

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Benito

FIELD MAPPER(S): Andrew McLeod

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2014
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: None
Additional imagery used: Google maps

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2014 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2012 maps)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps Street View
GIS Data Used for Reference
San Benito County Base Map

2012-2014 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	2 changes
There was one noteworthy conversion from irrigated farmland to Urban Land this update, an approximately 15-acre addition of new solar that was installed just north of the San Benito River at Union Road.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	0 changes
There were no such changes this update.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	34 changes
The majority of these changes occurred as a result of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were generally less than 30 acres in size and occurred throughout the county. Most notably, on Southside Road, approximately 150 acres of land was converted to Grazing Land just south of the Ridgemark Country Club. Also, approximately 100 acres of mostly irrigated land converted to nonirrigated grain just west of Dunneville.	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	7 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.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	26 changes
While most conversions were less than 30 acres, there were a few notable quads. On the Paicines quad, approximately 300 acres of new vines were planted. On the Three Sisters quad, approximately 160 acres of new tomatoes were planted on Fairview Rd near Santa Ana Valley. The San Felipe quad saw nearly 800 acres of new irrigated farmland overall, including four large areas between Hollister and Gilroy measuring approximately 325 acres, 100 acres, 85 acres and 75 acres.	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)	
<u>Conversions from Urban Land:</u> These conversions were due to a lack of sufficient infrastructure for multiple updates and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.	

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 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 2014 update.

Image interpretation, start date: 4/19/2016
Image interpretation, number of days: 4
Ground truth dates: 6/2-3/2014
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>