



2014

**Lassen County Crop &
Livestock Report**



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

Joe Moreo, Agriculture Commissioner

Craig A. Hemphill, Deputy Sealer

Tina Hilburn, Biologist II

Cheryl Lauritsen, Biologist

Mike Stewart, Seasonal

Robin Skelton-Snipes, Seasonal

Al Howe, Seasonal

Melinda Parks, Seasonal

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

COUNTY OF LASSEN



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

CRAIG A. HEMPHILL

175 Russell Avenue

Susanville, CA 96130-4215

☎ Telephone (530) 251-8110 Fax (530) 251-2726

email: agcommissioner@co.lassen.ca.us

Karen Ross, Secretary

California Department of Food & Agriculture and
The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Lassen County

Bob Pyle, *District 1*

Jim Chapman, *District 2*

Larry Wosick, Chairman, *District 3*

Aaron Albaugh, *District 4*

Tom Hammond, *District 5*

Pursuant to Section 2272 & Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, I am pleased to submit the 2014 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Lassen County.

This report lists gross production and value of products and does not reflect net income to the producer. The value of agricultural products produced in Lassen County for 2014 was \$125,525,544. This 1% increase in overall value was affected positively by higher cattle prices and negatively by lower hay prices.

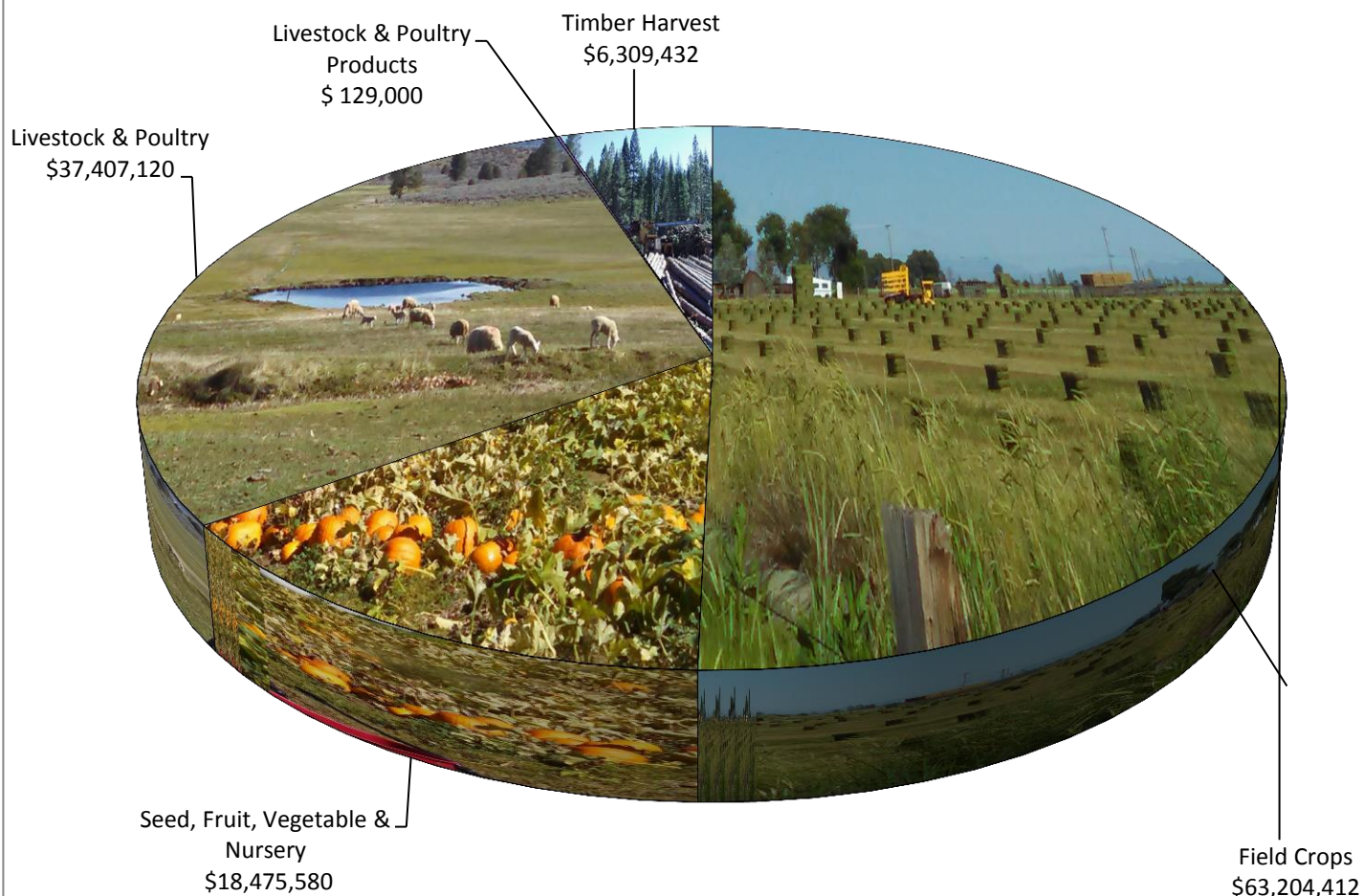
I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of my staff for their efforts in collecting and compiling this report and to the many farmers, ranchers and governmental agencies who provided the information which made this report possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. Hemphill".

Craig A. Hemphill
Interim Agriculture Commissioner

Summary of Production Values



SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION VALUES

COMMODITY GROUP	2014
Field Crops	\$63,204,412
Seed, Fruit, Vegetable & Nursery	18,475,580
Livestock & Poultry	37,407,120
Livestock & Poultry Products	129,000
Timber Harvest	6,309,432
Total	\$125,525,544

FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION PER ACRE	UNIT	PRODUCTION TOTAL	VALUE PER UNIT	TOTAL VALUE
Hay, Alfalfa	2014	28,000	4.17	Ton	116,760	\$217.13	\$25,352,098
	2013	28,000	4.40	Ton	123,200	\$240.00	\$29,568,000
Hay, Grain	2014	10,000	3.16	Ton	31,600	170.27	5,380,532
	2013	10,000	2.30	Ton	23,000	157.69	3,626,870
*Hay, Other	2014	29,000	4.01	Ton	116,290	210.78	24,511,606
	2013	29,000	4.00	Ton	116,000	228.33	26,486,280
Wheat	2014	2,600	1.45	Ton	3,770	351.02	1,323,345
	2013	2,800	2.40	Ton	6,720	220.00	1,478,400
**Pasture (irrigated)	2014	23,000	6.00	AUM	138,000	40.00	5,520,000
	2013	23,000	6.00	AUM	138,000	35.00	4,830,000
**Pasture (non-irrigated)	2014	22,000	1.00	AUM	22,000	17.00	374,000
	2013	22,000	2.00	AUM	44,000	15.00	660,000
**Pasture (range)	2014	1,291,253	0.10	AUM	129,125	1.69	218,221
	2013	1,291,253	0.10	AUM	129,125	1.35	174,319
**Aftermath (stubble-all)	2014	20,000	1.00	AUM	20,000	25.00	500,000
	2013	20,000	1.00	AUM	20,000	23.00	460,000
Straw	2014	225	1.25	Ton	281	87.50	24,609
	2013	225	1.00	Ton	225	80.00	18,000
Total	2014						\$63,204,412
	**2013						\$67,301,869

*Grass Alfalfa Mix, Grain Hay & Grass Hay

** 2013 figures corrected for accuracy



SEED, FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND NURSERY CROPS

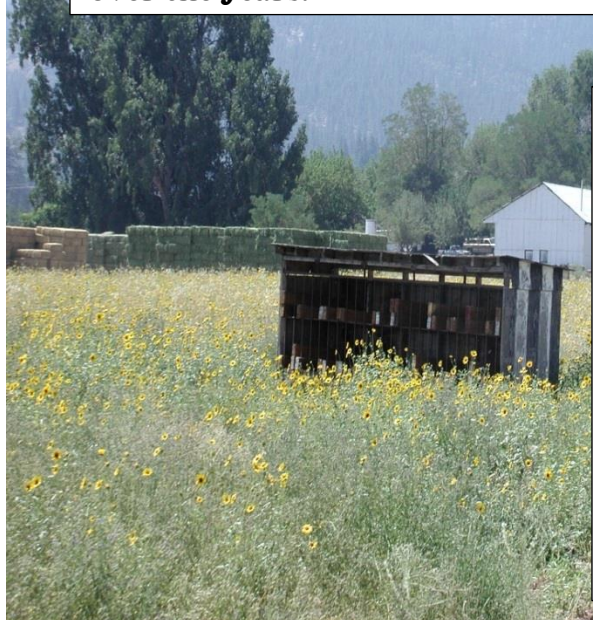
CROP	HARVESTED PRODUCTION			PRODUCTION		VALUE	
	YEAR	ACREAGE	PER ACRE	UNIT	TOTAL	PER UNIT	TOTAL VALUE
Wild Rice	2014	1,579	1,757	Lbs.	2,773,735	\$.82/green lb.	\$2,274,463
	2013	2,109	1,325	Lbs.	2,794,425	\$.71/green lb.	\$1,984,042
Misc. Crops (alfalfa	2014						16,201,118
seed, apples, endive,	2013						16,437,500
canola, garlic seed,							
peaches, mint,							
safflower, blueberries,							
watermelon, strawberries							
misc. vegetables &							
greenhouse flowers)							
Total	2014						\$18,475,580
	2013						\$18,421,542

* Strawberries & Mint moved to misc. crops due to 3 producers or less



Changes in market conditions have brought production changes to Lassen County. In 1909, 23 acres were harvested for strawberry fruit. In 1994, the 618 acres of strawberries were grown primarily for strawberry nursery stock. Wild rice and garlic seed crops have also varied in importance over the years.

Strawberries are the only fruit whose seeds grow on the outside. The average strawberry has about 200 seeds.



Bees are the only insects in the world that make food for humans. Alfalfa leaf cutting bees are used to help pollinate alfalfa. Their use in alfalfa fields has been the most successful use of a cavity nesting solitary bee for managed pollination. Research is on-going to study their usefulness in orchard and berry crops.



LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

COMMODITY	YEAR	# OF HEAD	LIVEWEIGHT	*UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
Cows	2014	5,780	57,800	Cwt.	\$120.00	\$6,936,000
	2013	6,000	60,000	Cwt.	\$90.00	\$5,400,000
Calves	2014	5,500	30,250	Cwt.	200.00	6,050,000
	2013	5,200	27,300	Cwt.	168.56	4,601,688
Heifers	2014	6,254	49,605	Cwt.	180.00	8,937,000
	2013	6,254	46,905	Cwt.	128.06	6,006,654
Steers	2014	8,500	63,750	Cwt.	180.00	11,475,000
	2013	8,500	63,750	Cwt.	132.00	8,415,000
Bulls	2014	1,000	17,500	Cwt.	120.00	2,100,000
	2013	1,100	19,250	Cwt.	90.00	1,732,500
Sheep/Lambs	2014	10,000	12,000	Cwt.	153.76	1,845,120
	2013	10,000	12,000	Cwt.	94.00	1,128,000
Misc. Livestock	2014					64,000
(bison, pheasant, goats, chickens, alpaca, hogs)	2013					64,000
97% of the cattle ranches in the U.S are family owned. Cattle, calves and milk are among the top 5 commodities raised in California.						
Total	2014					\$37,407,120
	2013					\$27,347,842

*Unit is per 100 lbs. (Cwt)

President Woodrow Wilson grazed sheep on the White House South Lawn. The wool obtained from the sheep was sold to raise money for the Red Cross during World War I. The flock included "old Ike," a tobacco-chewing ram.

Texas, Wyoming and California are the U.S. states with the highest number of sheep. More than two thirds of the U.S. sheep are in the Southern Plains, Mountain and Pacific regions.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

COMMODITY	YEAR	TOTAL
Includes: wool, eggs	2014	\$129,000
apiary & rabbits	2013	\$129,000
Total	2014	\$129,000
	2013	\$129,000

TIMBER HARVEST

COMMODITY	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	VALUE	TOTAL
*Saw Timber	2014	29,306	NET MBF	\$215.29	\$6,309,432
	2013	59,995	NET MBF	\$189.18	\$11,349,943
Total	2014	29,306	NET MBF	\$215.29	\$6,309,432
	2013	59,995	NET MBF	\$189.18	\$11,349,943

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



Timber photos courtesy of W. M. Beaty & Associates, Inc. and Sierra Pacific Industries

ORGANIC FARMING STATISTICS

Alfalfa Hay	1,242.00	Acres Certified
Hay, other	20.00	Acres Certified
Asparagus	24.50	Acres Certified
Endive	38.40	Acres Certified
Quinoa	300.00	Acres Certified
Peas, dried	80.70	Acres Certified
Wheat	119.00	Acres Certified
Pasture & Rangeland	77,317.91	Acres Certified
Fallow Ground	68.50	Acres Certified
Cattle	1,142.00	Certified Organic (# of head)

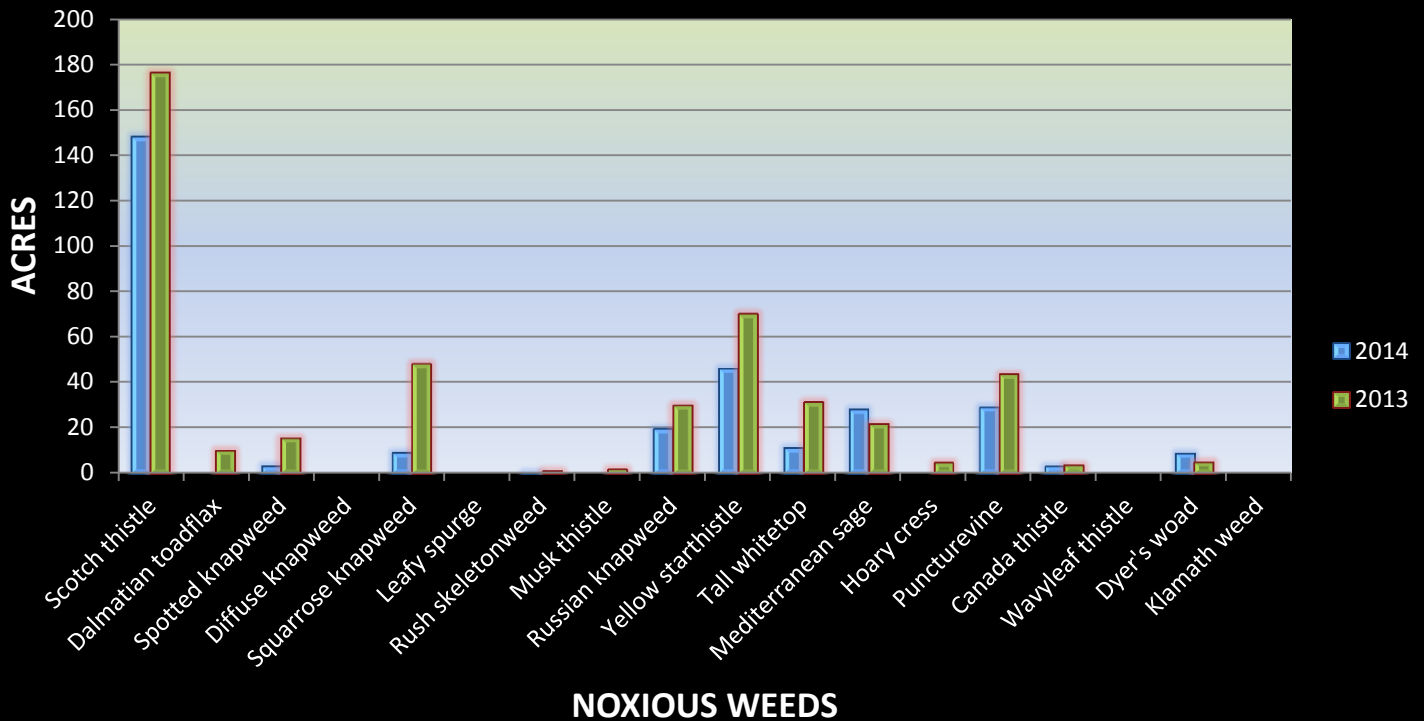
Total Organic Acres: 79,211.1 Total # of Cattle: 1,142

Total Value: \$1,746,443

With the increased focus on who, where and how food is produced, Lassen County continues to see an increase in organic producers. From the northern most corners of the county to the Honey Lake Valley, cattle and a wide variety of certified organic crops can be found. These crops and cattle contribute \$1,746,443 to the economy of Lassen County.

PEST MANAGEMENT

2 YEAR WEED WORK COMPARISON



<i>Pest Eradicated</i>	<i>Control Method</i>	<i>2014 Net Acres</i>	<i>2013 Net Acres</i>
Scotch thistle	Chemical/Mechanical	147.91	176.46
Dalmatian toadflax	Chemical/Mechanical/Biological	0.07	10.14
Spotted knapweed	Chemical/Mechanical	3.125	15.66
Diffuse knapweed	Chemical	0.15	0.15
Squarrose knapweed	Chemical	9.09	48.25
Leafy spurge	Chemical	0.2	0.07
Rush skeletonweed	Chemical	0.43	1.08
Musk thistle	Chemical	0	1.78
Russian knapweed	Chemical/Biological	19.56	30.02
Yellow starthistle	Chemical/Mechanical	46.14	70.26
Tall whitetop	Chemical	11.24	31.49
Mediterranean sage	Chemical	28.23	21.84
Hoary cress	Chemical	0.24	4.71
Puncturevine	Chemical	29.17	43.78
Canada thistle	Chemical	3.09	3.77
Wavyleaf thistle	Chemical	0	0.13
Dyer's woad	Chemical	8.79	5.04
Klamath weed	Chemical	0.12	0

Pest Detection and Exclusion

The Lassen County Agriculture Commissioner's Office, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division works to protect our food supply, environment, natural resources, community and agriculture from the devastating impact of exotic pests. Our staff spends numerous hours and travels hundreds of miles monitoring insect detection traps and inspecting incoming nursery stock and plant material shipments to safeguard against the possibility of a pest becoming widely established in our area. Over the year, our efforts have met with success as no pests have been encountered.

Pest Detection

Gypsy Moth	110 Traps in Lassen County	None Detected
Japanese Beetle	2 Traps in Lassen County	None Detected
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	4 Traps in Lassen County	None Detected

Exotic pests, otherwise known as an alien or non-native, are organisms that are brought into an area outside of their natural habitat. Most of the time, these "aliens" arrive in their new home accidentally. They have few natural enemies in their new environment hence their ability to over-run the native species.

Pest Exclusion

Exotic Pests and/or Target Pests	Incoming plant material via UPS, Air, Truck or Mail	100 Shipments Inspected
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10 YEAR COMPARATIVE PRODUCTION VALUES

2014	\$125,525,544
**2013	\$124,550,196
2012	\$101,653,576
2011	\$101,712,856
2010	\$74,500,023
2009	\$69,091,500
2008	\$91,424,832
2007	\$65,633,696
2006	\$73,084,152
2005	\$67,549,795

**2013 figures corrected for accuracy

TOP LASSEN COUNTY CROPS

2014 RANK	COMMODITY	VALUE	2013 RANK
1	All Hay	\$55,244,236	1
2	Livestock	\$37,407,120	2
3	Misc. Nursery Crops	\$16,201,118	4
4	Timber	\$6,309,432	3
5	Pastureland	\$6,162,221	5
6	Wild Rice	\$2,274,463	6
7	Livestock Products	\$129,000	7

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION VALUES

YEAR	FIELD CROPS	SEED, FRUIT, VEGETABLE & NURSERY	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	TIMBER HARVEST	TOTAL
2014	62,754,412	18,475,580	44,343,120	129,000	6,309,432	\$125,525,544
2013**	66,773,524	18,421,542	27,347,842	129,000	11,349,943	\$124,550,196
2012	52,082,620	11,378,673	25,024,594	129,000	12,997,465	\$101,612,352
2011	55,465,769	10,000,000	23,943,336	129,000	9,593,180	\$101,710,856
2010	35,160,330	14,800,129	19,596,775	129,000	4,686,859	\$74,500,023

**2013 figures corrected for accuracy

*THANK YOU FOR
VISITING LASSEN
COUNTY
PLEASE COME AGAIN*

