

**Weekly Ag Report**  
**Della Smith, Lassen County CattleWomen**  
**August 22, 2018**

Good morning, I'm Della Smith from the Lassen County CattleWomen with your weekly Ag Report.

With so many wildfires raging throughout the state, we'd like everyone to know that responsible livestock grazing on public lands can help lessen the risk of catastrophic wildfires, and it is probably the cheapest and most effective way to reduce fuel loads.

Unfortunately, federal regulations make it very difficult for ranchers with permits to remain on, or return to overgrown allotments. If given the ability and flexibility to reduce forage in these areas, fires would be less intense and less destructive to the plants and the land. Cattle can graze on land that couldn't otherwise be used to raise food and convert it into nutritious beef. Grazing on public lands is just one way that cattle ranchers help the environment and their communities.

Cattlemen and women love their land and animals, and are making continuous improvements to produce safe, quality and affordable beef. They practice more responsible use of lands, use smarter resource management, and help build and support stronger communities by maintaining a healthy workforce and contributing to the economy. Field crops such as alfalfa hay and livestock (mainly beef cattle) are the top commodities in Lassen County.

Farmers and ranchers also contribute to the local economy by purchasing resources such as supplies, fuel and energy, feed, equipment and clothing, plus animal care services, family health care, and labor. They give back and improve their communities by donating time to civic organizations, serve in the military, vote, and run for elected office. Over 90% of American beef farms and ranches are family owned and operated, and over half of those have been in the same family for three generations or more.

If you love beef then you have what it takes to be a member of the Lassen County CattleWomen. We promote the well-being of the beef community and educate consumers about the importance of beef as a healthy and lean protein choice, stress the importance of agriculture to the environment and the economy, and that good stewardship of the land is an ongoing practice. Owning cows is not a requirement of membership.

Membership brochures are available at the Lassen County Chamber of Commerce at 1516 Main Street in Susanville.

So remember when you're enjoying that delicious beef steak, roast, or hamburger: Ranchers Feed Families!