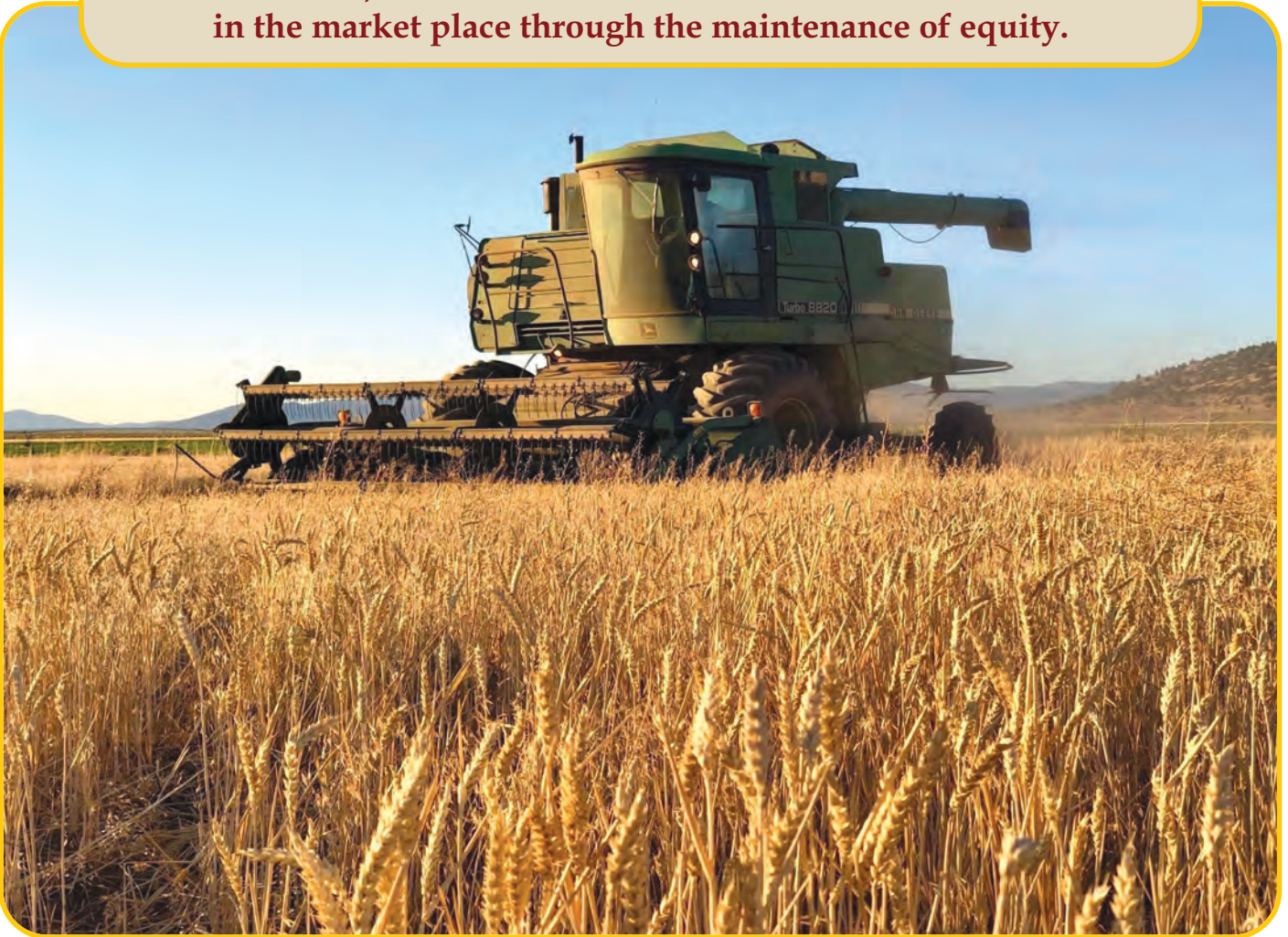
**Craig A. Hemphill**

**Agriculture Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measure**



# OUR MISSION

The Agriculture Commissioner promotes Lassen County agriculture production by protecting it from injurious pests & diseases, to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food and other products for the consumer, and to build consumer and business confidence in the market place through the maintenance of equity.



## PERSONNEL & ASSOCIATES

*Craig A. Hemphill, Agriculture Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures*

*Tina Hilburn, Supervising Agriculture & Weights & Measures Inspector*

*Cheryl Lauritsen, Supervising Agriculture & Weights & Measures Inspector*

*Adriana Scala, Biologist I*

*Robin Hansen, Biologist I*

*Mike Stewart, Seasonal ★ Robin Skelton-Snipes, Seasonal*

*Kevin Ostmeyer, Seasonal ★ Max Lindeman, Seasonal*

*Rhett Rhodes, Seasonal ★ George Affonso, USDA Wildlife Specialist*

Special thanks to all of the farmers and ranchers who provided the valuable information and photos used to compile this report.



# LASSEN COUNTY'S MILLION DOLLAR CROPS

| <b>CROP</b>                               | <b>2018<br/>Crop Value</b> | <b>2018<br/>Crop Ranking</b> | <b>2017<br/>Crop Ranking</b> |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Beef Cattle                               | \$30,882,628               | 2                            | 1                            |
| Other Hay*                                | \$32,803,245               | 1                            | 2                            |
| Alfalfa Hay                               | \$26,804,747               | 4                            | 3                            |
| Seed, Fruit, Vegetable<br>& Nursery Crops | \$30,409,186               | 3                            | 4                            |
| Timber                                    | \$10,165,480               | 5                            | 5                            |
| Irrigated Pasture                         | \$4,830,000                | 6                            | 6                            |
| Grain Hay                                 | \$3,853,206                | 7                            | 7                            |
| Wild Rice                                 | \$1,647,589                | 9                            | 8                            |
| Sheep & Lambs                             | \$1,783,320                | 8                            | 9                            |
| Wheat                                     | \$1,320,775                | 10                           | 10                           |



## FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION VALUES

| <b>YEAR</b> | <b>Field<br/>Crops</b> | <b>Seed, Fruit<br/>Vegetable &amp;<br/>Nursery</b> | <b>Livestock &amp;<br/>Poultry</b> | <b>Livestock<br/>Products</b> | <b>Timber<br/>Harvest</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>  |
|-------------|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 2018        | \$71,026,039           | \$30,409,189                                       | \$32,729,948                       | \$129,000                     | \$10,165,480              | \$144,588,657 |
| 2017        | 61,430,999             | 23,276,418   | 32,152,836                         | 129,000                       | 12,701,228                | 129,690,481   |
| 2016        | 54,273,808             | 25,982,234   | 29,253,438                         | 129,000                       | 11,083,367                | 120,721,84    |
| 2015*       | 60,707,113             | 17,293,893   | \$38,900,335                       | 129,000                       | 9,735,464                 | 126,790,805   |
| 2014        | 62,754,412             | 18,475,580   | 44,343,120                         | 129,000                       | 6,309,432                 | 132,011,544   |

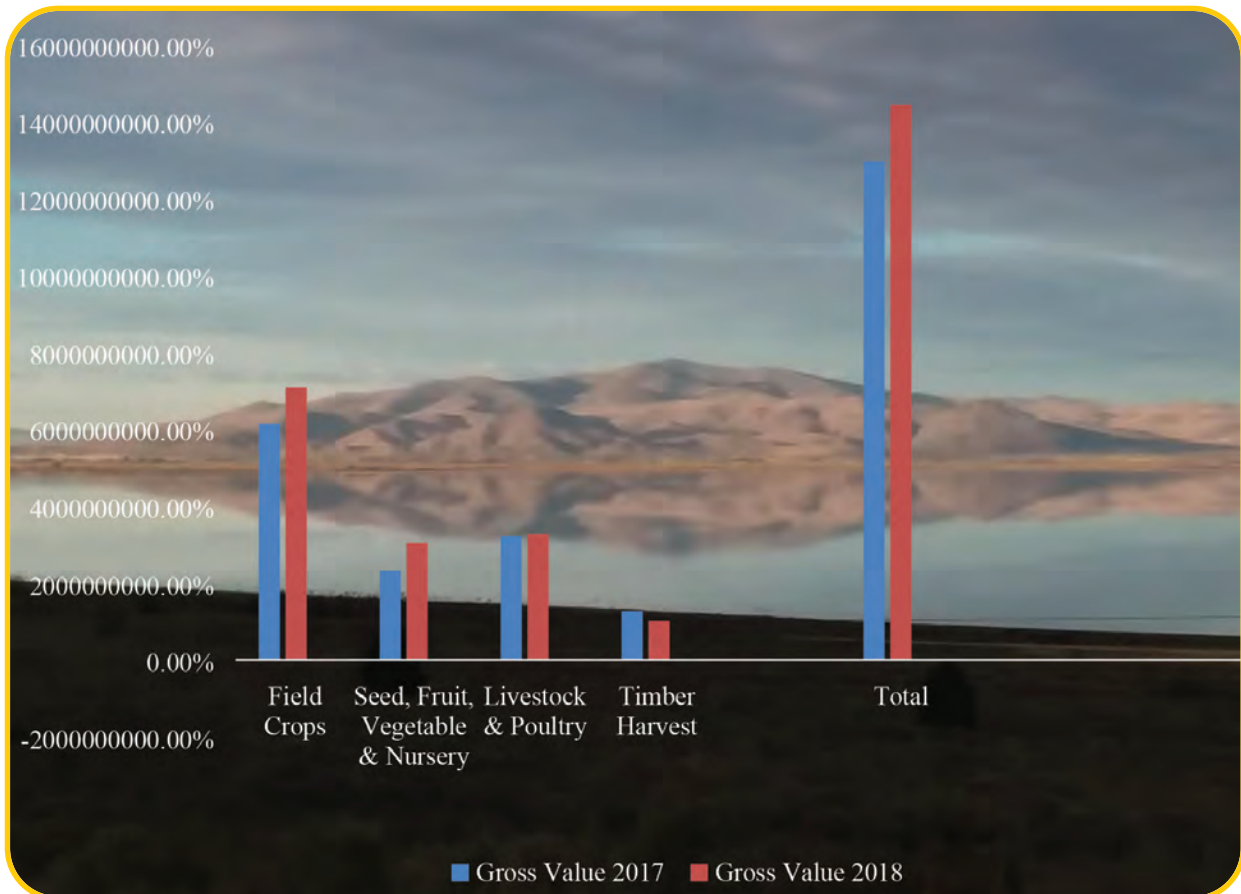
\*2015 Timber Harvest and Total adjusted to include Christmas tree values

\*\*2018 Christmas tree data not included in Timber Harvest Values

# CHANGES IN GROSS VALUE

## COMMODITY GROUP

|                                  | Gross Value        |                    | Changes In    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
|                                  | 2016               | 2017               | Gross Value   |
| Field Crops                      | \$61,431,539       | \$71,026,039       | 13.56%        |
| Seed, Fruit, Vegetable & Nursery | 23,276,418         | 30,409,089         | 23.46%        |
| Livestock & Poultry              | 32,152,836         | 32,729,948         | 1.76%         |
| Timber Harvest                   | 12,701,228         | 10,165,480         | -19.97%       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>129,690,481</b> | <b>144,588,657</b> | <b>10.30%</b> |



## 10 Year Comparison

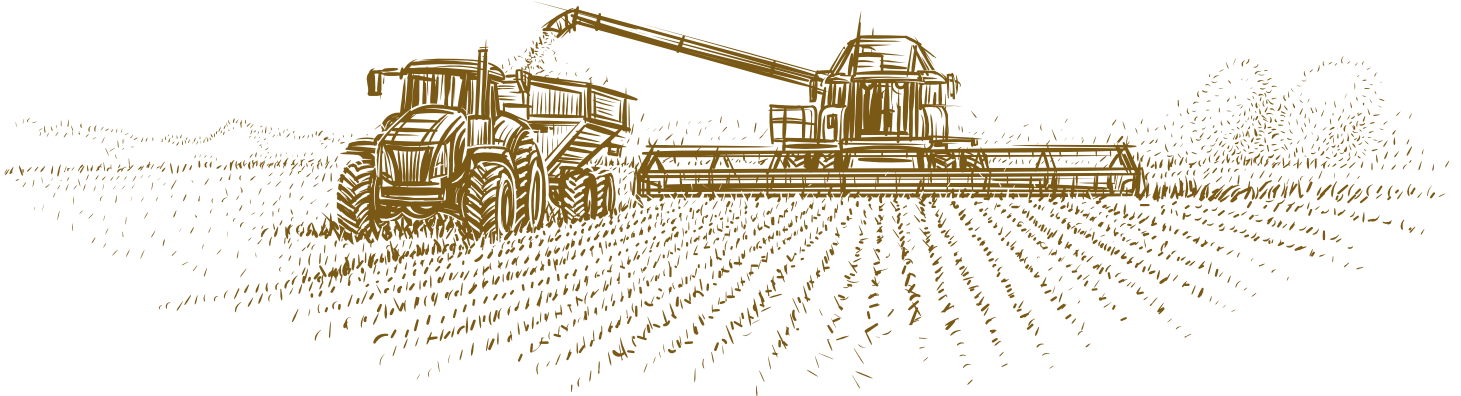
|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| 2018*** | \$144,588,657 |
| 2017    | 129,690,481   |
| 2016    | 120,721,887   |
| 2015**  | 126,790,805   |
| 2014    | 115,835,558   |
| 2013*   | 124,550,196   |
| 2012    | 101,653,576   |
| 2011    | 101,712,856   |
| 2010    | 74,500,023    |
| 2009    | 69,091,500    |

\*2013 FIGURES CORRECTED FOR ACCURACY

\*\*2015 FIGURES CORRECTED TO INCLUDE CHRISTMAS TREE VALUE

\*\*\*2018 CHRISTMAS TREE VALUES NOT AVAILABLE

Lassen County was founded in 1864 after the "Sagebrush War".  
It covers 4,720 square miles of which only 179 square miles (3.8%) is water.



## TOP LASSEN COUNTY CROPS

| <b>RANK</b><br><b>2018</b> | <b>Commodity</b>    | <b>2018</b><br><b>Gross Value</b> | <b>Rank</b><br><b>2017</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1                          | All Hay             | \$63,488,198                      | 1                          |
| 2                          | Livestock           | 32,729,948                        | 2                          |
| 3                          | Misc. Nursery Crops | 28,761,600                        | 3                          |
| 4                          | Timber              | 10,165,480                        | 4                          |
| 5                          | Pastureland         | 5,967,066                         | 5                          |
| 6                          | Wheat               | 4,320,775                         | 7                          |
| 7                          | Wild Rice           | 1,647,589                         | 6                          |
| 8                          | Livestock Products  | 129,000                           | 8                          |



## FIELD CROPS

| Crop                    | Year | Acres Harvested | Production Per Acre | Unit | Production Total | Value Per Unit | Total Value |
|-------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------------|------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Hay, Alfalfa            | 2018 | 27,926          | 4.61                | Ton  | 128,739          | 208.21         | 26,804,747  |
|                         | 2017 | 27,586          | 4.00                | Ton  | 110,344          | 187.00         | 20,634,328  |
| Hay, Grain              | 2018 | 9,156           | 3.34                | Ton  | 30,581           | 126.00         | 3,853,206   |
|                         | 2017 | 9,213           | 3.30                | Ton  | 30,403           | 137.33         | 41,752,224  |
| *Hay, Other             | 2018 | 29,934          | 4.86                | Ton  | 145,479          | 225.67         | 32,830,245  |
|                         | 2017 | 29,250          | 4.87                | Ton  | 142,448          | 206.11         | 29,359,957  |
| Wheat                   | 2018 | 2,707           | 2.72                | Ton  | 7,363            | 179.38         | 1,320,775   |
|                         | 2017 | 2,600           | 2.40                | Ton  | 6,240            | 179.17         | 1,118,021   |
| Pasture (Irrigated)     | 2018 | 23,000          | 6.00                | AUM  | 138,000          | 35.00          | 4,830,000   |
|                         | 2017 | 23,000          | 6.00                | AUM  | 138,000          | 35.00          | 4,830,000   |
| Pasture (Non-irrigated) | 2018 | 22,000          | 1.00                | AUM  | 22,000           | 22.50          | 495,000     |
|                         | 2017 | 22,000          | 1.00                | AUM  | 22,000           | 20.00          | 440,000     |
| Pasture (Range)         | 2018 | 1,291,253       | 0.10                | AUM  | 129,125          | 1.41           | 182,066     |
|                         | 2017 | 1,291,253       | 0.10                | AUM  | 129,125          | 1.27           | 163,989     |
| Aftermath (Stubble-all) | 2018 | 20,000          | 1.00                | AUM  | 20,000           | 23.00          | 460,000     |
|                         | 2017 | 20,000          | 1.00                | AUM  | 20,000           | 23.00          | 460,000     |
| **Miscellaneous         | 2018 |                 |                     |      |                  |                | 250,000     |
|                         | 2017 |                 |                     |      |                  |                | 250,000     |

\*Grass Alfalfa Mix, Fescue, Timothy Hay, Orchard Grass Hay & Meadow Grass Hay

\*\*Includes Straw, Barley, Oats Triticale, Rye & Corn for Fodder.

## SEED, FRUIT, VEGETABLE & NURSERY CROPS

| Crop   | Harvested Year | Production Acreage | Production Per Acre | Production Unit | Production Total | Value Per Unit | Total Value         |
|--|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Wild Rice  | 2018           | 1,469.5            | 1,686               | Lbs.            | \$2,477,577      | .665/Green Lb. | \$2,812,514         |
|  | 2017           | 2,173              | 1,505               | Lbs.            | 3,270,365        | .86/Green Lb.  | 2,790,744           |
| * Misc Crops   | 2018           |                    |                     |                 |                  |                | 20,463,904          |
|  | 2017           |                    |                     |                 |                  |                | 23,191,490          |
| * Alfalfa Seed, Apples, Belgian Endive<br>Garlic See, Mint, Pumpkins, Seed Peas Strawberries,<br>Peaches, Misc. Vegetables & Ornamamental Flowrs<br>(Crops With Less Than 3 Producers) |                |                    |                     |                 |                  |                |                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>2017</b>    |                    |                     |                 |                  |                | <b>\$23,276,418</b> |
|  | <b>2016</b>    |                    |                     |                 |                  |                | <b>25,982,231</b>   |

## REGISTERED DEVICES 2018

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Computing/Electric   | 20  |
| Wire/Cordage/Rope    | 1   |
| Counter Platform     | 28  |
| Taxi                 | 1   |
| Hanging/Spring Scale | 2   |
| Retail Motor Fuel    | 327 |
| Monorail/Meat Beam   | 1   |
| Wholesale Fuel       | 43  |
| Livestock            | 24  |



|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Vehicle Meters        | 10         |
| Vehicle Scales        | 15         |
| LPG Stationary Meters | 16         |
| Railroad Scales       | 1          |
| LPG Vehicle Meters    | 7          |
| Platform Scales       | 12         |
| Electric Submeters    | 6          |
| Hopper Scales         | 5          |
| <b>TOTAL DEVICES</b>  | <b>519</b> |

# LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

| Commodity  | Year        | # Of Head | Liveweight | *Unit | Per Unit | Total               |
|--|-------------|-----------|------------|-------|----------|---------------------|
| Cows   | 2018        | 7271      | 86,907     | CWT.  | \$53.67  | 4,664,299           |
|  | 2017        | 6,925     | 81,369     | CWT.  | 79.00    | 6,428,151           |
| Calves   | 2018        | 6612      | 33,060     | CWT.  | 161.35   | 5,334,231           |
|  | 2017        | 6,297     | 31,485     | CWT.  | 144.92   | 4,562,806           |
| Heifers  | 2018        | 7564      | 56,730     | CWT.  | 140.03   | 7,943,901           |
|  | 2017        | 7,204     | 54,030     | CWT.  | 139.25   | 7,523,677           |
| Steers   | 2018        | 10286     | 77,145     | CWT.  | 144.85   | 11,174,453          |
|  | 2017        | 9,796     | 71,021     | CWT.  | 139.25   | 9,889,674           |
| Bulls  | 2018        | 1285      | 23,130     | CWT.  | 76.34    | 1,765,744           |
|  | 2017        | 1,224     | 22,032     | CWT.  | 79.00    | 1,740,528           |
| Sheep/Lambs  | 2018        | 10000     | 12,000     | CWT.  | 148.61   | 1,783,320           |
|  | 2017        | 10,000    | 12,000     | CWT.  | 162.00   | 1,944,000           |
| Misc. Livestock<br>(pheasant, hogs,<br>goats, chickens,<br>alpaca) | 2018        |           |            |       |          | 64,000              |
|  | 2017        |           |            |       |          | 64,000              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2018</b> |           |            |       |          | <b>\$32,729,949</b> |
|  | <b>2017</b> |           |            |       |          | <b>\$32,152,836</b> |

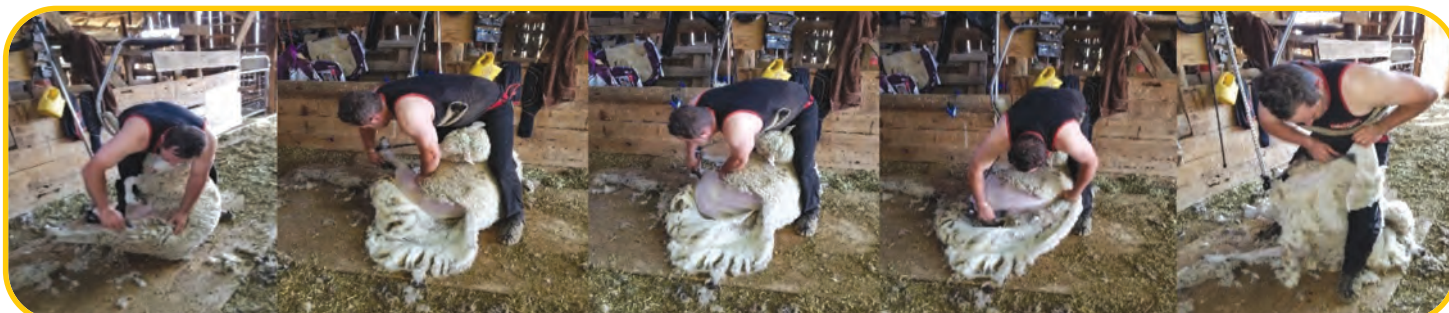


\*Unit is per 100 lbs. (CWT)



## LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

| Commodity   | Year        | Total            |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| Includes: Wool, Eggs,<br>Chicks, Apiary & Rabbits | 2018        | \$129,000        |
|   | 2017        | 129,000          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                      | <b>2018</b> | <b>\$129,000</b> |
|   | <b>2017</b> | <b>129,000</b>   |





# TIMBER HARVEST

| Commodity        | Year        | Production | Unite      | Value     | Total               |
|------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Saw Timber*      | 2018        | \$52,166   | Net MBF    | \$194.868 | \$10,165,480        |
|                  | 2017        | 67,128     | Net MBF    | 188.676   | 12,665,478          |
| Christmas Trees* | 2018        | N/A        | N/A        | N/A       | N/A                 |
|                  | 2017        | 25,536     | Linear Ft. | 1.40      | 37,750              |
| <b>Total**</b>   | <b>2018</b> |            |            |           | <b>\$10,165,480</b> |
|                  | <b>2017</b> |            |            |           | <b>12,701,228</b>   |



\*Figures provided by the Timber Tax Division, California State Board of Equalization

\*\*Figures not available for Christmas Trees in 2018

## Pest Exclusion

Our staff monitors plant material and out of state vehicles that enter Lassen County to prevent the spread of exotic and/or target pests that could be economically devastating to our agriculture and timber industries. The staff also perform field inspections to prevent any diseases or pests from being transported to other areas. At least 100 incoming UPS, FedEx, truck and US Mail shipments were inspected at local nurseries, retail establishments and ranches. 94.5 hours were spent doing field inspections covering 411 acres of strawberry and garlic fields.



**Left Photo:**  
Staff Performing Field  
Inspections in Strawberry  
& Garlic Fields

## Pest Detection

Pest detection activities are performed by Agricultural Commissioner staff by systematically searching for detrimental pests through the use of traps, lures and surveys. Targeted pests in Lassen County consist primarily of the Gypsy Moth (106 traps) & the Japanese Beetle (2 traps). No target pests were found during the 2018 trapping season. Previously we have worked with CDFA to monitor the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug and the Cereal Leaf Beetle.



**Left Photo:**  
Japanese beetle trap.  
**Above Photo**  
Japanese beetle

# LASSEN COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

## 2018 ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

|                     |        |                              |
|---------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Alfalfa Hay         | 1,682  | Acres Certified              |
| Other Hay           | 120    | Acres Certified              |
| Meadow Grass Hay    | 600    | Acres Certified              |
| Rye Seed            | 152    | Acres Certified              |
| Endive              | 51.90  | Acres Certified              |
| Quinoa              | 200    | Acres Certified              |
| Peas (Dried)        | 243.60 | Acres Certified              |
| Wheat               | 220    | Acres Certified              |
| Pasture & Rangeland | 46,345 | Acres Certified              |
| Wild Rice           | 319.50 | Acres Certified              |
| Covercrop           | 148.40 | Acres Certified              |
| Cattle              | 735    | Certified Organic (#of Head) |

**Total Organic Acres:** 49,862.40

**Total Number of Organic Farms & Ranches:** 13

**Total #of Cattle:** 735

**Total Value:** \$2,909,712

## DIRECT MARKETING

Lassen County has only one Certified Farmers Market. It is held every Saturday morning and runs from June to September. Sponsored by the Lassen Land and Trails Trust, our market is held in historic uptown Susanville and features fruits, meats, vegetables, prepared foods, artisans and live music.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Staff from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office give children and adults the opportunity to compare weights of fruits and vegetables, and learn about "A" rated weeds in Lassen County. Previous years topics have included information about the pest detection program, honey bees and attracting beneficial insects to your garden.



Radio spots on our local station provided insight into such topics as rodent control, puncturevine, winterizing farm equipment, renewing restricted materials permits, purchasing firewood and West Nile Virus.





| <b>PEST ERADICATED</b>            | <b>CONTROL METHOD</b>          | <b>2018 NET<br/>ACRES</b> | <b>2017 NET<br/>ACRES</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Scotch Thistle                    | Chemical/Mechanical            | 214.356                   | 218.02                    |
| Dalmatian Toadflax                | Chemical/Mechanical/Biological | 6.504                     | 8.5205                    |
| Spotted Knapweed                  | Chemical/Mechanical            | 4.363                     | 10.557                    |
| Diffuse Knapweed                  | Chemical                       | 0                         | .0035                     |
| Squarrose Knapweed                | Chemical                       | 10.65                     | 5.4375                    |
| Leafy Spurge                      | Chemical                       | 0                         | .18                       |
| Rush Skeletonweed                 | Chemical                       | 1.37                      | 2.915                     |
| Musk Thistle                      | Chemical                       | .05                       | .31                       |
| Russian Knapweed                  | Chemical/Biological            | 6.615                     | 12.8135                   |
| Yellow Starthistle                | Chemical/Mechanical            | 46.527                    | 47.4855                   |
| Tall whitetop                     | Chemical                       | 12.55                     | 4.5105                    |
| Mediterranean Sage                | Chemical                       | 9.125                     | 1.844                     |
| Hoary Cress                       | Chemical                       | 0                         | 0                         |
| Puncturevine                      | Chemical                       | 25.17                     | 13.06                     |
| Canada Thistle                    | Chemical                       | 12.9                      | 2.725                     |
| Wavyleaf Thistle                  | Chemical                       | 0                         | 0                         |
| Dyer's Woad                       | Chemical                       | 7.69                      | 6.5725                    |
| Sulfur Cinquefoil                 | Chemical                       | 0                         | 0                         |
| Yellowspine Wavyleaf Thistle Hyb. | Chemical                       | 0                         | .41                       |
| Bull Thistle                      | Chemical                       | .07                       | 5.5725                    |
| Klamath Weed                      | Chemical                       | .5                        | 0                         |
| Willow Sprout Control             | Chemical                       | 0                         | .15                       |
| Sagebrush & Rabbit Brush          | Chemical                       | .2                        | 0                         |
| Short White Top                   | Chemical                       | .025                      | 0                         |
| Vegetation Management             | Chemical                       | .8                        | 3.63                      |
| Hemlock                           | Chemical                       | .438                      | .438                      |
| Sandbur                           | Chemical                       | 0                         | .05                       |
| Baby's Breath                     | Chemical                       | .03                       | 0                         |



Spray crews use a variety of methods and equipment in our ongoing war against noxious weeds. Through cooperative agreements with federal, state and local partners, the Agricultural Commissioner's office is able to better combat the constant invasion of "rated pests". Biological control methods are proving helpful with Dalmatian toadflax and Russian knapweed.



**Lassen County Agricultural Commissioner**

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