

# Sierra County



## 2019 Agricultural Production Report



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# Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture

**Agricultural Commissioner**  
**Sealer of Weights & Measures**



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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
Sharon Dryden	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 2019. 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 2019 estimated commodity production value is \$11,915,374.00 plus an additional \$1,718,010.00 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 decreased dramatically last year. This report includes a summary of sustainable agriculture activities, which have been completed by the department in 2019. 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**

## **2019 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**

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

# Cattle



	Number of Head	Total Live- weight	Average price per pound	2019 Total
Steers	2,451	1,838,250	\$1.30	\$2,389,725.00
Heifers	998	648,700	\$1.27	\$823,849.00
Slaughter Cows/ Bulls	132	217,800	\$0.82	\$178,596.00
Miscellaneous Cattle*	175	—	—	\$253,750.00
<b>Total Cattle</b>	<b>3,756</b>	<b>2,704,750</b>		<b>\$3,645,920.00</b>

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

# Sheep and Hogs



	Volume	Units	Price per Unit	2019 Total
Sheep, Unspecified	218	Each		\$65,138.00
Wool	1010	Pounds		\$12,625.00
Hogs	12,480	Pounds	\$3.52	\$43,929.00

# Apiary



	Volume	Units	Price per Unit	2019 Total
Honey	8580	pounds	\$9.00	\$77,220.00
Wax	120	Pounds	\$4.28	\$513.00
<b>Total Apiary</b>				<b>\$77,773.00</b>

# Field Crops



	Harvested Acres	Yield/ Acre	Total Tons Harvested	Price / Ton	2019 Total Value
Alfalfa Hay	3,223	3	9,669	\$220	\$2,371,180.00
Grain Hay	1,252	2	2,504	\$180	\$450,720
Grass Hay	850	2	1,700	\$250	\$425,000

	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 2019

\$206,185.00

410 acres



# Specialty Crops



	<b>2019</b>
<b>Certified Farmers Markets</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Certified Producers</b>	<b>1</b>

	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Units Produced</b>	<b>2019 Value</b>
<b>Vegetables</b>	15.15	42,254 pounds	\$ 198,053.00
<b>Nursery Bedding Plants</b>	1.0	4,862 each	\$4,132.00

# Forestry Data



	Volume (Net MBF)	Volume percent	Public percent	2019 Value
Sierra Timber				
Receipts	9,788	0.68	76.37	\$1,718,010.00
Christmas Trees	1,380			\$1,380.00

# SIERRA COUNTY

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT – 2019

### PEST EXCLUSION

Exotic pests	Nursery Stock & Seed Inspections	7 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	16	Platform Scales	2
		Hanging Scales	2
Petroleum Inspections	2	Livestock Scales	12
Quantity Control Inspections	1	Vehicle Scales	1
Consumer Complaints	0		
Notices of Violation Issued	1		