

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

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

FIELD MAPPER(S): Farl Grundy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)
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)
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
County of Santa Cruz: http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/
Santa Cruz County 2012 Crop Report: http://www.agdept.com/Portals/10/pdf/cropreport_12.pdf
Pajaro River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update: http://www.sbcwd.com/reports/REVISED%20College%20Lake%20Project%20Form.pdf
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Santa Cruz County Base Map Santa Cruz County Digital Soil Survey

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.](#)

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	0 changes
There were no changes of Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land this update.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	8 changes
The majority of the changes this update were due to improved imagery, which allowed for more accurate delineation of urban boundaries. Several areas of existing homes throughout the county which previously did not meet the mapping qualifications of the Urban Land category, now due to the increased density of homes in the area, became eligible for the Urban Land category.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	9 changes
Changes in this category were due to Irrigated Farmland which had been fallow for three or more update cycles. The number of changes were small and of these changes none were greater than 20 acres in size. The Castle Rock Ridge quad had the highest total amount of change with approximately 50 acres, followed by the Watsonville East quad and the Laurel quad, each with approximately 20 acres of change.	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	5 changes
Of the five changes this update, only one was over 20 acres in size. This change occurred south of Corralitos and was approximately 40 acres. The majority of the changes this update were due to Irrigated Farmland which had been fallow for three or more update cycles. These areas were too small to qualify as Grazing Land and were therefore reclassified into the Other Land category.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	10 changes
New vines, orchards, and row crops made up the majority of changes this update. Only one of these changes was larger than 20 acres and occurred just north of Corralitos, where approximately 40 acres of new row crops were added. The majority of the other changes were confined to the Watsonville East and West quads.	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)	
There was only one unusual change this update, which involved the conversion of	

approximately 10 acres of Urban Land to Irrigated Farmland. This change was due to the continued lack of structures in the area and the subsequent planting of irrigated row crops.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Studies are currently underway regarding the future usage of College Lake, just northeast of Watsonville. The Pajaro River Water Management Agency along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are presently evaluating the lake for future water supply and flood control projects. At present, this area is subject to winter flooding, which is then pumped out in the spring leaving the land arable for summertime farming. Updates on the outcome of College Lake should be checked and care should be taken before any changes to this area are made.

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: August 29, 2014
Image interpretation, number of days: 5
Ground truth dates: October 7, 2014
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 3

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