

California Farmers and Conservation Easements

Motivations, Experiences, and Perceptions in Three Counties

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with the assistance of
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A new Center publication provides answers to a central question in farmland conservation: What motivates farmland owners to voluntarily and permanently give up their development rights?

Just published, *California Farmers and Conservation Easements: Motivations, Experiences and Perceptions in Three Counties* is the result of intensive interviews with 46 farmland owners in three Northern California counties—Marin, Sonoma and Yolo. The authors are Ellen Rilla, Marin County director for UC Cooperative Extension, and Alvin D. Sokolow, public policy specialist for Human and Community Development at UC Davis and AIC associate director.

This report, in the Center's California Farmland and Open Space Policy series, examines the views and experiences of 37 landowners who had sold permanent conservation easements on their land in recent years, and nine others who had recently purchased parcels with easements already in place. Significantly, all three county programs involved the acquiring of easements primarily to preserve commercial farmland in the path of urbanization, as compared to the more traditional use of such easements for environmental purposes.

The authors find that farmland owners who sell easements are motivated by a combination of short and long term factors—including cash, family concerns, and personal beliefs about land preservation.

California Farmers and Conservation Easements: Motivations, Experiences and Perceptions in Three Counties, 50 pages, is available for \$10.

Still Available: *California Farmland and Urban Pressures, Statewide and Regional Perspectives*, a collection of 10 articles on statewide and regional trends affecting farmland conversion, edited by Albert G. Medvitz, Alvin D. Sokolow and Cathy Lemp, 207 pps., \$20.

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