

**California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

**2000 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Kern

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Michael Kisko

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

*source:* NASA-Ames  
*date:* 9/8/99  
*scale:* 1:130,000  
*film type:* CIR Transparencies  
*coverage gaps:* eastern half of county, filled by use of 2000 SPOT data

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

*cities:*

*county:*

*others:* Eastern Kern County RCD, Semitropic Water Storage Dist, Tehachapi-Cummings County Water Dist.

➤ *personal contacts:* Sheryl Harding, Kern Water Bank Authority (661) 399-8735

➤ *GIS data referenced:* Digital Soil Surveys: kern\_nw and kern\_se  
Wildlife refuges: refuges.dgn  
Ponds: evap\_ponds.dgn

**1998-2000 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ P, S, U, I → D

The most numerous conversions between farmland and urban land this update were due to simple boundary adjustments occurring at the agricultural/urban interface due to this update being the first digital update of Kern County. Other than boundary adjustments, there were 27 conversions of farmland to urban land countywide this update with new homes and commercial/industrial buildings accounting for the bulk of the change.

The largest conversion of farmland to urban land this update occurred in the Greenacres area, to the northwest of the City of Bakersfield. The Links at River Lakes

Ranch Golf Course and the River Lake Ranch development (new homes) accounted for the conversion of 300 acres of farmland. Nearby, "The Gardens" development (~30 acres) and "Madison Grove" homes (~30 acres) were also added.

Meanwhile, in the Wasco area, new homes were added along the northern urban fringe (~18 acres) and along the southern urban fringe, as well (~10 acres). Furthermore, nearby Shafter saw the addition of 15 acres of new homes to its western urban fringe.

Next, the Rancho Fiesta development (~30 acres) added new homes to western Delano. Also, approximately 70 acres (total) of new homes were added at three locations in the Rosedale area, to the west of the City of Bakersfield. Furthermore, in the southern Bakersfield area, two developments of new homes totaling ~65 acres were notable conversions of farmland.

Lastly, approximately 10 acres of new homes were added in the Arvin area, along with the expansion by ~130 acres of water ponds for the Arvin Edison Water Storage District which are just to the east of Arvin.

#### ➤ L, G, X → D

Other than simple linework adjustments, there were approximately 75 instances of the urbanization of local, grazing, or other land this update, countywide. The majority of these conversions were seen in the form of new homes or commercial/industrial buildings. Water control structures, especially in oilfield areas, also accounted for some of the change. There were also major refinements made to the urban boundaries of areas previously lacking in photo coverage such as Ridgecrest, Inyokern, Kernville, Riverkern and further areas in eastern Kern County.

One notable area of new homes in Kern County this update was 30 acres of homes comprising the "North Country Meadows" development along the northern urban fringe of Oildale.

Next, new homes were in evidence in southern Bakersfield. In the southeastern urban area of Bakersfield, one 10-acre plot and one 20-acre plot of new homes were identified. Also, two other new home sites totaling ~35 acres were added in the southwestern urban area of Bakersfield. Meanwhile, 10 acres of new homes was added in eastern Bakersfield, south of Hillcrest Memorial Park.

To the east of Bakersfield, a few areas of new homes were also found in the Tehachapi area, along with some commercial/industrial buildings.

Further east, more new homes were added in the City of Rosamond on the southeastern edge of Kern County near Edwards AFB.

#### ➤ P, S, U, I, N → L, G

In Kern County this update, there were 63 conversions of irrigated or nonirrigated farmland to local or grazing land due to land having been fallow for three or more updates.

These fallowed areas were spread out pretty evenly throughout the county with a slightly increased concentration in the northern portion of the county on the Emigrant Hill (4), Antelope Plain (3), Lost Hills NW (4), and Deepwell Ranch (5) quads (25% of fallowed areas). Further, there were also a few areas of farmland that were converted to Grazing Land due to the presence of nonirrigated grains which cannot be considered farmland in Kern's Important Farmland area due to Kern County's lack of a Farmland of Local Importance definition.

Some notable conversions from farmland to Grazing Land this update include an ~900-acre plot on the Sawtooth Ridge quad, an ~630-acre plot on the Antelope Plain quad, and an ~915-acre conversion on the Lost Hills NW quad. Two areas totaling over 1,700 acres on the Antelope Plain quad which had been fallow for four updates and seemed to consist of nonirrigated grain were converted to Grazing Land due to Kern County's lack of an Important Farmland definition. Meanwhile, on the Deepwell Ranch quad, ~950 acres of land formerly containing nonirrigated agriculture was converted to Grazing Land after also having been fallow for four updates. Another 1,000+ acre plot of nonirrigated agriculture was also converted to Grazing Land on the Grapevine quad. Lastly, the biggest single conversion of farmland this update took place on the Tupman quad where a large basin (~3,100 acres) next to the State Tule Elk Reserve that is controlled by the Kern Water Bank was converted to Grazing Land as grazing was not specifically precluded according to a representative.

➤ P, S, U, I, N → X

This was undoubtedly the most active category of conversion this update, although many of the conversions in this category were a result of simple linework adjustments to agricultural fields. Other than simple agricultural boundary adjustments, there were 118 conversions of irrigated or nonirrigated farmland to Other Land this update. These conversions were due mainly to areas of farmland that had been fallow for three or more updates, the identification of farm building areas and ranchettes, and new dairies. These conversions took place throughout the county with the Rio Bravo (10), Gosford (8), Lamont (11), and Conner (10) quads experiencing the most change in this category.

One notable conversion included a 550-acre plot that had been fallow three updates on the Hacienda Ranch quad. Another large piece of farmland was converted to Other Land on the Cinco quad where an ~1,650-acre plot of farmland had been fallow for four updates. Also, ranchettes were identified on the Wasco, Rio Bravo, Gosford, Lamont, and Edison quads, along with farm buildings that were identified throughout the county. The Golden Empire Concrete facility was also added on the Gosford quad.

Dairies also made a good showing this update such as the large Goyenette Dairy (~160 acres) on the Buttonwillow quad, a couple of dairies (~230 acres) on the Rio Bravo quad, the Maple and Newhouse Dairies (~440 acres) on the Millux quad, and another new dairy (~150 acres) on the Weed Patch quad.

Lastly, another conversion of farmland to Other Land was due to two waterski lakes on the Arvin quad.

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U, I, N

There were 36 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to irrigated farmland in Kern County this update. This is not a lot for a county of this size and, on the whole, more farmland seemed to be going out of production than into production. New farmland was found scattered throughout the county with the largest amount of acreage being added in the Antelope Valley area. In the Antelope Valley on the Fairmont Butte and adjoining Little Buttes quad, five additions of agriculture totaling ~1,900 acres were added including acreage in the vicinity of Van Dam Farms. Also, just north of these additions, is the John Calandri Farms where ~790 acres of new agriculture was added, much of it in the form of Antelope Brand California Onions.

Other notable additions of farmland include new agriculture on the Pearsonville (~170 acres), Lost Hills NW (~300 acres), and Belridge (~160 acres) quads. Further additions of center-pivot irrigated agriculture, most likely alfalfa, were added on the Inyokern (~150 acres), Saltdale SE (~400+ acres), and Grapevine (~950 acres) quads. Finally, ~100 acres of new vineyards were added to the Capello Winery, along with more vines and some citrus (~150 acres total) nearby on the McFarland quad.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

G<->X Lots of oil field Boundary adjustments, such as to the Mt. Poso Oil Field

D<->X Significant urban boundary adjustments to the City of Ridgecrest using newly acquired '99 and '93 SPOT images and '89 photos from USGS. Many other urban areas in eastern Kern County were refined due to a previous lack of photo coverage.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

The Ridgecrest area could use a thorough field checking in the upcoming mapping update as no one has been out to this area in years.

**OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS:** *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

N/a

**LABOR ESTIMATE:** *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

<i>photo interpretation, start date:</i>	3/4/02
<i>photo interpretation, number of days:</i>	12
<i>ground truthing dates:</i>	3/25-3/30
<i># days for map compilation and clean up:</i>	20

\* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*

[www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)