

**California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

2008 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Colusa

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	Air Photo USA – Digital Globe Inc.
Acquisition date	September 2008
Data description	True Color (1 foot resolution)
Coverage gaps	Western hills and mountains
Additional imagery used	Landsat: September, 2008. 30 meter resolution

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2008 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2006 maps)
None.
Personal Contacts
None.
Websites Used for Reference
Colusa County Canning Company http://www.manta.com/coms2/dnbcompany_cjv6dk
GIS Data Used for Reference
None.

2006-2008 CHANGE SUMMARY:

Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. [See definitions](#) at bottom of table.

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	18 changes
Not too much activity of this type with only 18 total changes. The largest change is 26 acres of land near the Colusa airport south of the city. Industrial activity and equipment expanded in that area. Similarly, the Colusa County Canning Company south of Williams near Interstate-5 and the Myers Road overcrossing expanded areas used for equipment	

and material storage. That converted just over 20 acres. New homes and a small park were mapped in Williams on the east side of Interstate-5 in an area of pre-existing homes (18 acres). In the southeast part of Arbuckle, 13 acres of new homes were also found there. Lastly, just over 10 acres of warehouses were built off of Tule Road northeast of College City.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	9 changes
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This change was a very small contributor to the activity this update. The total number of changes is small, they are all less than 10 acres each, and were located adjacent to existing Urban Land. In the southeast part of the city of Colusa, seven acres of new apartments on east Carson Street were built behind the Sav-Mor market. The rest of the changes were small parks, school yards and small areas of new or pre-existing homes.

**Conversions from Irrigated Farmland
aside from urbanization**

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	69 changes
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This was the most significant type of change, mainly due to the quantity and size. Five of the changes were over 100 acres and one of those is 270 acres. This particularly large change is just north of College City--the area was marked several updates as a possible conversion to wetland based on the appearance of the photos over the years. During the site visit, the land was definitely fallow for three or more updates, but the land didn't resemble the typical wetland of that area, so it was changed to Grazing. Very close to that large change is another 125 acres of irrigated farmland converting Grazing Land, that was not accessible during the site visit. The other changes over 100 acres to Grazing Land due fallow status occurred along the Sacramento River near Hamilton Bend (140 acres) and east of Colusa National Wildlife Refuge (158 acres). Out of the 69 total changes, 7 of them went to non-irrigated grains. One of those changes was over 130 acres near Mills Orchard on Maxwell-Sites Road, west of the town of Maxwell. This area had been identified as non-irrigated grain uses for 4 update cycles.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	72 changes
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This was another type of change with a large total and some individually large changes. Three changes were over 100 acres and most of the other changes were less than 50 acres. These smaller changes were mostly improved boundaries--due to the use of one foot resolution imagery--of farmsteads, low density housing, riparian areas along streams and the Sacramento River, and canals. The largest change was over 630 acres southeast of College City adjacent to the Colusa Trough. This very large change was very wet and swampy in the photo. Unfortunately, the area was also not accessible. Right next to that change is another one over 190 acres of canal areas for the Colusa Trough. North of the Colusa Bypass, near the city of Colusa, over 185 acres of more wetland were mapped that were not accessible for a site visit.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	19 changes
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Conversion activity to Irrigated Farmland was relatively slow this update. There was one large change over 200 acres, one over 165 acres, and one just over 75 acres. The rest are all less than 40 acres each. The largest change was a new orchard near the western

hills, north of Bagley Road, Northwest of Williams. In that same area, but south of Bagley Road, another orchard was also mapped. Lastly, the 75 acre change southeast of College City was probably a new rice field, it was very red in the false color infrared satellite imagery. All three of these areas were not accessible.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2008 update.)

None.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2010 update, and reasons.)

Grains were found several times during the field check. These grains could be wheat. Watch for further expansion of this crop, especially on land that appears to be going fallow.

Definitions:

Irrigated Farmland includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

Nonirrigated land uses include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.

Other Land includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the [FMMP web site](#).

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2008 update.

Image interpretation, start date	4/7/2010
Image interpretation, number of days	7
Ground truth dates	4/28-29/2010
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	2

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

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>