

**Weekly Radio Ag Report**  
**Cheryl Lauritsen, Lassen County Ag Commissioner's Office**  
**March 4, 2015**

Good Morning. My name is Cheryl Lauritsen and I am from the Lassen County Agriculture Commissioner's Office. Since the weather has been so spring-like, the weeds have been flourishing and I know that most of you are chomping at the bit to get started with your weed control. Our office would like to remind the members of our agricultural community that it is time to renew your restricted material spray permit. This is also the time of year that we are often out of the office doing field work, so it is best to contact our office at 251-8110 to make an appointment. You will need to bring any changes to your previous permit such as a new pesticide, commodity, or parcel of ground that you will be farming. We also need a map that includes any sensitive areas such as waterways, roads, schools or other public areas. If you are leasing ground, an agreement between you and the land owner is also required.

Rodent activity also increases with the warmer weather, so it is time to start planning your rodent control methods. To be effective, one must know exactly which pesky rodent you are dealing with. Ground squirrels, pocket gophers, moles, voles and rock chucks can all cause a lot of damage. Each of these troublesome varmints has a unique life cycle and behaviors. Baiting, trapping, burrow fumigation and exclusion are the most common practices used, but a visit to the UC Davis Integrated Pest Management Website can help you develop the right plan for your situation. The state of California has recently changed the requirements for baits and some fumigation methods, so be sure to contact our office to get the latest information on their uses.

Remember, when using any chemical, even bleach, be sure to read and follow the label to prevent injury to you, your neighbor and the environment. The label is the law.

Now for a few other important reminders:

Beef Weigh-in is this Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, from 8-11 at Lassen College. Contact the fair office for more details.

I also would like to encourage everyone to check out the changes at the Lassen County Fair this year. Did you know that any Lassen County resident can enter the fair? If you cook, make jams or jellies, sew, quilt, knit or crochet, garden or are a collector, a woodcarver, a potter, a photographer, or a painter, you can strut your stuff at the county fair July 15th-19th. The premium book has all of the possible entry categories and will be on the fair's webpage soon. Also, you can check out the Lassen County Fair's Facebook page for all of the exciting events going on down at the fairgrounds, like the auto racing schedule and the Blue Grass Festival which is June 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that the Lassen County CattleWomen's annual Taste of Beef Sip of Wine is this Friday night. This is the CattleWomen's main fundraiser. The proceeds will fund scholarships for our local youth as well as other agriculture educational activities within our community. It will definitely be the event of the year with a wide variety of wines from all of the top wine growing regions in the state, brew from our very own Lassen Ale Works, tasty beef appetizers, beef carving stations featuring tri-tip, flank steak and flat iron steak, a beef fajita bar, and, of course, the all-time favorite, mountain oysters. There will also be a gun raffle, a wine raffle featuring a magnum of wine in a

bottle etched with cattle brands from Lassen County, and wine pull. A wine pull is kind of a game – you buy a cork which matches a bottle of wine that will be yours to take home and enjoy. We hope to see you there!