

California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Mendocino

FIELD MAPPER(S): Patrick Hennessy

IMAGE DATA USED:

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| 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.

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| Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2014 maps) |
| Mendocino County Farm Bureau Mendocino County Resource Conservation District |
| Personal Contacts |
| None |
| Websites Used for Reference |
| Google Maps, Street View: http://maps.google.com |
| GIS Data Used for Reference |
| None |

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 | 12 changes |
| <p>The conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban Land were primarily due to homes, buildings or winery structures adjacent to existing Urban Land. All of the changes were less than ten acres each, suggesting that this type of conversion did not have a significant impact this update.</p> | |
| Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land | 23 changes |
| <p>Homes were the primary reason for conversions from nonirrigated land uses to Urban Land. There were four changes in the Redwood Valley area that were greater than ten acres each and while these types of changes may be due to homes and buildings, some may have already been pre-existing. Improved imagery and Google Maps facilitated the identification of homes and structures under the cover of tree canopies. Other examples of this type of change include the Ukiah Gun Club and the Coyote Valley Casino gas station, which is under construction but already paved with asphalt.</p> | |
| Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization | |
| Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses | 54 changes |
| <p>This was the most common and significant conversion this update. There were two locations greater than twenty-five acres, where vines went out of production. One is near Ukiah (48 acres) and the other is north of the Boonville airport along Anderson Creek (47 acres). There were also three large irrigated pastures exceeding 100 acres that were converted to nonirrigated land uses. The largest was 165 acres at the southern end of the Round Valley, while another 106 acres also went out of production at the northern end of the same valley. In Laytonville, 150 acres of irrigated pasture just south of town along Highway 101 also converted to nonirrigated uses. All three of these large pastures were field verified for nonirrigated status. The extended drought and the subsequent record rainfall of 2016-2017 could have resulted in scenarios where land looked dry in summer 2016 photos but resumed irrigation in 2017. To avoid unnecessary land use conversions, a site visit was attempted for any irrigated land that was changed to nonirrigated uses.</p> | |
| Irrigated Farmland to Other Land | 19 changes |
| <p>This type of change is primarily due to farmsteads, irrigation ponds and land going fallow for three or more updates. These areas are too small to map as Grazing Land and, therefore, are changed to adjacent land uses such as Rural Residential and Natural Vegetation. Only one of the nineteen total changes was larger than ten acres.</p> | |

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland

39 changes

New grape vines are the main source of conversions to irrigated farmland and many occurred in the Anderson Valley, Ukiah Valley, and the Dry Creek Valley along Highway 128 south of Anderson Valley. However, the largest change happens to be east of Lake Mendocino and south of Highway 20, with over 100 acres of new vines. This site is on private property and not accessible by car. South of Hopland, another vineyard exceeding 80 acres was mapped, but also on private property and inaccessible. There was also one significant new irrigated pasture that was field verified just west of Manchester along the Pacific Coast. That irrigated pasture was almost 120 acres.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversions from Urban Land:

Changes from Urban Land are typically unusual. This happened a couple times this update to improve the boundaries between agricultural and Urban Land, but most instances were only a couple acres each. In the Round Valley, 10 acres were changed to Vacant or Disturbed Land where the old Louisiana Pacific lumber mill once existed, and is now only a gravel lot. Just north of Willits, where the new Highway 101 bypass connects/separates with the Redwood Highway, several structures and a farmstead were demolished and removed for the construction of the bypass (8 acres).

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2018 update, and reasons.)

Watch for the expansion of cannabis cultivation as it moves out of backyards or back lots and possibly into the farm fields. Greenhouse or warehouse grows should be watched for too.

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.

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| Image interpretation, start date: 7/24/2017 |
| Image interpretation, number of days: 20 |
| Ground truth dates: 10/17/2017 to 10/18/2017 |
| 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/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>