

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

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Colusa

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agricultural Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2014
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 2014 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2012 maps)
2014 General Plan GIS data, submitted by Colusa County, for update of lands qualifying for Farmland of Local Importance.
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Earth, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Colusa County Base Map

2012-2014 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
<p>The majority of these changes occurred in the Maxwell and Williams areas. The largest conversions occurred adjacent to the town of Maxwell where approximately 20 acres were converted for a water storage pond. Meanwhile, in the City of Williams, approximately 20 acres were converted for the Colusa County Office of Education, Education Village and Stony Creek Apartments.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	2 changes
<p>The majority of the urbanization this update was due to the expansion of urban development in or adjacent to the City of Williams and the town of Arbuckle. The largest conversions occurred adjacent to the City of Williams where approximately 20 acres were converted for a Solar Facility.</p> <p>Meanwhile, in the town of Arbuckle, approximately 20 acres were converted for new homes.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	41 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. Most of the changes in this category occurred on the Meridian quad with approximately 210 acres going out of production. This was followed by the Lodoga quad with approximately 160 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. These areas had not been irrigated for multiple update cycles. The largest changes due to nonirrigated grain production occurred on the Sites quad (350 acres) followed by the Moulton Weir quad (50 acres).</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	24 changes
<p>A majority of these conversions to Other Land were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles which were too small to be mapped as nonirrigated land uses. The use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery assisted in delineating areas of rural residential land, low-density commercial, natural vegetation and wildlife areas throughout the county. The majority of these conversions happened on the Grimes and Arbuckle quads with approximately 350 acres and 250 acres, respectively, converting to Other Land for wildlife area and rural residential or commercial areas.</p>	

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

49 changes

The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Cortina Creek quad with approximately 290 acres being converted to irrigated farmland for a vineyard and orchards. This was followed by the Wildwood School and Colusa quads with approximately 270 and 260 acres, respectively, being converted to irrigated farmland.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)

Conversion between Farmland of Local Importance and Grazing Land: Colusa County's Farmland of Local Importance definition includes "lands with a General Plan Land Use designation for agricultural purposes; and lands that are legislated to be used only for agricultural (farmland) purposes". Updated 2014 General Plan GIS data was used to evaluate the extent of land qualifying for Farmland of Local Importance. Although properties shifted in both directions, use of the new data resulted in a net shift of approximately 4,700 acres out of Farmland of Local Importance and into Grazing Land.

Conversion between Irrigated Farmland categories: There were 3 conversions between irrigated farmland categories. These changes were due to either irrigated pasture being replaced by irrigated crops or irrigated crops being replaced by irrigated pasture. These changes may result in conversions between Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland and Farmland of Local Importance.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 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 2014 update.

Image interpretation, start date: August 19, 2015
Image interpretation, number of days: 7
Ground truth dates: October 22 – 23, 2015
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>