



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

---

**PRESS RELEASE**

4/25/17

**LINDSAY MAN FOUND GUILTY OF AGRICULTURAL CRIMES**

Yesterday in Department 6 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Gary Paden presiding, a Tulare County jury found Ipolito Maldonado, age 50, of Lindsay, guilty of one felony count of unlawful driving of a vehicle, one felony count of driving a stolen vehicle, two felony counts of receiving stolen property, and one misdemeanor count of cultivating marijuana.

In addition, the court found true that Maldonado possessed two prior strike convictions, four prior prison terms, and that a crime occurred while on bail.

In January 2016, Maldonado was found to be pulling a trailer that was reported as stolen. While on bail in April 2016, Maldonado was found with another stolen trailer. After a search warrant of his property was executed, the Tulare County Sheriff's Office discovered numerous pieces of stolen property including a month-old Holstein calf, a pressure washer, an irrigation system battery, 46,000 feet of irrigation tubing, calf medications and supplements, and various tools which were painted red to alter their appearance. Deputies also discovered 120 marijuana plant seedlings in Styrofoam cups. Deputies also became suspicious of fencing on the property that bore the name of a construction project in Exeter. The Exeter Police Department investigated, and determined the fencing to be stolen. These cases were consolidated and tried as one.

Sentencing is set for June 12, 2017, in Tulare County Superior Court where Maldonado faces 16 years in state prison. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Candice Moore and investigated by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, the Exeter Police Department, and the California Highway Patrol.

Agricultural crime affects us all. The District Attorney's Office provides identification stamping for agricultural equipment. The Owner Applied Number is a free service and is an important tool in preventing crime and tracking stolen property. To learn more, contact our Bureau of Investigations at 559-636-5410.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare  
Assistant District Attorney Dave Alavezos (559) 636-5494*