

Sierra County



2018
Agricultural Production Report



Tim W. Gibson
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Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture

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Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

And

The Honorable Board of Supervisors, County of Sierra

Lee Adams	District 1
Peter W. Huebner	District 2
Paul Roen	District 3
Jim Beard	District 4
Scott A. Schlefstein	District 5

I am pleased to submit, in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, Sierra County Annual Crop Report for 2018. This report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross values of agricultural commodities produced in Sierra County. It does not attempt to show county inventory, cost of production, or net income of agricultural producers.

Sierra County's 2018 estimated commodity production value is \$9,929,901.00 plus an additional \$7,766,629.00 for timber production. Livestock continues to be the primary commodity produced in Sierra County followed by Field Crops. Our niche markets are surging in Sierra County with healthy gains in the Organic and specialty livestock sectors. Timber revenues rebounded and showed an increase for the first time in four years and while the total remains below historical levels there was a 212% increase in harvest numbers.

This report includes a summary of sustainable agriculture activities, which have been completed by the department in 2018. The purpose of these activities is to prevent and control the spread of exotic and/or invasive plant and insect pests throughout Sierra County using integrated pest management techniques.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the many producers, agricultural business representatives, and public agencies that have cooperated in supplying data and especially to Willo Vieira, who helped compile this report.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Gibson".

Tim Gibson,
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights of Measures

PLUMAS-SIERRA COUNTIES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2018 ANNUAL SIERRA COUNTY CROP REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures is to promote and protect the agricultural industry of the State of California and the Counties of Plumas and Sierra, while also protecting the environment, citizens of the county and the county's workforce, and to provide equity in the marketplace for consumers and businesses alike.

STAFF

Tim Gibson	Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures
Willo Vieira	Agricultural and Standards Inspector III
Melissa Nisbet	Administrative Assistant II
Jennifer Wiley	Agricultural Technician

Cattle



	Number of Head	Total Live-	Average price per	2018 Total
Steers	2,287	1,600,900	\$1.53	\$2,449,377.00
Heifers	1,032	670,800	\$1.48	\$992,784.00
Slaughter Cows/ Bulls	165	214,500	\$0.92	\$197,340.00
Miscellaneous Cattle*	158	—	—	\$205,400.00
Total Cattle	3,642	2,486,200		\$3,844,901.00

* Includes Calves, Cow/calf pairs, and breeding animals

Sheep and Hogs



	Volume	Units	Price per Unit	2018 Total
Sheep, Unspecified	225	Head		\$40,500.00
Wool	920	Pounds		\$11,040.00
Hogs	7850	Pounds	\$3.50	\$27,475.00

Apiary



	Volume	Units	Price per Unit	2018 Total
Honey	6,615	pounds	\$9.30	\$61,519.00
Wax	45	Pounds	\$4.25	\$191.00
Total Apiary				\$61,538.00

Field Crops



	Harvested Acres	Yield/ Acre	Total Tons Harvested	Price / Ton	2018 Total Value
Alfalfa Hay	3528	3	10,584	\$220	\$2,328,480.00
Grain Hay	1118	2	2,236	\$200	\$447,200
Grass Hay	898	2	1,796	\$250	\$449,000

	Number of Acres	Value per Acre	Total Value
Pastureland	10,197	\$180.00	\$1,835,460.00
Rangeland	46,844	\$20.00	\$936,800.00



Organic farming practices focus on maintaining ecological health and balance through promoting biodiversity and soil health while minimizing pollutants. Organic farming practices exclude the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers as well as genetically modified organisms.

The County Agricultural Commissioner's Office performs inspections on behalf of California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for first-time registrants and producers that make less than \$5000 in annual sales, and conducts spot checks at farmers markets.

Certified Organic Production 2018

\$185,801.00

395 acres

Specialty Crops



	2018
Certified Farmers Markets	1
Certified Producers	6

	Acres	Units Produced	2018 Value
Vegetables	8.18	28,571 pounds	\$ 160,935.00
Nursery Bedding Plants	1.0	5,128 each	\$4,871.00

Forestry Data



	Volume (Net MBF)	Volume percent	Public percent	2018 Value
Sierra Timber Receipts	31,612	2.00	26.76	\$7,752,029.00
Christmas Trees	1,460			\$14,600.00

SIERRA COUNTY

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT –2017

PEST EXCLUSION

Exotic pests	Nursery Stock & Seed Inspections	6 inspections
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PEST DETECTION

Gypsy Moth	39 traps placed	None Detected
Japanese Beetle	2 Traps placed	None Detected

CERTIFICATES

Weed Free Certificates	Forage and Gravel	1 issued
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The Pest Eradication and Pest Management programs incorporate integrated pest management (IPM) practices including biological control agents, mechanical removal, and chemical (herbicide) applications.

PEST ERADICATION

Dalmatian Toadflax	biological (<i>Mecinus janthiniformis</i>), mechanical, chemical
Musk Thistle	biological (<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>), mechanical, chemical
Rush Skeletonweed	biological (<i>Puccinia chondrillina</i>), mechanical, chemical
Spotted Knapweed	mechanical, chemical

PEST MANAGEMENT

Bull Thistle	biological (<i>Urophora sirunaseva</i>)
Klamath Weed	biological (<i>Chrysolina quadrigemina</i>)
Russian Knapweed	chemical
Scotch Broom	chemical, mechanical
Tall Whitetop	chemical
Puncture Vine	Chemical, mechanical
Yellow Starthistle	biological (<i>Eustenopus villosus</i> , <i>Chaetorellia australis</i> , <i>Larinus curtus</i> , <i>Bangasternus orientalis</i> , <i>Puccinia jaeae</i> variety <i>Solstitis</i>), mechanical, chemical

Weights and Measures

The Plumas County Agricultural Commissioner is also the Sealer of Weights and Measures, which plays a vital role in the economic activity of the county. The department serves the community by safeguarding and measuring accuracy and assuring confidence and integrity in the marketplace. The benefit our office provides ensures fair competition for industry and accurate value comparison for consumers.

As a neutral third party between buyers and sellers we:

- Test weighing and measuring devices for accuracy
- Examine and evaluate the work of service repairmen
- Verify the quantity of bulk and packaged commodities
- Check consumer packages for proper labeling
- Inspect price scanner systems for accuracy
- Review weighmaster certificates and licensing requirements
- Regulate the advertising, labeling and quality standards of petroleum products



Measuring Devices		Scales	
Cordage meters	1	Computing Scales	6
Liquefied Gas Meters	8	Counter Scales	4
Retail Motor Fuel Meters	28	Platform Scales	2
		Hanging Scales	2
Petroleum Inspections	4	Livestock Scales	12
Quantity Control Inspections	2	Vehicle Scales	1
Consumer Complaints	1		
Notices of Violation Issued	2		