

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

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Madera

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

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)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
County of Madera: http://www.madera-county.com/ Fossil Discovery Center of Madera County: http://www.maderamammoths.org/ Google Earth, Street View: http://maps.google.com Minarets High School: http://www.chawanakee.k12.ca.us/minarets%20hs Solid Waste Information System: http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/search.aspx
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Madera County Base Map Madera County Digital Soil Surveys Parcel database Solid Waste Information System data

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

14 changes

These changes were primarily due to the construction of homes, buildings, and infrastructure.

City of Madera: There was approximately 60 acres of new homes added throughout the City of Madera, including the Orchard Pointe (~30 acres) development. New businesses were also added (~10 acres) as well as a new pond at the sewage treatment plant (~35 acres).

City of Chowchilla: In the City of Chowchilla, the Shasta Villas Apartments were added (~10 acres) as well as the Fossil Discovery Center of Madera County (~5 acres).

Other Conversions Throughout the County: In Borden, two fenced storage areas were added at Victor Packaging, Inc. (~10 acres) and a processing facility (~10 acres) was added on a ranch southwest of Madera near Road 16 and Avenue 3.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land

66 changes

These changes were primarily due to the construction of homes, buildings, infrastructure, solar facilities, and a school.

City of Madera: In the City of Madera, approximately 145 acres of homes were added due to increased density in formerly low-density housing areas. The Parksdale Village development, including homes and apartments (~20 acres), was added as well. New buildings included the River Worship Center (~10 acres), a mini-storage facility (~10 acres), and a Hampton Inn (~5 acres). Multiple water control ponds were added throughout the city (~60 acres total) along with a new solar facility (~10 acres) near the Madera Community Hospital.

Bonadelle Ranchos: There was approximately 460 acres of homes added in the Bonadelle Ranchos community due to increased density in formerly low-density housing areas. Also, new solar panels (~5 acres) were added at Liberty High School.

Madera Acres: In the community of Madera Acres, approximately 90 acres of homes were added due to increased density in formerly low-density housing areas. Also, approximately five acres of new businesses were added.

Other Conversions Throughout the County: The Minarets High School and sports fields (~30 acres) were added in O'Neals and a landfill (~25 acres) was noted in Raymond. Homes were added in Ahwahnee (~20 acres), Oakhurst (~35 acres), North Fork (~15 acres), and Yosemite Lakes (~40 acres).

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses

66 changes

The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were primarily located in the San Joaquin Valley. The

majority of these changes were 40 acres or less. The largest changes (100 acres or larger) occurred on the Madera quad (~105 and 165 acres).

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. Nonirrigated grain is mapped as Farmland of Local Importance in Madera County. These changes primarily occurred in the San Joaquin Valley as well. Most of these changes were 60 acres or less. The largest changes (100 acres or larger) occurred on the Firebaugh NE (~140 acres) and Poso Farm (~185 acres) quads.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land

47 changes

Low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial, agricultural equipment storage areas and disturbed land accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily between 10-30 acres in size.

Further conversions were due to the identification of confined livestock. Confined livestock in the form of dairies, feedlots, poultry facilities and aquaculture are part of the Other Land definition in Madera County. Most of these conversions were due to small expansions (between 10-30 acres) of existing dairies. One change of note is an expansion of a dairy on the Bliss Ranch (~45 acres) quad.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

95 changes

The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the San Joaquin Valley. Most of the changes were 10-50 acres in size and consisted of orchards, grape vines, field crops, and row crops. A significant addition of irrigated farmland, approximately 6,370 acres, occurred on the Bliss Ranch and Poso Farm quads. This change consisted of almond and pistachio orchards, alfalfa, corn, and vineyards. Other changes of note include the addition of orchards (~220 acres) on the Daulton quad, almonds and pistachios (~250 acres) on the Madera quad, a vineyard (~275 acres) on the Bliss Ranch quad, an almond orchard (~435 acres) on the Gregg quad, and an alfalfa field (~550 acres) on the Mendota Dam quad.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)

Nonirrigated Land Uses to Other Land: There were 165 conversions of nonirrigated land uses to Other Land. These changes were primarily due to low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial, agricultural equipment storage areas, disturbed land and nonagricultural vegetation. These changes occurred throughout the county and were primarily 10-40 acres in size.

Conversions from Urban Land: There were 10 conversions from Urban Land. Urban Land was converted to Other Land and Grazing Land due to improved digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 3 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. Two of these changes were due to potted plant

nurseries having been converted to irrigated farmland. The other change was due to the identification of a nonirrigated vineyard. Potted plant nurseries and nonirrigated vineyards 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.

Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: There were 17 conversions of Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land. The majority of these changes were due to nonirrigated grain areas being fallow for four or more update cycles. Most of these changes occurred in the San Joaquin Valley and were between 10-80 acres in size. The largest changes occurred on the Berenda (~375 acres), Gregg (~200 acres), and Raynor Creek (~950 acres) quads.

Grazing Land or Other Land to Farmland of Local Importance: There were 27 conversions of Grazing Land or Other Land to Farmland of Local Importance. These conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. These changes primarily occurred in the San Joaquin Valley as well. Most of these changes were 45 acres or less. The largest changes (100 acres or larger) occurred on the Fresno North (~100 and 110 acres), Kismet (~1,100 and 115 acres), Lanes Bridge (~115 acres) and Raynor Creek (~185 acres) quads.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Some smaller dairies are going out of business. Watch for conversion of these dairies to irrigated farmland, particularly orchards.

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	June 17, 2013
Image interpretation, number of days	20
Ground truth dates	August 13-16, 2013
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	12

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>