

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

**2012 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** San Benito

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Farl Grundy

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), 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
San Benito County: <a href="http://www.cosb.us/">http://www.cosb.us/</a> San Benito County Crop Report: <a href="http://cosb.us/wp-content/uploads/San-Benito-County-2013-Crop-Report.pdf">http://cosb.us/wp-content/uploads/San-Benito-County-2013-Crop-Report.pdf</a> City of Hollister: <a href="http://hollister.ca.gov/site/index.asp">http://hollister.ca.gov/site/index.asp</a> New Idria Mercury Mine: <a href="http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/ViewByEPAID/CA0001900463">http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/ViewByEPAID/CA0001900463</a>
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer San Benito 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.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	1 change
There was only one noteworthy conversion from Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land this update. This change, located just north of San Juan Bautista, involved approximately 5 acres of effluent ponds and equipment storage.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	1 changes
Conversion in this category were limited to only one change. This change occurred in the northwestern portion of the City of Hollister, where approximately 10 acres of new homes were constructed.	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	35 changes
The majority of these changes occurred as a result of Irrigated Farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. These change were generally less than 30 acres in size and occurred throughout the county; although, there were a few quads with significant changes. The San Felipe quad experienced approximately 240 acres of Irrigated Farmland converted to Nonirrigated Land Use, while the Three Sisters quad and the Tres Pinos quad each had approximately 100 acres of change in this category.	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	6 changes
These types of conversions were small in number and size this update. Most changes were approximately 10 acres and due to the delineation of farmsteads and ranchettes throughout the county.	
<b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	24 changes
Conversions this update were primarily due to the addition of vines, row crops, and orchards. While most conversions were less than 30 acres, there were a few notable quads. The Paicines quad had approximately 230 acres of new vines and orchards, followed by the Tres Pinos quad which added approximately 150 acres of new Irrigated Farmland. New orchards and row crops of approximately 140 acres were added on the San Felipe quad.	
<b>Unusual Changes</b>	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)	
This update there were approximately 1,400 acres of change involving the conversion of Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land. This type of change is due to areas of	

nonirrigated grain having been fallow for four update cycles. Nonirrigated grain is part of the Farmland of Local Importance category in San Benito County.

#### **Areas of Concern for Future Updates**

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

None at this time.

#### **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: 9/9/2014
Image interpretation, number of days: 7
Ground truth dates: 10/06/2014
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 5

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