

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Colusa

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: NASA-Ames
date: September 14, 1999
scale: 1:130,000
film type: CIR transparency
coverage gaps: none

WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities:
county:
others: none as of 8/1/2000

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

1998-2000 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ P, S, U → D
None

➤ L, G, X → D

Two total, one on the east side of the Meridian quad south of the city of Colusa where the current industrial site was expanded. There was a very small change on the Maxwell quad. Because of the first-time use of digital photography, boundary adjustments negated the small acreages involved with these two increases.

➤ P, S, U → L, G

One large field over 100 acres was changed from P, S, U to G on the Lodoga quad. Also, one change on the Wildwood School quad where a field was partially fenced for horses and the remainder was used for some type of dry grain feed.

➤ P, S, U → X

There were many changes here. Several minor changes involved irrigated fields going to wetlands, typically found in the vicinity of the national wildlife refuges. A grain elevator was mapped north of Arbuckle and an agricultural processing area was mapped south of Arbuckle. A peculiar set of ponds was mapped as a fish farm on the wildwood school quad.

The biggest type of change in this category was the identification of riparian and native vegetation areas. With the increased accuracy of the scanned aerial imagery it was possible to better identify these areas where they had previously not been mapped. This occurred throughout the eastern half of the county.

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U

There were 28 total changes, mostly G and L going to P, S, and U. The notable changes on the Cortina Creek quad include a new orchard (about 500 acres) next to an inaccessible flagged area having a high probability of orchards. The Manor Slough quad had two very large changes. Approximately 1,000 acres of new orchards were discovered on the southern portion of the quad. The second orchard (approx. 350 acres) is located on the eastern edge of the quad. It should be noted that in the field, I marked a much larger area than was evident in the 99 photos. Instead of guessing the eastern boundary of this orchard, the area was flagged for the next update and set of photos. Other notable changes include 2 new orchards (one is approx. 160 acres) on the Arbuckle quad and a rice field (~80 acres) on the Dunnigan quad.

➤ L, G → X

Four total changes, most of them are minor. One change involved haystacks adjacent to the previously mentioned industrial site south of Colusa.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

This was the first update of Colusa County using scanned aerial photography. Many boundary adjustments were made throughout the county, causing some unusual conversions to be made into and out of categories. Urban Land actually decreased in acreage due to these boundary adjustments, while hundreds of acres were changed from irrigated categories to Other Land, due to the previously mentioned native vegetation and riparian areas now being easily identifiable.

The mapping of Colusa County also changed from using Interim categories to an Important

Farmland Map, due to the recent release of the Colusa County soil survey by the NRCS. The digital soils were incorporated into the mapping for both 1998 and 2000 so as to facilitate conversion tracking using identical categories. Also related to the incorporation of the digital soil survey, 71,775 acres were added to the mapping area, now covering 100% of Colusa County. This area is at the western extreme of the county and is mostly within the Mendocino National Forest. Nearly all of the added land is now mapped as Other Land.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

New orchards are beginning to cover the hills on the western edge of the valley. In particular, Manor Slough, Salt Canyon, and Cortina Creek are experiencing large changes or potential changes. Many of the N polygons in the foothills region seem to be going fallow for several cycles, so future changes to G appear evident. Lastly, the Sanborn Slough quad has 3 large fields that may be changing to wetlands according to past local comments and the 99 photo check.

OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS: *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

The new digital raster graphic 24K quads were used with the farmland linework superimposed. These worked very well out in the field and for the photo check. Since Colusa County doesn't have a large population, the quads were up to date in regards to new development.

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

<i>photo interpretation, start date:</i>	August 1, 1999
<i>photo interpretation, number of day</i>	7
<i>ground truthing dates:</i>	August 15-16, 1999
<i># days for map compilation and clean up:</i>	approx. 7 (excluding digitizing)

* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp