California Department of Conservation

FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2016 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Tehama

FIELD MAPPER(S): Andrew McLeod

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
Vanessa Sciaretta and Heather Kelly, Tehama County Agriculture Department
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps
GIS Data Used for Reference
FRAP California City Boundary Layer (2016) California Protected Areas Database (2016) Tehama County Base Map

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

The largest conversion from irrigated farmland to Urban Land was due to the construction of new buildings on a former orchard (~15 acres) in Richfield.

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	4 changes

Most urbanization this update was due to increased density from new home construction. The largest of these changes was approximately 30 acres along Hooker Creek Road, near Hooker.

Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	44 changes

The majority of these changes were due to plots of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. Only eight of these changes were over 40 acres, the largest being formerly irrigated ranchland on the Mitchell Gulch quad, totaling approximately 125 acres. The Corning quad had the most conversions overall, with a total of 10 changes for an aggregate of approximately 400 acres.

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	3 changes

Conversions to Other Land were due to small plots of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The largest such conversion was approximately 10 acres on the Los Molinos quad.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	97 changes

The most notable additions of irrigated farmland occurred on the Gerber quad, where a cluster of new orchards included approximately 400 acres of almonds and 80 acres of walnuts. The Henleyville quad saw a planting of nearly 300 acres of plums, while another plum orchard of nearly 100 acres was added on the Red Bluff East quad. The Kirkwood quad saw the addition of a new walnut orchard of nearly 240 acres, while approximately 125 acres of walnuts was the largest such planting on the Los Molinos quad. Also of interest, a new vineyard of nearly 100 acres of wine grapes was planted on the Red Bluff West quad.

The Corning quad was especially active with 17 new plantings including almond orchards of approximately 260 acres and 180 acres, a new walnut orchard of approximately 120 acres, and a planting of irrigated grain of approximately 100 acres.

Unusual Changes

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

Conversions between irrigated farmland categories:
A large new almond orchard of approximately 260 acres was planted on the Black Butte Dam quad, of which 140 acres was previously irrigated pasture. Also, approximately 95 acres of nonirrigated trees were converted to irrigated walnuts on the Henleyville quad. These changes may cause conversion between important farmland (P, S, U) categories.

Changes from Urban Land to Grazing or Other Land:
These areas, near Paynes Creek and Los Molinos, were changed from Urban Land to Grazing or Other Land due to a lack of infrastructure.

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: February 7, 2017
Image interpretation, number of days: 7
Ground truth dates: May 4-5, 2017
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 5

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