

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

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Butte

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2012
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: None
Additional imagery used: None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2012 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2010 maps)
Clint Akers
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Earth, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Butte County Base Map

2010-2012 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

4 changes

The majority of these changes occurred in or adjacent to the cities of Gridley, Biggs, and Chico. The largest conversions occurred adjacent to the City of Gridley, where approximately 20 acres were converted for increased density of a formerly low-density housing area and a new solar facility.

Meanwhile, adjacent to the City of Biggs, approximately 20 acres were converted for a new solar facility.

In the City of Chico, approximately 10 acres were converted for development of the Villa Risa Apartments.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land

7 changes

The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the expansion of urban development in the cities of Chico and Oroville and the town of Richvale. The largest conversions occurred in the City of Chico where approximately 30 acres were converted for Parkside Terrace, Creekside Landing, other new homes, and expansion of a solid waste disposal site.

Meanwhile, in the City of Oroville, approximately 20 acres were converted for part of Riverbend Park and new apartments.

Lastly, in the town of Richvale, approximately 10 acres were converted for Lundberg Family Farms facilities.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses

58 changes

There were two primary reasons for the conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated uses:

First, the majority of these changes were due to plots of irrigated land having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of the changes in this category occurred on the Nord quad with approximately 290 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Honcut and Bangor quads with approximately 160 and 150 acres, respectively, going out of production.

Second, areas of irrigated farmland were identified that were no longer being irrigated but, instead, were being used for the cultivation of nonirrigated grain crops. These areas had not been irrigated for multiple update cycles. The largest changes due to nonirrigated grain production occurred on the Nord quad (170 acres) followed by the Gridley quad (10 acres).

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	28 changes
<p>A majority of these conversions to Other Land were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles which were too small to be mapped as nonirrigated land uses. There were also areas of wetlands and natural vegetation. The use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery assisted in delineating areas of rural residential land and low-density commercial areas throughout the county. The majority of these conversions happened on the Gridley quad with approximately 100 acres converting to Other Land for rural residential land, low-density commercial areas and natural vegetation. This was followed by the Biggs quad with approximately 60 acres converting to Other Land for rural residential land, low-density commercial areas and irrigated farmland that had been fallow for three or more update cycles which were too small to be mapped as nonirrigated land uses.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	33 changes
<p>The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Nord quad with a total of approximately 140 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for orchards and row crops. This was followed by the Biggs and Ord Ferry quads with approximately 90 and 80 acres, respectively, converting to irrigated farmland.</p>	
Unusual Changes (Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)	
<p><u>Irrigated Farmland or Other Land to Water:</u> 3 conversions</p>	
<p>These conversions of Irrigated Farmland or Other Land to Water were due to shifts in the course of the Sacramento River which led to a decision to update the boundaries. Notable conversion due to these adjustments consisted of a total of approximately 30 acres which occurred on the Foster Island and Ord Ferry quads.</p>	
<p><u>Water to Other Land:</u> 2 conversions</p>	
<p>All changes of this type were due to shifts in the course of the Sacramento River which led to a decision to update the boundaries. Notable conversions due to these adjustments consisted of approximately a total of 20 acres which occurred on the Ord Ferry and Foster Island quads.</p>	
<p><u>Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories:</u> There were 3 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to discovery of a nonirrigated orchard (most orchards are irrigated). Nonirrigated orchards are considered Unique Farmland regardless of the underlying soil. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.</p>	

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2014 update, and reasons.)

None

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 2012 update.

Image interpretation, start date: October 20, 2014
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Image interpretation, number of days: 7

Ground truth dates: December 2 – 3, 2014
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Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 3
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Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>