



**MODOC COUNTY  
ANNUAL CROP REPORT  
2023**

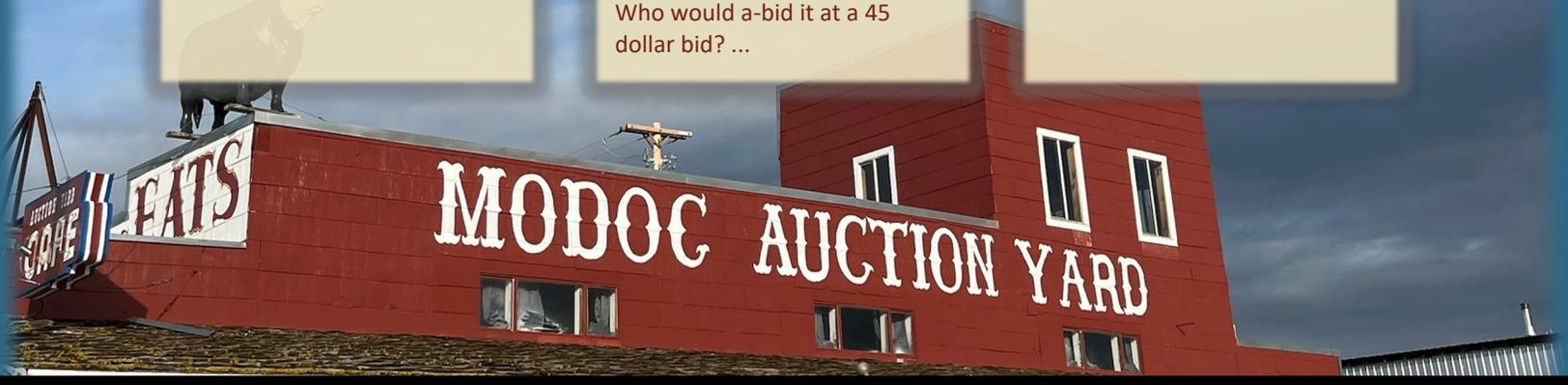
# AUCTIONEER SONG

WRITTEN BY BUDDY BLACK/LEROY VAN DYKE

"Hey, well, alright sir  
Here we go there and what are  
ya' gonna give for 'em  
I have a 600 dollar down here  
now ten and now 25 and  
Now 35 and now there 50 now  
60 will ya' give me 60  
Now 75, 75 another 85 dollars  
and buy 'em there ...

... 35 dollar bid it now a  
40 dollar 40  
Will you gimmie 40 make it 40  
Bidin' it on a 40 dollar will you  
gimmie 40  
Who'll bid a 40 dollar bid?  
40 dollar bid it now, 45, will you  
gimmie 45  
To make it a 45 to bid it a 45  
Who would a-bid it at a 45  
dollar bid? ...

... Hey, well, alright sir  
Open the gate and let 'em out  
and walk 'em boys  
Here we come a lot number 29  
in  
What are you gonna give for  
'em? ..."



The Modoc County Auction Yard, located in Alturas, opened in the late 1940s. With a rich history spanning more than 80 years, the auction yard has served generations of Great Basin ranchers, facilitating the buying, selling, and consigning of cattle. Fritz Nosler owned the yard until the late 1970s, but its ownership since then remains a mystery.

In 1996, Colonel Jerry Kresge and his wife, Carmen, purchased the auction yard where they traded and sold cattle from all corners of California, Nevada, Oregon, and beyond. Exciting sales days were frequent, and Jerry fondly recalled a time when a bull jumped into the crowd. The bull charged through the doors and onto the highway, prompting two cowboys to chase him back through the fields and up to the sale yard.

The best advice Jerry offered was simple: "Don't spend all your money, pay your mortgage, and don't buy the new truck." He also shared his wisdom on the market: "When it's good, it's good, but when it's bad, it's bad."

Though Jerry and Carmen have since sold the auction yard, they haven't retired. Running commercial cattle remains their hobby. On sale days, Jerry can still be found on the auction block, while Carmen lends a hand in the office.

The Kresge family sold the auction yard to Reed and Amie Martinez in February 2023. Reed, a 9th-generation cowboy raised on his family's ranch in Surprise Valley, had worked alongside Colonel Kresge at the auction yard for 10 years, making him a natural fit to take on ownership. Amie, originally from Big Valley, also has deep local roots. Reed represents Superior Livestock and helps consign cattle for video sales, while Amie serves as the office manager, handling tasks such as writing checks, logging cattle numbers, and managing paperwork on sale days.

The Kresge family deeply appreciates all the support they've received over the past 27 years. The Martinez family is equally grateful to the Kresge family, the auction yard staff, and all participants in the Modoc Auction Yard. They are excited to carry on the traditions of the yard while expanding cattle business opportunities for their customers.



County of Modoc  
Department of Agriculture

*Entrusted with the mission to protect and promote agriculture and to ensure equity in the marketplace.*

**Heather L. Kelly**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights and Measures  
Air Pollution Control Officer

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February 11, 2025

Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

Subject: Modoc County 2023 Annual Crop Report

Dear Madam Secretary and Modoc County Supervisors:

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Modoc County Annual Crop Report prepared in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This annual report provides a statistical overview of Modoc County's agricultural production. Please note that all figures presented reflect gross returns only and do not account for producers' net income.

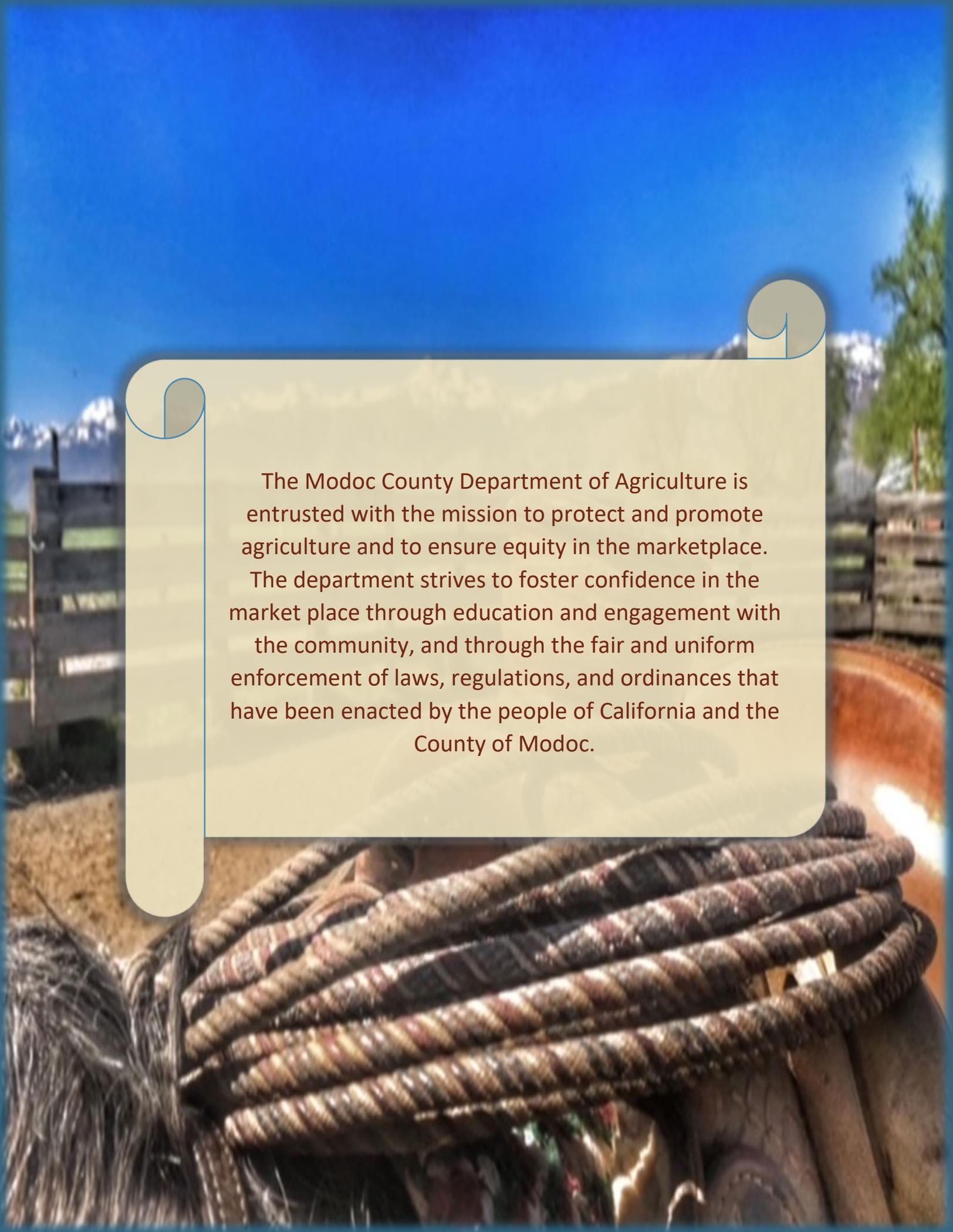
The total gross value of agricultural receipts in Modoc County for 2023 amounted to \$325,117,000, marking an increase of \$28,528,000 compared to the \$296,589,000 reported for the 2022 growing season. Our most significant gains were in the timber, livestock, and specialty crop commodities.

This year we have chosen to highlight two significant developments: the ongoing grasshopper infestation issues affecting the North State and the change in ownership of the Modoc County Auction Yard.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all agricultural producers and partners who contributed valuable information for this report. Additionally, I wish to acknowledge the dedicated staff of the Modoc County Agricultural Department, specifically Jolene Moxon and Caitlyn Davis, for their hard work in compiling the data and producing this publication, respectively.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather L. Kelly  
Modoc County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures/Air Pollution  
Control Officer



The Modoc County Department of Agriculture is entrusted with the mission to protect and promote agriculture and to ensure equity in the marketplace. The department strives to foster confidence in the market place through education and engagement with the community, and through the fair and uniform enforcement of laws, regulations, and ordinances that have been enacted by the people of California and the County of Modoc.

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### **PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY:**

DEB COCKRELL

OLIVAREZ HONEY BEES

MODOC COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

# FIELD CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Production/Acre	Total Production	Unit	Price/Unit	Total Value
Alfalfa Hay	2023	35,050	6.0	210,300	Ton	\$200	\$42,060,000
	2022	36,400	6.5	236,000		\$360	\$85,176,000
Forage/Grain Hay	2023	34,299	6.0	206,000	Ton	\$85	\$17,492,000
	2022	34,000	4.5	153,000		\$240	\$36,720,000
Meadow/Grass Hay	2023	1,484	7.0	10,400	Ton	\$320	\$3,324,000
	2022	1,680	6.0	10,080		\$420	\$4,234,000
Wheat	2023	6,268	2.5	15,400	Ton	\$195	\$3,056,000
	2022	5,000	3.0	15,000		\$265	\$3,975,000
Barley	2023	1,752	2.0	3,500	Ton	\$200	\$701,000
	2022	1,900	2.0	2,850		\$190	\$722,000
Mint	2023	501	140	70,140	Lb	\$23	\$1,613,000
	2022	1,500	85	127,500		\$25	\$3,188,000
Irrigated Pasture	2023	60,000			Acre	\$160	\$9,600,000
	2022	60,000				\$160	\$9,600,000
Rangeland (Private & Public)	2023	500,000			Acre	\$7	\$3,500,000
	2022	500,000				\$7	\$3,500,000
Total Field Crops	2023						\$81,346,000
	2022						\$147,115,000

**Note:**

Reduced prices and tonnage were seen in fields crops due to fewer cattle on feed and grasshopper infestations in the county. Greater grasshopper infestations occurred in the Goose Lake Region and along the Oregon border.

# VEGETABLE & SPECIALTY CROPS

Crop	Year	Harvested Acres	Production/Acre	Total Production	Unit	Price/ Unit	Total Value
Potato (Fresh/Chippers)	2023	5,090	513	2,600,000	CWT	\$12.40	\$32,379,000
	2022	3,700	475	1,757,500		\$11	\$19,333,000
Dry Onion (Dehydration)	2023	1,300	600	780,000	CWT	\$14.50	\$11,310,000
	2022	1,480	357	528,360		\$13	\$6,869,000
Garlic (Fresh/Seed)	2023	26	102	2,650	CWT	\$38	\$101,000
	2022	425	116	49,300		\$28	\$1,380,000
Horseradish	2023	457	3	1,300	Ton	\$500	\$686,000
	2022	900	3	2,700		\$500	\$1,350,000
Wild Rice	2023	3,583	1,180	4,230,000	Lbs	\$1.30	\$5,496,000
	2022	3,500	840	2,940,000		\$1	\$2,940,000
<b>Total Vegetable &amp; Specialty Crops</b>	<b>2023</b>						<b>\$49,972,000</b>
	<b>2022</b>						<b>\$31,872,000</b>

**Note:**  
Wild rice prices represent organic and conventional. Garlic seed saw an increase in price because of market demand; however, a decrease in service water availability reduced the number of acres farmed.

# NURSERY PRODUCTS

	Year	Total Value
Nursery	2023	\$95,000
	2022	\$240,000

**Note:**

Lack of sales in trees, perennials, and annual plants resulted in loss in value of nursery products.

# FALLOW LAND

	Year	Total Acres
Fallow Land	2023	14,603
	2022	25,000

**Note:**

An increase in water allocation increased acres farmed in the Tulelake Basin.

# LIVESTOCK

	Year	Number of Head	Live Weight	Value/Unit	Total Value
Cow/Calf Pairs	2023	59,000 pair		\$2,850/pair	\$168,150,000
	2022	59,000 pair		\$1,800/pair	\$106,200,000
Cull Cows & Bulls	2023	3,677		\$1,430/head	\$5,258,000
	2022	3,165		\$1,000/head	\$3,165,000
Feeders & Misc. Cattle*	2023	13,237		\$1,240/head	\$16,414,000
	2022	8,842		\$590/head	\$5,217,000
Sheep/Lambs	2023	10,000	120 Lbs	\$1.90/Lb	\$2,280,000
	2022	10,000	120 Lbs	\$1.85/Lb	\$2,220,000
Total	2023				\$192,102,000
	2022				\$116,802,000

**Note:**

Western Video Market and Superior Livestock Auction logged record-breaking cattle sale numbers. Fewer cattle are on feed with a strong demand for beef in the foreign market. The sheep market was weak during the early part of the year and gained ground towards the fourth quarter.

# APIARY PRODUCTS

	Year	Colonies	Production Lbs/Colony	Price/Lb	Total Value
Honey	2023	3,130	13	\$2.50	\$102,000
	2022	3,880	15	\$4.12	\$240,000

**Note:**

Coming out of 2022, honey production was still recovering from drought conditions. Drought reduced forage availability and quality; it was also affected by competition from the grasshopper infestation.



The county successfully implemented an apiary ordinance that went into effect June 2023. The ordinance protects the public, growers, landowners, hobbyist beekeepers, commercial beekeepers, and the BEES! There are several elements in the ordinance that enforce proper bee management, spacing, and friendly neighbor policies.



# TIMBER PRODUCTS

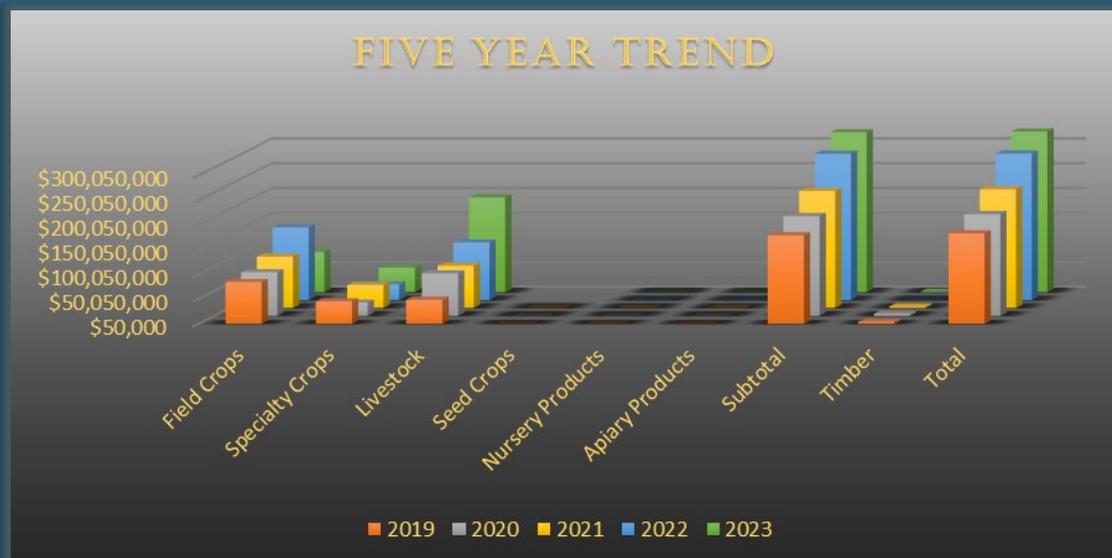
	Year	Production	Total Value
Timber	2023	21,310 board feet	\$1,500,000
	2022	7,651 board feet	\$320,000
Christmas Tree	2023		\$750
	2022		\$1,420
Firewood & Pole Permits	2023	1 Pole Permit	\$20
	2023	442 Firewood Permits	\$8,840

**Note:**

Firewood and pole permit data was not available in 2022.

# FIVE YEAR TREND

Commodity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Field Crops	\$84,510,000	\$88,573,000	\$104,101,000	\$147,115,000	\$81,346,000
Vegetable & Specialty Crops	\$45,427,000	\$26,873,000	\$46,733,000	\$31,872,000	\$49,972,000
Livestock	\$48,651,000	\$86,117,000	\$85,598,000	\$116,802,000	\$192,102,000
Seed Crops	\$33,000	\$46,000	\$36,000	N/A*	N/A*
Nursery Products	\$318,000	\$400,000	\$140,000	\$240,000	\$95,000
Apiary Products	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$247,000	\$240,000	\$102,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$178,974,000</b>	<b>\$202,034,000</b>	<b>\$236,846,000</b>	<b>\$296,269,000</b>	<b>\$323,617,000</b>
Timber Products	\$4,010,000	\$4,093,000	\$3,284,000	\$320,000	\$1,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$182,984,000</b>	<b>\$206,127,000</b>	<b>\$240,139,000</b>	<b>\$296,589,000</b>	<b>\$325,117,000</b>



# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Per California Food and Agriculture Code (CFDA) Section 2272, the Agriculture Report provides a brief account of efforts being made to exclude or eradicate exotic pests and best manage those that already exist in a manner most conducive to protecting our environment.

Replaced 8/9 AM  
9/23 AM  
9/16 AM

## INSECT TRAP

### Pest Exclusion Program

#### Quarantine, Nursery & Seed Inspection Services:

- 10 - Nursery & Warning Hold Inspections
- 15 - Seed & Harvester Inspections
- 3 - Weed-Free Straw Inspections
- 1 - Quarantine Investigation

County Modoc

Trap No. \_\_\_\_\_

### Pest Detection Program

#### Deployed

- 75 - Spongy Moth Traps (Formerly Gypsy Moth)

**ZERO PEST DETECTIONS**

# PEST MANAGEMENT & ERADICATION PROGRAM

The Modoc County Department of Agriculture is dedicated to managing noxious weeds and rodents. The Agricultural Department aims to eradicate several established noxious weeds including:

- Scotch Thistle
- Yellow Starthistle
- Canada Thistle
- Perennial Pepperweed
- Dyer's Woad
- Dalmatian Toadflax
- Puncturevine
- Squarrose, Russian, Spotted & Diffuse Knapweeds
- Mediterranean Sage
- Leafy Spurge

## Treated Acres

- Ground Applications - **400** acres
- Roadside Applications - **205** acres
- Yellow Starthistle Program - **67** acres
- NO Helicopter Services Available

Modoc County has successfully treated Yellow Starthistle and reduced population within the county. The county is working towards a county wide noxious weed management plan to prevent large mono culture stands of thistles to reduce the thistle pressures in the eastern half of the county.

# OTHER AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## Organic

- **24** - Registered Organic Growers; Pasture, Rangeland, Vegetables & Grain
- **193,162** acres - Certified Organic Land
- **\$10,354,983** – Organic Agriculture Gross Income

## Direct Marketing

- **2** - Certified Farmer's Markets: Surprise Valley and Alturas
- **4** - Issued Certified Producer Certificates
- **1** – Food Hub: Inactive in 2023

## Exports

- Zero USDA Phytosanitary or State Phytosanitary Certificates

## Pesticide Use Enforcement

- **171** - Restricted Materials Permits
- **15** - Operator Identification Permits
- **150** - Private Applicator Licenses
- **0** - Enforcement Actions

## Migrant Housing

Modoc County provides two migrant housing centers: the Newell Migrant Center and the Castlerock Farmworker Center. The Newell Migrant Center is federal and state subsidized family housing for farm labor and housed 48 families in 2023. The Castlerock Farmworker Center is a facility rented by producers for foreign and domestic farm labor housing and houses 88 individuals.

# WEIGHTS & MEASURES

## Registered Devices

- **131** - Retail Fuel Meters
- **75** - Livestock Scales
- **28** - Retail Scales
- **16** - Truck Scales

By testing for correct and accurate weights and measures devices, Modoc County Department of Agriculture ensures fair competition in the marketplace and accurate value comparison for consumers.

20  
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CU. IN.

SERAPHIN TEST MEASURE CO. 25-01  
RANCOCKS, N. J.  
DELIVERS 5 GALLONS TO ZERO

1000  
LBS

# AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

The Modoc County Air Pollution District provides grants for local farming, industry, public agencies, and private citizens through the Carl Moyer Program and FARMER's Program.

The Carl Moyer Program provides grant funding for cleaner-than-required engines, equipment, and other sources of air pollution.

The FARMER's Program provides funding through local air districts for agricultural harvesting equipment, heavy-duty trucks, agricultural pumps, tractors, and other agricultural equipment.

Contact the Modoc County Air Pollution Control District housed with the Department of Agriculture for more information.

2023

7 Tractors Awarded



Upper  
Klamath  
Lake

WATER OUTLOOK

“The first months of the water year saw dry conditions reminiscent of the drought conditions that prevailed from 2020-2022. The situation improved markedly, including eleven consecutive days of good precipitation in early March, followed by favorable precipitation and snowfall in late March and early April. Nonetheless, runoff and inflow did not match expectations for the year, most likely because water was absorbed in soils made extremely dry by the previous years of drought. Under the Klamath Project Interim Operations Plan, which was ostensibly controlled in 2023, project supply from Upper Klamath Lake would have been announced in early April and the supply would have been 285,000 acre-feet for the irrigation season. However, the project supply was not announced until May 19 and was limited to 260,000 acre-feet. In addition, federal agencies identified a minimum Upper Klamath Lake elevation of 4,139.2 feet, and in early August threatened to stop irrigation diversions because of the expectation that this new regulatory limit would not otherwise be met. This problem was avoided, and 260,000 acre-feet was diverted. While the majority of Klamath Project land that is in Modoc County had irrigation water, substantial acreage could not be irrigated. The sumps in Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge remained dry for the second consecutive year.”

- Paul Simmons – Executive Director of Klamath Water Users Association

FIRE

No major fires in 2023.

DROUGHT

As of May 2023, Modoc County had moderate drought conditions; the county had early spring rains. California had 266% snowpack in the mountain ranges and meteorologists were predicting excess moisture and flooding.



## GRASSHOPPERS IN THE NORTH STATE

“UC Cooperative Extension and County Agriculture Commissioner staff received an unusually high number of complaints about grasshoppers damaging crops, home gardens, and ornamentals in summer 2023. It has become quite evident to longtime extension and County Agriculture Commissioner staff that grasshopper outbreaks across the region are increasing in size, scope, and distribution frequency. The UC ANR Intermountain Research and Extension Center conducted a landowner survey in the fall of 2023 with the help of northeast California UC ANR advisors and County Agriculture Commissioner staff, to document the extent of the 2023 grasshopper infestation in northeast California. Results from this survey documented substantial damage from grasshopper outbreaks on over 41,000 acres with an average crop loss of 40% throughout the region. It is important to note that several locations had 60 to 100% crop loss without any form of compensation or insurance coverage. Survey results also showed many landowners spent thousands of dollars on grasshopper treatment with less than 15% of them achieving acceptable control.

Grasshoppers are mobile pests, especially during the adult stage when they are big and have the highest possibility of consuming large amounts of plant material. This phenomenon makes it very difficult to monitor adult grasshopper populations across time and devise a control strategy as grasshopper swarms are moving across the landscape daily. Grasshoppers in other western states are successfully controlled through a coordinated monitoring and management program implemented by the USDA at a region-wide scale. Unfortunately, the program is not active in California making landscape scale monitoring and management very difficult and dependent on local landowners. Planned efforts by cooperative extension and landowners in 2024 include trying to better monitor grasshopper populations early in the season when young grasshopper nymphs have limited mobility and testing the effectiveness of insecticides and nonchemical methods to control high populations of young grasshoppers before they reach the adult stage. Significant funding and resources to support the monitoring of grasshopper populations and treatment across the landscape are greatly needed to address grasshopper outbreaks, especially in areas where grasshopper populations originate on state and federal lands.”

- Rob Wilson, UC ANR Extension Tulelake

# MODOC COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 1	Ned Coe
District 2	Shane Starr, Vice-Chair
District 3	Kathie Rhoads, Chair of the Board
District 4	Elizabeth Cavasso
District 5	Geri Byrne

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/ WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures.....	Heather L. Kelly
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures...	Vacant
Agricultural Biologist/ Weights & Measures Inspectors.....	Jolene Moxon Alex Moreo
Auto and Equipment Mechanic-Weed Abatement Coordinator.....	Curtis Leslie
Agricultural Technician.....	Caitlyn Davis
Support Services Administrator	Bonnie Bunyard
Noxious Weed Abatement Staff.....	Donald Seago Floyd McKee Dwayne Chapman Ryan Abernethy Brandon Blake Ryan Rosentrater Michael Harmon Zackary Grim



# THE MODOC COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE

2023 CROP REPORT

## THANK YOU!

YOUR SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED.



MODOC COUNTY—2023 ANNUAL CROP REPORT

[HTTP://WWW.CO.MODOC.CA.US/](http://www.co.modoc.ca.us/)