

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.

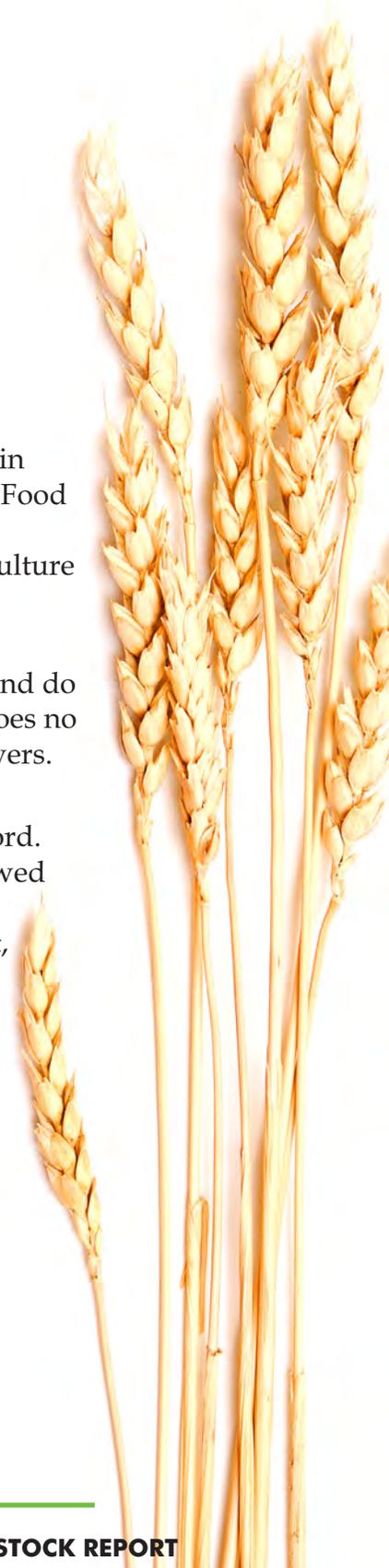
The total gross value of Lassen County Agriculture production in 2018 was \$144,588,657.00 surpassing the gross value of 2017, our highest total on record. The major drought felt by all of California finally came to an end. This allowed higher hay yields and better grazing for livestock which improved 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,

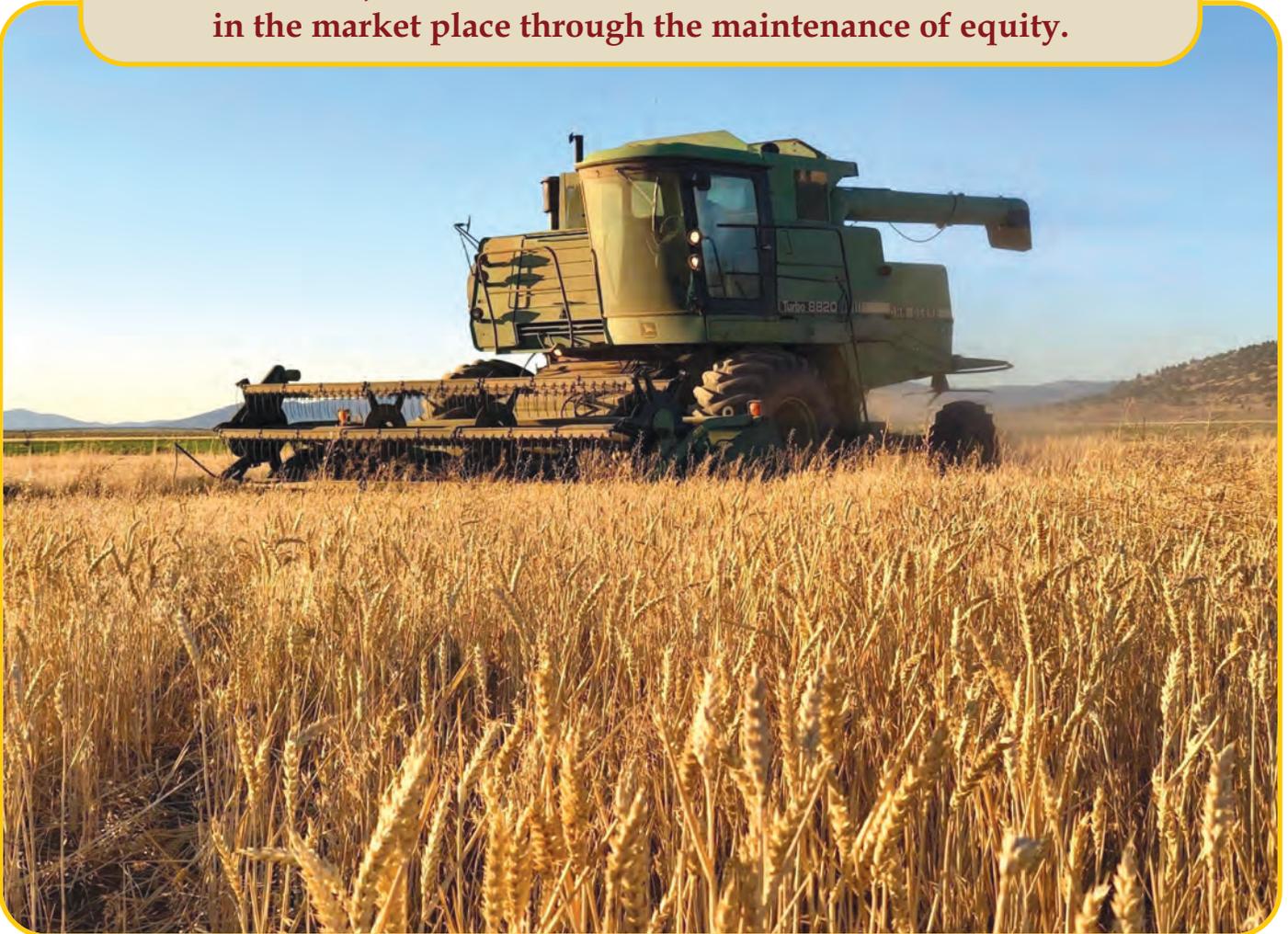
Craig A. Hemphill

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

CROP	2018 Crop Value	2018 Crop Ranking	2017 Crop Ranking
Beef Cattle	\$30,882,628	2	1
Other Hay*	\$32,803,245	1	2
Alfalfa Hay	\$26,804,747	4	3
Seed, Fruit, Vegetable & 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

YEAR	Field Crops	Seed, Fruit Vegetable & Nursery	Livestock & Poultry	Livestock Products	Timber Harvest	TOTAL
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

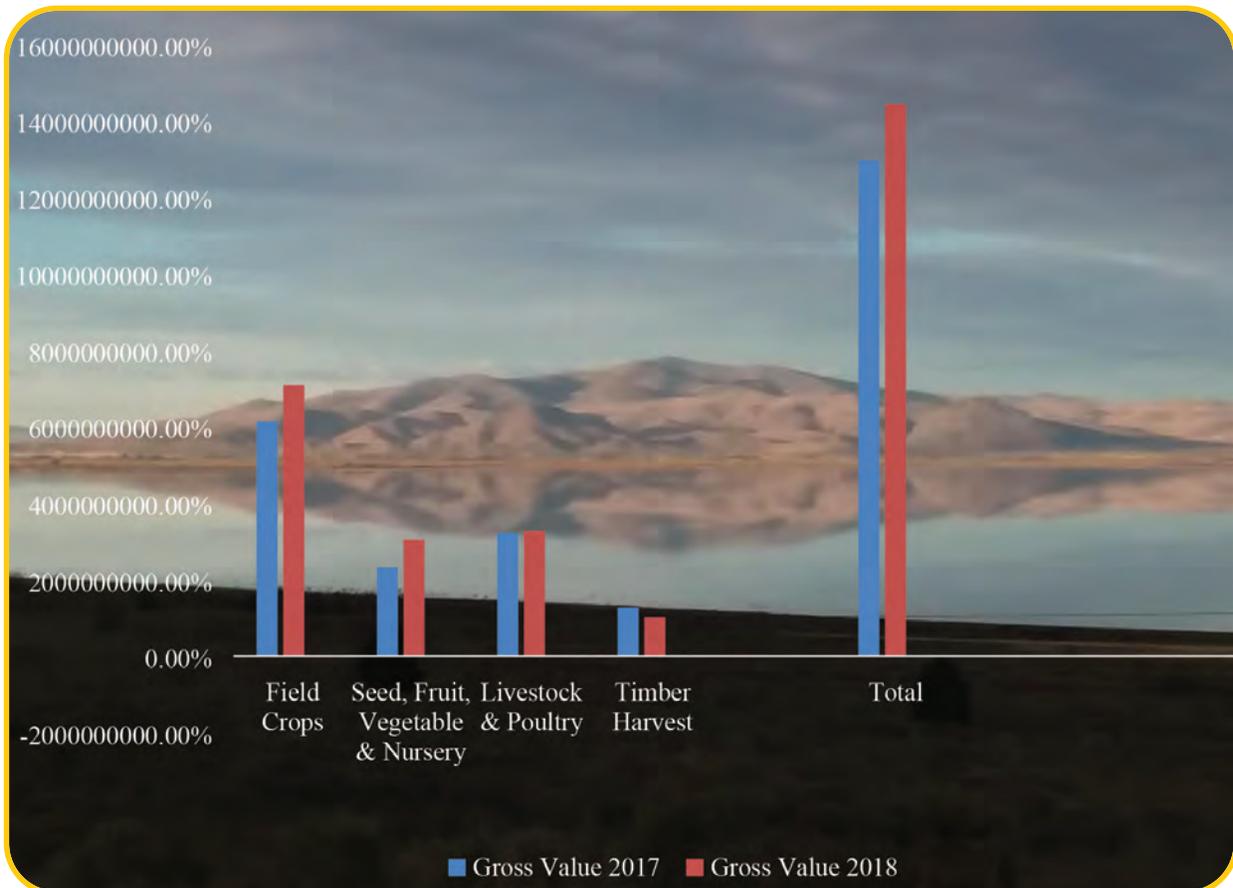
*2015 Timber Harvest and Total adjusted to include Christmas tree values

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

CHANGES IN GROSS VALUE

COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	Gross Value		Changes In Gross Value
	2016	2017	
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%
TOTAL	129,690,481	144,588,657	10.30%



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

RANK 2018	Commodity	2018 Gross Value	Rank 2017
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	Production		Production	Value	Total Value
		Harvested	Per Acre	Unit	Total	Per	
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	Production		Production	Production	Value	Total Value
	Year	Acreage	Per Acre	Unit	Total	Unit	
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
TOTAL	2017						\$23,276,418
	2016						25,982,231

* Alfalfa Seed, Apples, Belgian Endive
Garlic See, Mint, Pumpkins, Seed Peas Strawberries,
Peaches, Misc. Vegetables & Ornamamental Flowrs
(Crops With Less Than 3 Producers)

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



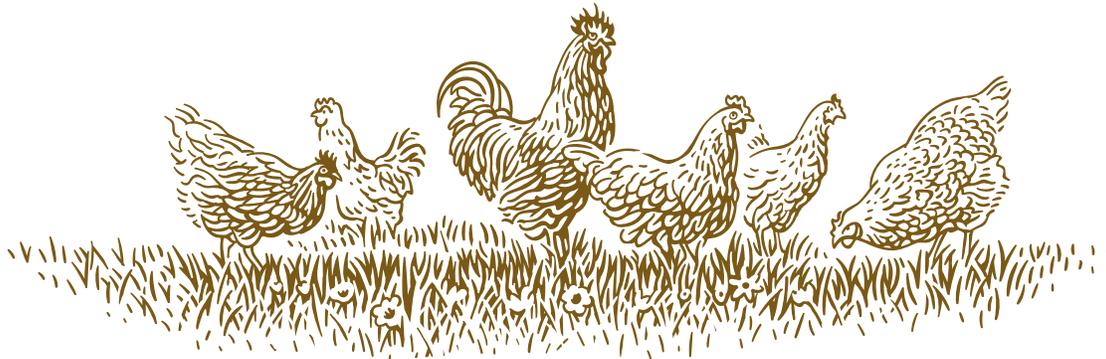
Vehicle Meters	10
Vehicle Scales	15
LPG Stationary Meters	16
Railroad Scales	1
LPG Vehicle Meters	7
Platform Scales	12
Electric Submeters	6
Hopper Scales	5
TOTAL DEVICES	519

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 (pheasant, hogs, goats, chickens, alpaca)	2018					64,000
	2017					64,000
Total	2018					\$32,729,949
	2017					\$32,152,836



*Unit is per 100 lbs. (CWT)



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

Commodity	Year	Total
Includes: Wool, Eggs, Chicks, Apiary & Rabbits	2018	\$129,000
	2017	129,000
TOTAL	2018	\$129,000
	2017	129,000



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
Total**	2018				\$10,165,480
	2017				12,701,228



*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.



PEST ERADICATED	CONTROL METHOD	2018 NET ACRES	2017 NET ACRES
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 Dalmation toadflax and Russian knapweed.



Lassen County Agricultural Commissioner

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