California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2010 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: San Benito

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source	National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date	Summer 2009
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 2010 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2008 maps)
None.
Personal Contacts
None.
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com San Benito County: http://www.cosb.us/
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer San Benito County Base Map San Benito County Digital Soil Survey

2008-2010 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 were only two conversions of irrigated farmland to urban land this update. In the City of Hollister, an approximately 5-acre parking lot was added near the airport. In the City of San Juan Bautista, a parking lot (~ 5 acres) was added at the Earthbound Farm processing facility.	

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	7 changes

These changes were primarily due to the increased density of homes in existing housing areas resulting in changes from Other Land to Urban and Built-up Land. Approximately 65 acres of change occurred in the City of Hollister. In the City of San Juan Bautista, approximately 10 acres were converted to urban.

A further change was due to new construction of sports fields at the Spring Grove School in Hollister (~10 acres).

Finally, the John Smith Road landfill nearby Hollister was expanded by approximately 15 acres.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland
aside from urbanization

Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	93 changes

The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Most of these changes were less than 30 acres and were scattered throughout the county. Larger conversions occurred on the San Felipe quad (~210 and 100 acres).

Other conversions were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. These changes primarily occurred on the Hollister, Paicines, San Felipe, and Topo Valley quads. Most of these changes were less than 50 acres. Larger conversions of 100 acres or greater occurred on the Hollister (1), San Felipe (1) and Topo Valley (1) quads.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	16 changes

Low-density housing (ranchettes) and farmsteads accounted for the majority of the changes. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 10-40 acres in size.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	34 changes

The majority of the irrigated farmland was added in the Hollister, San Juan, and Panoche valleys. Most of the changes were 10-40 acres in size and consisted of row crops, irrigated grain, irrigated pastures, vineyards, and orchards. Some changes of note included an area of row crops (~190 acres) and an area of irrigated grain (~245 acres) on the San Felipe quad, and an area of row crops (~400 acres) on the Three Sisters quad.

Unusual Changes
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2010 update.)

Nonirrigated Land Uses to Other Land: There were 54 conversions to Other Land. These changes were due to low-density housing (ranchettes), farmsteads, rural commercial, and mining facilities. These changes were scattered throughout the county and were primarily 30 acres or less in size.

Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: There were 50 conversions to Grazing

Land. These changes were due to nonirrigated grain having been fallow for four or more update cycles. Most of these changes were less than 60 acres and were scattered throughout the county. Larger conversions occurred on the Hollister (~265 acres), Lonoak (~415 acres), Pinalito Canyon (~130 and 160 acres), Rock Spring Peak (~150 and 410 acres), Three Sisters (~155 acres), Topo Valley (~105, 120, and 485 acres) and Tres Pinos (~170 acres) quads.

Grazing Land to Farmland of Local Importance: There were 42 conversions to Farmland of Local Importance. These changes were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain. These changes were primarily less than 50 acres and were scattered throughout the county. Larger conversions of 100 acres or greater occurred on the Chittenden (1), San Felipe (1) and Tres Pinos (2) quads.

Conversions from Urban and Built-up Land: There were ten conversions from Urban and Built-up Land. Approximately 10 acres of urban land was converted to Unique Farmland due to the delineation of a potted plant nursery in Aromas.

Further conversions to irrigated farmland, nonirrigated land uses, and Other Land were due to digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct urban boundaries.

Conversions involving Water: A water body on the Quien Sabe Valley quad was adjusted due to digital imagery that allowed for the delineation of more distinct water boundaries. These conversions consisted of Grazing Land changed to Water (~15 acres) and Water changed to Farmland of Local Importance (~10 acres).

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2012 update, and reasons.)

Look for potential development near the new Highway 25 bypass in Hollister. Some of this land appeared fallow during the 2011 field visit.

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 2010 update.

Image interpretation, start date	February 1, 2011
Image interpretation, number of days	7
Ground truth dates	March 7-10, 2011
Number of days for post-ground truth clean up	6

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