

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Benito

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2016
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 2016 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2014 maps)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer (2016) San Benito County Base Map

2014-2016 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	1 change
<p>There was one significant conversion of irrigated farmland to Urban Land this update. In the City of Hollister, approximately 20 acres of irrigated farmland was converted to new homes.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	4 changes
<p>The majority of the urbanization of nonirrigated land and Other Land was due to the expansion of urban development in or adjacent to the City of Hollister. In and near the City of Hollister, approximately 60 acres was converted to new homes, a solar facility, a Les Schwab Tire Center, and a Fairfield Inn & Suites.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	15 changes
<p>There were two primary reasons for the conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated uses:</p> <p>First, the majority of these changes were due to plots of irrigated land having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The largest changes in this category occurred south of Frazier Lake Airpark at the intersection of Shore Road and State Highway 25 (Bolsa Road) where approximately 250 acres went out of production. This was followed by an area north of Hollister Airport and State Highway 156 with approximately 150 acres going out of production.</p> <p>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. Nonirrigated grain crops appear as Farmland of Local Importance on San Benito County's Important Farmland Map. These areas had not been irrigated for multiple update cycles. The largest changes due to nonirrigated grain production occurred south of the Hollister Airport near the intersection of Flynn Road and San Felipe Road (~30 acres).</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	1 change
<p>The most significant conversion of irrigated farmland to Other Land occurred east of the Gregg Bonturi Ranch (~10 acres). The conversion was due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more updates cycles that was too small to be mapped as Grazing Land.</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	21 changes
<p>The majority of the new irrigated crops this update consisted of the addition of row crops, vineyards, and orchards. The largest, single addition of row crops was approximately 470 acres. It was located west of the Frazier Lake Airpark along Frazier</p>	

Lake Road. Another large, single addition of row crops was approximately 130 acres. It was located approximately two miles south of the Frazier Lake Airpark.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)

Water to Grazing Land: These conversions were primarily due to parts of San Felipe Lake that had been dry for three or more update cycles. The majority of these conversions happened at San Felipe Lake with approximately 50 acres converted to Grazing Land.

Conversion from Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: These conversions were primarily due to fields of nonirrigated grain having been fallow for four or more update cycles. There were 30 conversions. The largest single conversion in this category occurred south of the intersection of Old Hernandez Road and State Highway 25 (Airline Highway) where approximately 230 acres were converted to Grazing Land. This was followed by an area south of the intersection of Live Oak Road and State Highway 25 (Airline Highway) exhibiting approximately 220 acres of conversion.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 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 2016 update.

Image interpretation, start date: March 30, 2018
Image interpretation, number of days: 4
Ground truth dates: May 16-17, 2018
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 1

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