

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

Bob Pyle, Chairman

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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		PRODUCTION		PRODUCTION VALUE PER	
		ACREAGE	PER ACRE	UNIT	TOTAL	UNIT	TOTAL VALUE
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	P/M	75810.0	139.00	10,537,590
	2009	260	312.50	P/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	
		Acres	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	
		Acres	Per Acre	Unit	Total	Per unit	Total	
Strawberry	1960	32	312000	M	9984000	\$12.00	\$119,808.00	

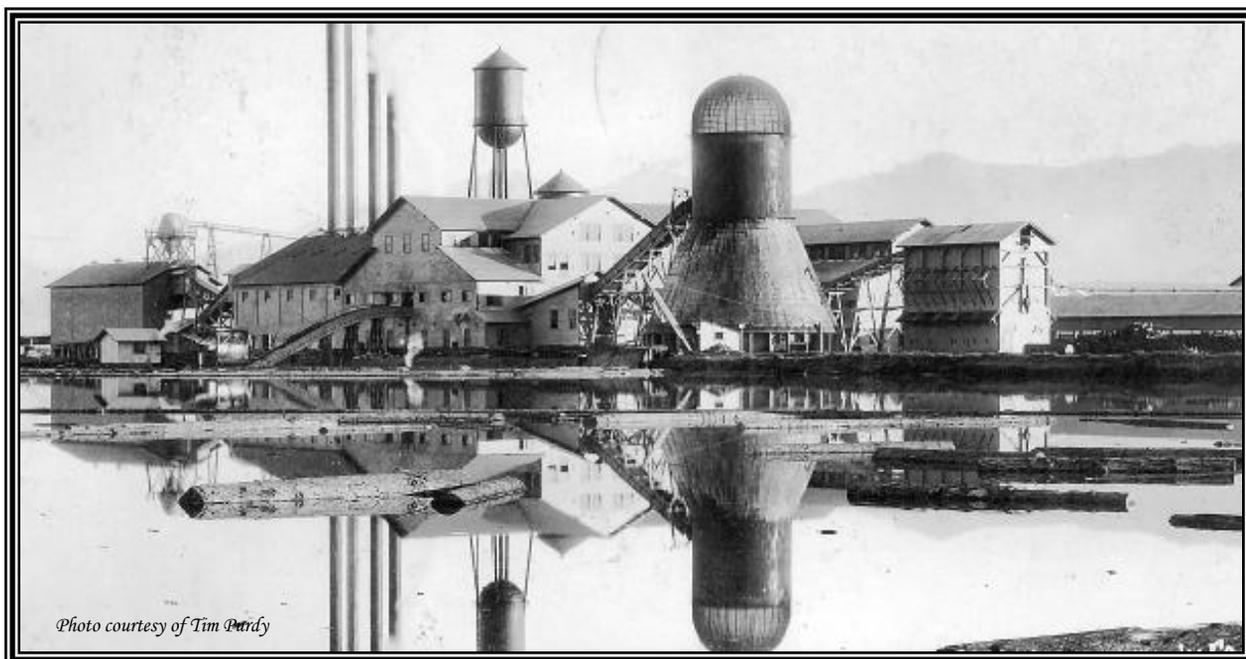
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY							
COMMODITY	YEAR	# OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	UNIT	VALUE		
					PER UNIT	TOTAL VALUE	
Cows	2010	6,250	62,500	Cwt.	55	\$3,460,625	
	2009	4,950	49,500	Cwt.	38	\$1,881,000	
Calves	2010	5,250	23,625	Cwt.	116	2,749,005	
	2009	3,950	17,775	Cwt.	101	1,795,275	
Heifers	2010	6,000	45,000	Cwt.	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 (bison, pheasant, goats, chickens, emu, alpaca)	2010					30,000	
	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



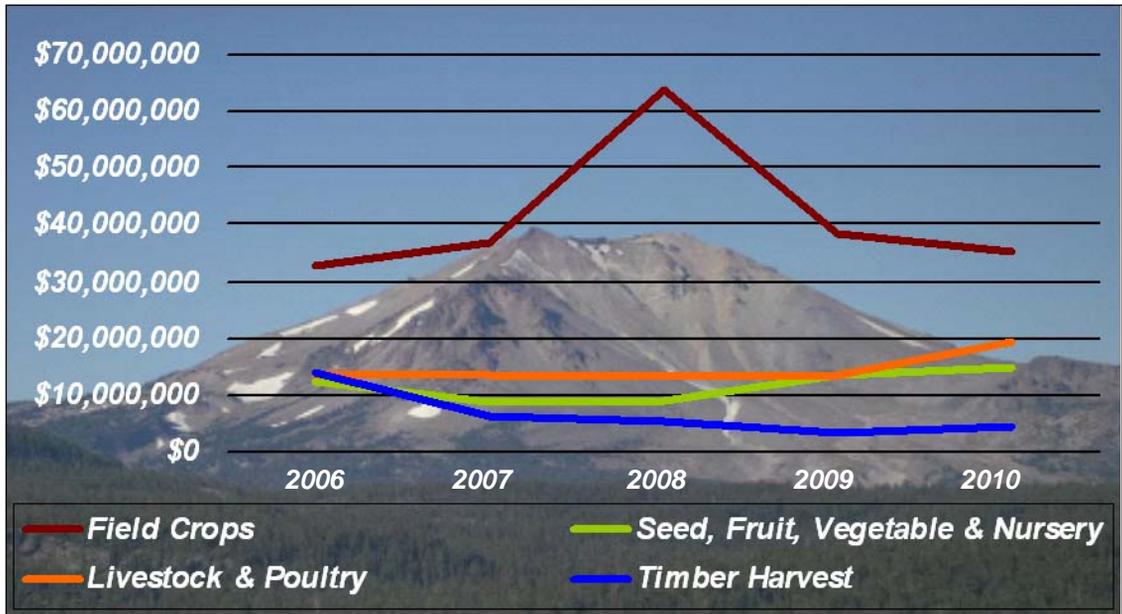
TIMBER HARVEST						
COMMODITY	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	TOTAL	
* Saw Timber	2010	47,418	NET MBF	\$98.84	\$3,391,085	
	2009	31,015	NET MBF	\$61.20	\$1,898,056	
* Misc. (posts, poles, cull logs, fire wood, Christmas trees, wood produced fuel chips)	2010				1,295,774	
	2009				1,394,550	
Total	2010		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

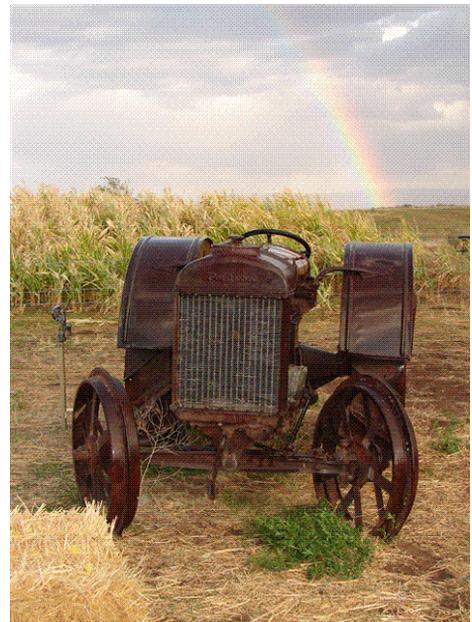
Sierra Pacific Industries and Fruit Growers Supply Company still have logging operations in Lassen County along with W. M. Beaty and Associates, Inc. although all of their logs are shipped to mills in other areas.

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