

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

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Tulare

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture 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)
City of Farmersville
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps: www.google.com/maps
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Tulare 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	28 changes
<p>Conversion from irrigated farmland to Urban Land was primarily due to new solar facilities, homes, schools and water control or recharge ponds.</p> <p>New solar facilities accounted for 11 of the 28 conversions (~450 acres in total) of irrigated farmland this update. These solar facilities were scattered throughout the county, such as nearby Porterville and Ivanhoe, and most were less than 20 acres in size. Many were standalone facilities while some were associated with agricultural packing operations. The only large solar facility added on irrigated farmland this update was the White River Solar Project near Alpaugh (~340 acres).</p> <p>Meanwhile, new homes were added on former irrigated farmland in Visalia (~25 acres), Goshen (~20 acres) and Woodlake (~5 acres) where the Bravo Village Apartments were added.</p> <p>New schools made a showing in the form of the Summit Charter Academy Lombardi Campus (~10 acres) in the Porterville area. Multiple schools were added in the Tulare area including the College of the Sequoias Tulare College Center (~35 acres), the Alpine Vista School (~15 acres) and the Liberty Elementary School (~10 acres).</p> <p>Finally, water control or recharge ponds were added on the Delano East (~75 acres) and Visalia (~160 acres) quads.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	40 changes
<p>Nonirrigated to Urban Land conversions were primarily due to new solar facilities, homes and water control or recharge ponds.</p> <p>The largest Urban Land conversion this update was due to the addition of the Alpaugh and Alpaugh North Solar Facilities which caused the conversion of approximately 690 acres of nonirrigated land. The remaining additions of solar were mostly 20 acres or less and were small standalone facilities or associated with an industrial facility. Approximately 760 acres of land was converted from nonirrigated land uses to Urban Land due to the addition of solar facilities.</p> <p>New homes were also a significant cause of conversion with additions of homes, apartments and commercial buildings in Visalia (~150 acres), Tulare (~50 acres), Dinuba (~25 acres), Goshen (~10 acres) and Porterville (~10 acres).</p> <p>Lastly, water control or recharge ponds were added on nonirrigated land on the Delano East quad (~80 acres).</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	231 changes
<p>There were two primary reasons that irrigated farmland was converted to nonirrigated uses:</p> <p>First, the majority of these changes (210 changes) were due to plots of irrigated farmland or pastureland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Conversions greater than 100 acres occurred on the Alpaugh (3*), Delano East (1), Goshen (1), Hacienda Ranch (1), Hacienda Ranch NE (4), Traver (1) and Tulare (1) quads. The single, largest conversion of irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land (~750 acres) occurred on the Alpaugh quad nearby Angiola. Another notably large conversion from irrigated</p>	

farmland (~290 acres) occurred on the Hacienda Ranch quad nearby Alpaugh. Finally, the Hacienda Ranch NE quad exhibited the greatest amount of large changes with four of them totaling approximately 900 acres.

Second, areas of irrigated farmland were identified (17 changes) that were no longer being irrigated but, instead, were being used for the cultivation of nonirrigated grain crops. Nonirrigated grain crops will appear as Farmland of Local Importance on the Tulare County Important Farmland Map. These areas had not been irrigated for at least three update cycles. Conversions from irrigated farmland to nonirrigated grain totaled approximately 925 acres throughout the county. Single, large changes occurred on the Alpaugh (~230 acres), Ducor (~125 acres), and Porterville (~135 acres) quads.

*this figure references the number of changes greater than 100 acres

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land

43 changes

The majority of these changes (32 changes) were due to the delineation of new and existing ranchettes and farmsteads throughout the county with the use of high-resolution imagery. The remaining conversions were primarily due to small areas that had been fallow for three updates and were graded for development, small water control or evaporation ponds and mined or disturbed areas.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

152 changes

There was a significant addition of irrigated farmland this update with new additions of orchards, primarily nut and citrus, and row crops leading the way. The largest addition this update involved a new planting of pistachio orchards to the southwest of Alpaugh that totaled approximately 2,700 acres. Further large conversions included an addition of irrigated hay and orchards (~475 acres) on the Allensworth quad, pistachios (~160 acres) on the Delano West quad, irrigated hay (~140 acres) on the Porterville quad and vines (~150 acres) and pistachios (~120 acres) on the Richgrove quad. Notable plantings of citrus occurred on the Lindsay (~180 acres) and Success Dam (~80 acres) quads. The remaining additions of irrigated farmland were primarily added east of Highway 99 and were generally for 40 acres or less.

Lastly, a notable category of change this update involved the conversion of dairies into irrigated farmland. This update saw 13 conversions of dairies to irrigated farmland, totaling approximately 185 acres.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversion between Important 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.

Conversions from Urban Land: Conversions from Urban Land were due to a lack of sufficient infrastructure and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

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: April 1, 2015
Image interpretation, number of days: 22 days
Ground truth dates: June 1-5, 2015
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 6 days

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