

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Colusa

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2016
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 2016 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2014 maps)
None
Personal Contacts
Ben Reische of Colusa County Dept. of Agriculture
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer (2016) California Protected Areas Database (2016)

2014-2016 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	3 changes
<p>Conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban Land were seen in Williams where wastewater ponds were expanded at the Morning Star Packing Co plant (~70 acres) and new buildings were added for the Woodland Community College Colusa County Outreach Facility (~5 acres). Finally, a small addition of solar panels (~5 acres) was added at the Adams Grain facility south of Harrington.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	3 changes
<p>The most notable conversion from nonirrigated land to Urban Land occurred in Arbuckle where new homes (~10 acres) were in evidence. Further conversions to Urban Land occurred due to sports fields (~5 acres) that were added at Maxwell High School and the delineation of existing silos and buildings (~15 acres) in Delevan that qualify for the Urban Land category.</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	21 changes
<p>The two primary reasons for the conversion of irrigated farmland and pastureland to nonirrigated land uses were the lack of irrigation of fields for three update cycles or a switch from the cultivation of irrigated crops to nonirrigated grain crops over time.</p> <p>First, the majority of these conversions (17) were simply due to plots of irrigated farmland or pastureland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were generally for 30 acres or less with the majority of them occurring in the eastern half of the county. The largest change of this type occurred on the Princeton quad, converting approximately 90 acres of irrigated farmland. The next largest conversion from irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land (~70 acres) occurred on the Moulton Weir quad.</p> <p>Second, areas of irrigated farmland or pastureland 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. There were four instances of this type of conversion, all for approximately 30 acres or less.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	7 changes
<p>The majority of conversions from irrigated farmland to Other Land were for less than 20 acres and were due to small plots of land that were disturbed or being used for dirt parking or part of a compost facility. However, there were two notably large conversions that both occurred on the Colusa quad. The first large conversion was due to a plot of irrigated farmland (~170 acres) that had been fallow for three or more update cycles located adjacent to the Colusa NWR where the land had seemingly reverted to a state of natural vegetation. The second notable conversion was made in the Cobbs Bend area where an area of irrigated farmland (~100 acres) was shifted to Other Land since it</p>	

appeared to be revegetation of native trees rather than an orchard.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

39 changes

Additions of irrigated farmland were primarily due to new orchards (24 changes), particularly nut trees, and row crops. The majority of the conversions were for less than 40 acres and primarily occurred in the eastern half of the county. The most notable addition of irrigated farmland was approximately 700 acres of almond orchards added on the Sites quad near Mills Orchards. Also notable was an addition of approximately 570 acres of almonds on the Cortina Creek quad just northwest of the Evans Road Landfill. Finally, one addition of approximately 330 acres of irrigated farmland was added on the Manor Slough quad.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2016 update.)

Conversion from Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land: Updated 2016 zoning data was used to evaluate the extent of land qualifying for Farmland of Local Importance which resulted in conversion from Farmland of Local Importance to Grazing Land.

Conversion from Unique Farmland to Prime Farmland: These conversions were due to soil unit changes from the incorporation of the statewide gridded soil survey from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 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 2016 update.

Image interpretation, start date: November 14, 2016
Image interpretation, number of days: 4
Ground truth dates: November 21, 22 and December 6, 2016
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>