

2010 Annual Crop & Livestock report



Lassen County

Department of Agriculture

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

Craig Hemphill, *Interim Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer/Deputy Sealer*

Tina Hilburn, *Agricultural Biologist II*

Dan E. McDonald, *Building & Weed Spray Foreman/Maintenance*

Cheryl Lauritsen, *Agricultural Biologist I*

Lysandra Lilburn, *Seasonal*

Robin Skeleton, *Seasonal*

Al Howe, *Seasonal*

Kim Olson, *Seasonal*

Dorothy Earll, *Seasonal*

Red Shepherd, *Seasonal*



Lassen County

Board of Supervisors

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County of Lassen



Department of Agriculture

• AGRICULTURE

• WEIGHTS & MEASURES

• PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL

November 1, 2011

KAREN ROSS, SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE
AND
THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LASSEN COUNTY

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In accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, we are pleased to submit our annual crop report representing the production and value of crops produced in Lassen County during the 2010 calendar year.

This report is a summary estimate of the acreage, production and gross value of Lassen County agricultural products. **The values presented in this report are gross values only, and do not reflect net farm income or costs of production and marketing.**

Though the overall economy is struggling, favorable weather conditions and high livestock and hay prices brought the estimated gross crop values up to \$74,500,023, a 7.8% increase over the 2009 gross value of \$69,091,938.

Hay remained the top ranking crop in Lassen County with the acreage remaining stable and prices remaining high. However, the overall hay production decreased by 13%, possibly due to a cold spring and wet conditions during harvest resulting in a 10% decline below the 2009 value.

High cattle and sheep prices brought higher numbers of livestock to Lassen County resulting in a 30% value increase over 2009.

An increase in strawberry plant acreage and the overall timber harvest also brought up the value of agriculture in Lassen County.

Offsetting these increases was a decrease in the planted acres of alfalfa seed, garlic seed and wild rice resulting in a 32% value decrease in alfalfa seed, a 49% value decrease in garlic seed and a 60% value decrease in wild rice.

A special thank you is extended to the many producers and agencies, both private and governmental, and to Cheryl Lauritsen, Department Biologist, for their efforts in the compilation of this report.

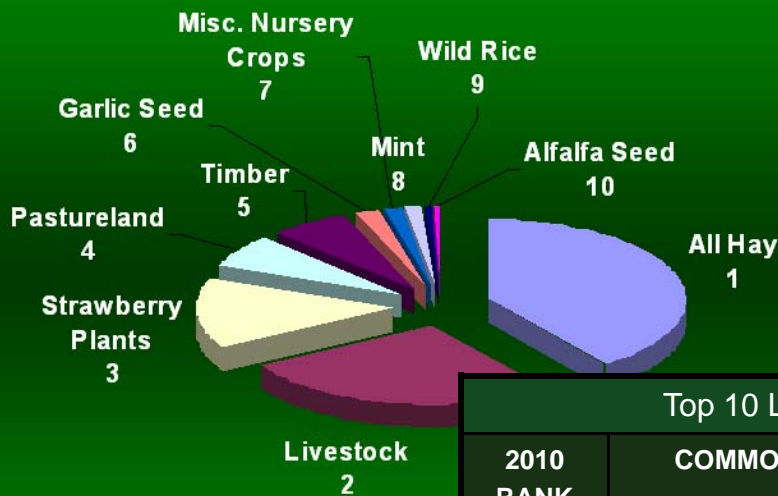
Respectfully submitted,

Craig A. Hemphill,
Interim Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Deputy Seal

Million Dollar Crops



TOP 10 LASSEN COUNTY CROPS



Top 10 Lassen County Crops

| 2010 RANK | COMMODITY | VALUE | 2009 RANK |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | All Hay | \$29,251,080 | 1 |
| 2 | Livestock | \$19,596,755 | 2 |
| 3 | Strawberry Plants | \$10,537,590 | 3 |
| 4 | Pastureland | \$4,873,859 | 4 |
| 5 | Timber | \$4,686,859 | 5 |
| 6 | Garlic Seed | \$1,559,800 | 6 |
| 7 | Misc. Nursery Crops | \$1,000,000 | 8 |
| 8 | Mint | \$985,230 | 9 |
| 9 | Wild Rice | \$428,655 | 10 |
| 10 | Alfalfa Seed | \$375,784 | 7 |

| FIELD CROPS | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| CROP | YEAR | ACRES HARVESTED | PRODUCTION PER ACRE | PRODUCTION UNIT | PRODUCTION TOTAL | VALUE PER UNIT | TOTAL VALUE |
| Hay, Alfalfa | 2010 | 27,000 | 3.6 | Ton | 96,120 | \$134.00 | \$12,880,080 |
| | 2009 | 27,000 | 4.5 | Ton | 121,500 | \$116.40 | \$14,142,600 |
| Hay, Triticale | 2010 | 4,500 | 4.0 | Ton | 18,000 | 92.50 | 1,665,000 |
| | 2009 | 4,500 | 4.5 | Ton | 20,250 | 98.00 | 1,984,500 |
| Hay, Grain | 2010 | 4,200 | 3.0 | Ton | 12,600 | 90.00 | 1,134,000 |
| | 2009 | 4,200 | 2.3 | Ton | 9,702 | 140.00 | 1,358,280 |
| Hay, Other | 2010 | 29,000 | 4.0 | Ton | 116,000 | 117.00 | 13,572,000 |
| | 2009 | 29,000 | 4.4 | Ton | 126,150 | 121.00 | 15,264,150 |
| Barley | 2010 | 150 | 1.5 | Ton | 225 | 135.55 | 30,499 |
| | 2009 | 356 | 2.0 | Ton | 712 | 160.00 | 113,920 |
| Oats | 2010 | 117 | 2.0 | Ton | 234 | 189.71 | 44,392 |
| | 2009 | 441 | 2.3 | Ton | 992 | 160.00 | 158,720 |
| Rye | 2010 | 447 | 2.0 | Ton | 894 | 195.00 | 174,330 |
| | 2009 | 506 | 2.0 | Ton | 1,012 | 130.00 | 131,560 |
| Wheat | 2010 | 550 | 1.5 | Ton | 825 | 179.55 | 148,129 |
| | 2009 | 500 | 1.8 | Ton | 875 | 175.00 | 153,125 |
| Triticale | 2010 | 550 | 1.5 | Ton | 825 | 195.00 | 160,875 |
| | 2009 | 550 | 1.8 | Ton | 963 | 200.00 | 192,600 |
| Pasture (irrigated) | 2010 | 23,000 | 6.0 | AUM | 138,000 | 22.00 | 3,036,000 |
| | 2009 | 23,000 | 6.0 | AUM | 138,000 | 22.00 | 3,036,000 |
| Pasture (non-irrigated) | 2010 | 22,000 | 0.4 | AUM | 8,800 | 18.00 | 158,400 |
| | 2009 | 22,000 | 0.4 | AUM | 8,800 | 18.00 | 158,400 |
| Pasture (range) | 2010 | 1,291,253 | 0.1 | AUM | 129,125 | 13.00 | 1,678,625 |
| | 2009 | 1,291,253 | 0.1 | AUM | 129,125 | 13.00 | 1,678,625 |
| Aftermath (stubble-all) | 2010 | 20,000 | 1.0 | AUM | 20,000 | 23.00 | 460,000 |
| | 2009 | 20,000 | 1.0 | AUM | 20,000 | 23.00 | 460,000 |
| Straw | 2010 | 225 | 1.0 | Ton | 225 | 80.00 | 18,000 |
| | 2009 | 225 | 1.0 | Ton | 225 | 80.00 | 18,000 |
| Total | 2010 | | | | | | \$35,160,330 |
| | 2009 | | | | | | \$38,850,480 |



YORK RANCH 1912

Photo courtesy of Tim Purdy

| SEED, FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND NURSERY CROPS | | | | | | | |
|--|------|-----------|---------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| CROP | YEAR | HARVESTED | PER | PRODUCTION | PRODUCTION | VALUE PER | TOTAL VALUE |
| | | ACREAGE | ACRE | UNIT | TOTAL | UNIT | |
| Alfalfa Seed | 2010 | 214 | 878.00 | Lbs. | 187892.0 | \$2.00 | \$375,784 |
| | 2009 | 436 | 825.00 | Lbs. | 359700.0 | \$1.75 | \$629,475 |
| Strawberry Plants | 2010 | 285 | 266.00 | PI/M | 75810.0 | 139.00 | 10,537,590 |
| | 2009 | 260 | 312.50 | PI/M | 81250.0 | 87.50 | 7,109,375 |
| Garlic Seed | 2010 | 421 | 9.50 | Tons | 3999.5 | 400.00 | 1,599,800 |
| | 2009 | 747 | 9.50 | Tons | 7096.5 | 440.00 | 3,122,460 |
| Mint | 2010 | 615 | 89.00 | Lbs. | 54735.0 | 18.00 | 985,230 |
| | 2009 | 674 | 80.00 | Lbs. | 53920.0 | 18.00 | 970,560 |
| Wild Rice | 2010 | 697 | 1500.00 | Lbs. | 1045500.0 | 0.41 | 428,655 |
| | 2009 | 835 | 1850.00 | Lbs. | 1544750.0 | 0.70 | 1,081,325 |
| Misc. Crops (apples, endive, strawberries, raspberry plants, peaches, misc. vegetables & greenhouse flowers) | 2010 | | | | | | 1,000,000 |
| | 2009 | | | | | | 1,000,000 |
| Total | 2010 | | | | | | \$14,927,059 |
| | 2009 | | | | | | \$13,913,195 |

*Plants in units of 1,000

DATA FROM 50 YEARS AGO (1960)

| VEGETABLE CROPS: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----------|----------|------------|---------|----------|--------------|
| Crop | Year | Harvested | | Production | | Value | |
| | | Acreage | Per Acre | Unit | Total | Per Unit | Total |
| Potatoes | 1960 | 12 | 18.16 | ton | 218 | \$45.00 | \$9,810 |
| | 1959 | 20 | 10 | ton | 200 | 40.00 | \$8,000 |
| Garlic | 1960 | 28.9 | 5888.61 | lbs | 170181 | 0.21 | 35,738 |
| | 1959 | 6 | 3733.30 | lbs/ | 2400 | 0.30 | 6,720 |
| Total | 1960 | | | | | | \$45,548 |
| | 1959 | | | | | | \$14,720 |
| NURSERY STOCK | | | | | | | |
| Crop | Year | Harvested | | Production | | Value | |
| | | Acreage | Per Acre | Unit | Total | Per unit | Total |
| Strawberry | 1960 | 32 | 312000 | M | 9984000 | \$12.00 | \$119,808.00 |

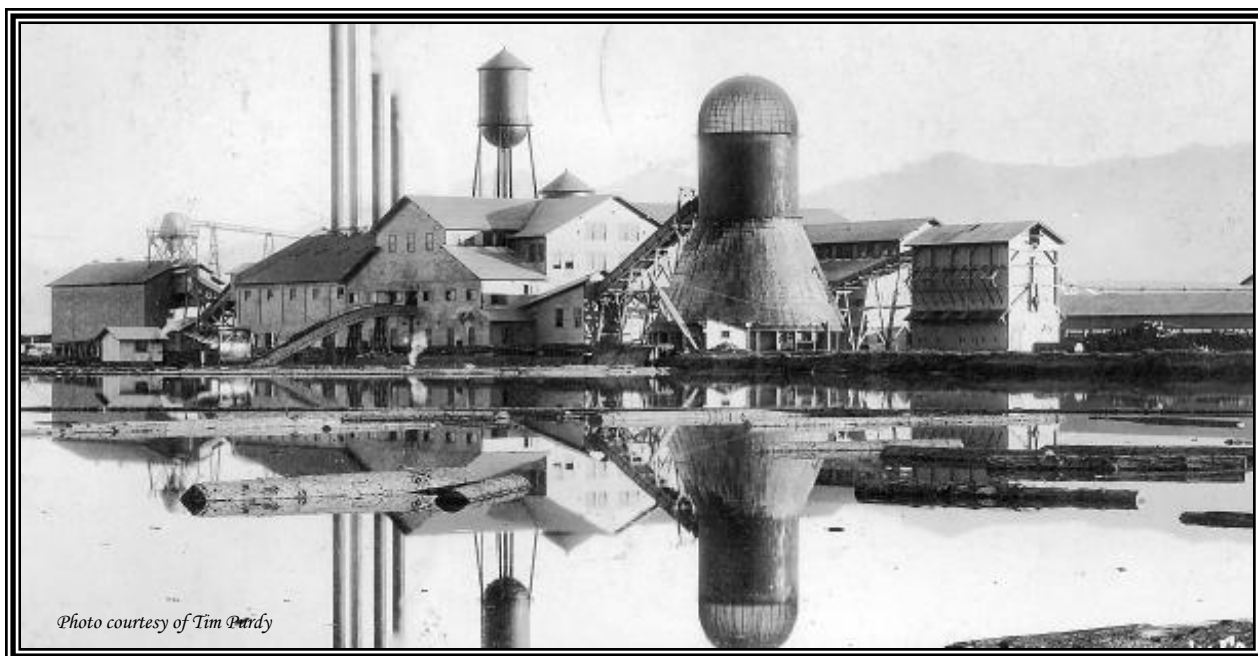
| LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------------|------------|------|----------|---------------------|
| COMMODITY | YEAR | # OF HEAD | LIVEWEIGHT | UNIT | VALUE | |
| | | | | | PER UNIT | TOTAL VALUE |
| Cows | 2010 | 6,250 | 62,500 | Cwt. | 55 | \$3,460,625 |
| | 2009 | 4,950 | 49,500 | Cwt. | 38 | \$1,881,000 |
| Calves | 2010 | 5,250 | 23,625 | Cwt. | 116 | 2,749,005 |
| | 2009 | 3,950 | 17,775 | Cwt. | 101 | 1,795,275 |
| Heifers | 2010 | 6,000 | 45,000 | Cwt. | 97 | 4,363,200 |
| | 2009 | 5,841 | 35,046 | Cwt. | 87 | 3,061,969 |
| Steers | 2010 | 8,500 | 63,750 | Cwt. | 97 | 6,181,200 |
| | 2009 | 8,330 | 49,980 | Cwt. | 97 | 4,833,566 |
| Bulls | 2010 | 1,250 | 21,875 | Cwt. | 65 | 1,430,406 |
| | 2009 | 1,000 | 17,500 | Cwt. | 54 | 938,000 |
| Sheep/Lambs | 2010 | 10,250 | 12,300 | Cwt. | 110 | 1,352,139 |
| | 2009 | 7,500 | 9,975 | Cwt. | 99 | 989,620 |
| Hogs/Pigs | 2010 | 200 | 500 | Cwt. | 60 | 30,200 |
| | 2009 | 200 | 500 | Cwt. | 44 | 21,925 |
| Misc. Livestock | 2010 | | | | | 30,000 |
| (bison, pheasant, goats, chickens, emu, alpaca) | 2009 | | | | | 30,000 |
| | | | | | | |
| Total | | 2010 | | | | \$19,596,775 |
| | | 2009 | | | | \$13,551,355 |



Sample of wool pelts from Lassen
County sheep.



| LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS | | |
|---------------------|------|------------------|
| COMMODITY | YEAR | TOTAL |
| Includes wool, eggs | 2010 | \$129,000 |
| apiary & emu | 2009 | \$128,000 |
| | | |
| Total | | 2010 |
| | | \$129,000 |
| | | 2009 |
| | | \$128,000 |



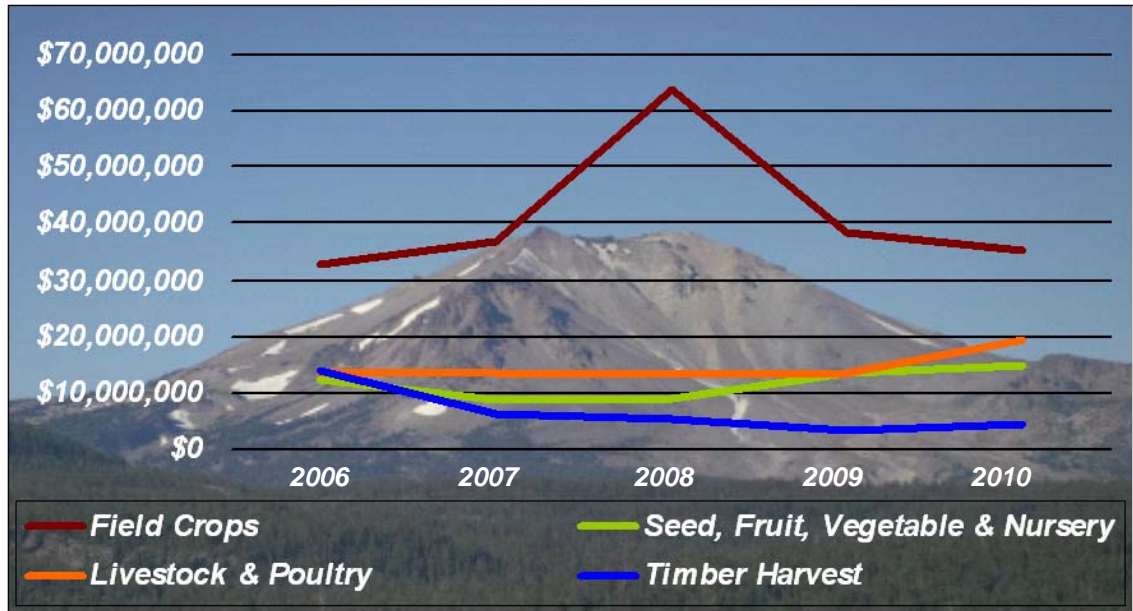
| TIMBER HARVEST | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| COMMODITY | YEAR | PRODUCTION | UNIT | VALUE | TOTAL |
| *Saw Timber | 2010 | 47,418 | NET MBF | \$98.84 | \$3,391,085 |
| | 2009 | 31,015 | NET MBF | \$61.20 | \$1,898,056 |
| *Misc. (posts, poles, cull logs, fire | 2010 | | | | 1,295,774 |
| wood, Christmas trees, wood | 2009 | | | | 1,394,550 |
| produced fuel chips) | | | | | |
| Total | 2010 | | | | \$4,686,859 |
| | 2009 | | | | \$3,292,606 |

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

The Fernley & Lassen Railroad, built in 1913, can be credited with development of the timber industry in Lassen County. Red River Lumber was the first of several sawmills to be established in the area. Recognized for establishing the town of Westwood to support its huge logging operation, it was the largest electrical sawmill of its time. Eventually the Lassen Lumber and Box Company and Fruit Growers Company saw mills were built in Susanville where they operated for several decades. In May of 2007, the last sawmill in Lassen County, owned and operated by Sierra Pacific Industries, was closed down due to lack of available timber.

Sierra Pacific Industries and Fruit Growers Supply Company still have logging operations in Lassen County along with W. M. Beaty and Associates, Inc. although all of their logs are shipped to mills in other areas.

5 YEAR SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION VALUES



10 YEAR COMPARATIVE PRODUCTION VALUES

| | |
|------|--------------|
| 2010 | \$74,500,023 |
| 2009 | \$69,091,938 |
| 2008 | \$91,271,732 |
| 2007 | \$65,633,696 |
| 2006 | \$73,084,152 |
| 2005 | \$67,549,795 |
| 2004 | \$60,996,895 |
| 2003 | \$55,186,474 |
| 2002 | \$62,119,258 |
| 2001 | \$58,858,424 |



ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT 2010

ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Alfalfa Hay | 1198.5 | Acres Certified |
| Asparagus | 24.5 | Acres Certified |
| Endive | 23.8 | Acres Certified |
| Hairy Vetch/Triticale | 29 | Acres Certified |
| Pasture & Rangeland | 3500 | Acres Certified |
| Quinoa | 7.7 | Acres Certified |
| Spring Wheat | 27 | Acres Certified |
| Triticale Hay | 141 | Acres Certified |
| Cattle | 2138 | Certified Organic (# of head) |

PEST ERADICATION

NET ACRES

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Scotch thistle | Chemical | 1353 |
| Musk thistle | Chemical | 44.5 |
| Squarrose knapweed | Chemical | 79.5 |
| Spotted knapweed | Chemical/Mechanical | 484.9 |
| Dalmatian toadflax | Chemical/Mechanical/Biological | 115.61 |
| Yellow starthistle | Chemical/Mechanical | 83.54 |
| Tall whitetop | Chemical | 824.32 |
| Wavyleaf thistle | Chemical | 2.5 |
| Diffuse knapweed | Chemical | 0.5 |
| Puncturevine | Chemical/ Biological | 18.48 |
| Rush skeletonweed | Chemical | 6.83 |
| Russian knapweed | Chemical | 343.26 |
| Leafy spurge | Chemical | 0.56 |
| Purple starthistle | Chemical | 1.6 |

PEST EXCLUSION

Exotic Pests
and/or Target Pests

Incoming plant material
via UPS Air, Truck or Mail

100 Shipments
Inspected

PEST DETECTION

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Gypsy Moth | 110 Traps in Lassen County | None Detected |
| Japanese Beetle | 2 Traps in Lassen County | None Detected |
| European Grapevine Moth | 110 Traps in Lassen County | None Detected |