

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

**2012 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Yolo

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

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
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.*

<b>Local Review Comments</b> (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2010 maps) None
<b>Personal Contacts</b> Dennis Chambers, Yolo County Agriculture Department: (530) 666-8140 Molly Quisenberry, Yolo County Agriculture Department: (530) 666-8140
<b>Websites Used for Reference</b>  Sacramento Business Journal: <a href="http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/print-edition/2012/04/06/olive-oil-production-booms-yolo-county.html?page=all">http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/print-edition/2012/04/06/olive-oil-production-booms-yolo-county.html?page=all</a> U.C. Davis West Village: <a href="http://westvillage.ucdavis.edu/">http://westvillage.ucdavis.edu/</a> Google Earth, Street View: <a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a> Solid Waste Information System: <a href="http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/search.aspx">http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/search.aspx</a>
<b>GIS Data Used for Reference</b> California City Boundary Layer Yolo County Base Map Solid Waste Information System data

**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.

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	7 changes
<p>Conversions of irrigated farmland to Urban Land were due to the construction of apartment homes, sports fields and infrastructure.</p> <p>The most notable urban development this update was the addition of the U.C. Davis West Village campus neighborhood (~50 acres). New homes (~5 acres) were also added in Woodland nearby County Fair Mall. A soccer field (~10 acres) was added at the Davis Legacy Soccer Club to the east of El Macero. Finally, infrastructure was added in the form of a solar array at the Tyndall Mound Warehouse (~10 acres), a paved parking lot (~5 acres) near University Airport and water treatment ponds (~15 acres) for an agricultural processing facility on the Clarksburg quad.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	11 changes
<p>These changes were due to the construction of apartments, homes, commercial buildings and infrastructure.</p> <p>In the City of Woodland, the Rochdale Grange Apartments (~5 acres) were added along with some solar panels (~5 acres) nearby Woodland Community College. In Southport, new homes (~10 acres) and commercial buildings (~5 acres) along with a solar array (~5 acres) nearby River City High School accounted for the conversion of nonirrigated land. Finally, new homes (~5 acres) were added in El Macero and the Orchard Village Apartments (~5 acres) were a new addition in Winters.</p> <p>Lastly, linework was redrawn at the Yolo County Central Landfill for mapping consistency purposes that resulted in the conversion of approximately 150 acres of nonirrigated land.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	64 changes
<p>The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland or pastureland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were primarily located in the Capay and Sacramento Valleys and most were for 40 acres or less. Larger conversions of 100 acres or more occurred on the Clarksburg (~150 acres), Davis (~120 acres), Knights Landing (~700 acres), Saxon (~280 and ~140 acres), Winters (~130 acres) and Woodland (~120 acres) quads. These formerly irrigated lands will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance if they are on high quality soils, as determined by the USDA, or to Grazing Land if on lesser quality soils.</p> <p>Other conversions from irrigated farmland were due to the identification of nonirrigated grain in areas that had formerly produced irrigated crops. Notable conversions of this type</p>	

occurred on the Saxon quad (~120 acres) and in the Southport area (multiple conversions, totaling ~250 acres). These areas will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance as per the Yolo County Farmland of Local Importance definition.

**Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

36 changes

Many of these conversions were due to the development of wetland or habitat protected areas. The most notable conversions occurred in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area where cessation of cropping and expansion of wetlands accounted for the conversion of approximately 950 acres of irrigated farmland to Other Land. Other notable conversions to wetland or habitat areas occurred on the Grays Bend (~190 acres), Woodland (~160 acres) and Zamora (~700 acres) quads. The remaining conversions were primarily due to the delineation of farmsteads and ranchettes throughout the county due to the use of high resolution imagery.

**Conversions to Irrigated Farmland**

**Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

68 changes

Many of the notable conversions to irrigated farmland this update took place around the fringe of the Dunnigan and Capay Hills, especially along their southern ends. Most of the new irrigated agriculture was in the form of orchards and vineyards with lesser additions of row and field crops.

Olive orchards were the largest addition this update with approximately 1,900 acres of new olives planted. The largest plantings were made along the southern edge of the Dunnigan (~1,470 acres) and Capay (~330 acres) Hills and at Taber Ranch (~70 acres). Meanwhile, approximately 400 acres of almond orchards were added along the eastern and western fringes of the Dunnigan Hills. Also, approximately 240 acres of walnut orchards were planted nearby Winters.

Finally, vineyard plantings were in evidence at the southern end of the Dunnigan Hills (~550 acres) and at Oat Valley Ranch (~200 acres).

**Unusual Changes**

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)

Urban Land to agricultural categories: Approximately 200 acres of former water control ponds near Woodland have been planted to dry grain crops. Other minor adjustments to the urban boundary resulted in small reclassifications to irrigated agriculture.

Irrigated farmland to irrigated pasture: An unusual reason for the conversion of irrigated farmland to Farmland of Local Importance or Grazing Land is because of a shift of those lands from irrigated farmland to irrigated pasture. These types of conversions are due either to a change in land use or to improved delineation of land use through the use of high quality imagery and site visits. If the land that is shifted to irrigated pasture is on lesser quality soils, it will be mapped as Grazing Land rather than in a traditional irrigated category such as Unique Farmland. This is because irrigated pasture cannot be mapped as Unique Farmland per FMMP mapping criteria. A notable example of this was on the Liberty Island quad where approximately 800 acres was converted from Unique Farmland to Grazing Land.

### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

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

Make sure to field check areas before making a change from an irrigated category to nonirrigated grain, especially on valley floor locations. These areas could turn out to be an irrigated grain crop rather than a nonirrigated grain crop.

#### 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: October 30, 2013
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Image interpretation, number of days: 10
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Ground truth dates: November 18, 22 and 27; December 2, 4 and 13
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Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 4
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Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:  
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>