Solano and Yolo County Agriculture Current Basis for Planning for the Future

November 16, 2011

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Outline of presentation

• Agricultural profiles of Yolo County and Solano Counties
  – Trends and anticipated changes in land use and production
  – What counties can do to support agriculture in Solano and Yolo Counties

• Climate Change and the possible effects on agriculture in Yolo and Solano counties
LAND IN FARMS IN CALIFORNIA

- Land in Farmsteads: 6%
- Total Cropland: 37%
- Permanent Pasture and Rangeland: 52%
- Total Woodland: 5%

Source: USDA NASS, 2007 Census of Agriculture
Yolo Data

For more information:

Richter, Kurt. 2009. *Sharpening the Focus of Yolo County Land Use Policy*. University of California Agricultural Issues Center

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Map of Yolo County, California, showing agricultural land (FMMP 2006)
Map of Yolo County, California, showing land use types (DWR 1997)
Top Commodities by value, Yolo County

- Tomatoes, Processing: 33%
- Grapes, Wine: 14%
- Rice, Milling: 14%
- Hay, Alfalfa: 8%
- Vegetables, Unspecified: 8%
- Almonds, All: 6%
- Sunflower Seed, Planting: 6%
- Walnuts, English: 5%
- Field Crops, Unspecified: 3%
- Cattle & Calves, Unspecified: 3%
## Acres of agricultural production and agricultural value by region, Yolo County, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total Acres</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Value ($ millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Total Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarksburg</td>
<td>31,784</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elkhorn</td>
<td>11,286</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yolo Bypass</td>
<td>60,925</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yolo Basin</td>
<td>12,617</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conway</td>
<td>12,775</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yolo East</td>
<td>69,197</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Garden</td>
<td>39,492</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>4,017</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monument Hills</td>
<td>5,692</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunnigan Hills</td>
<td>51,831</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yolo West</td>
<td>41,925</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colusa Basin</td>
<td>18,980</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungry Hollow</td>
<td>17,757</td>
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<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winters</td>
<td>6,427</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Ridge</td>
<td>166,178</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capay Valley</td>
<td>27,423</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of Yolo</td>
<td>578,304</td>
<td>535</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yolo County Tree and Vine Crop Acreages as Percent of California State Acreages
Yolo County processing tomato, alfalfa, rice and wheat acreages as percent of California state acreages.
Historical crop acreage by crop category in Yolo County
Solano Data

For more information:

Sokolow, Al, Kurt Richter, and Mario Moratorio. 2007. *The Solano Agricultural Futures project*. University of California Agricultural Issues Center

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Map of Solano County, California, showing agricultural land
Top 10 Commodities by Area, Solano County

- Beef Cattle and Pasture: 39%
- Field Crops Unspecified: 21%
- Sheep and Small Grains: 12%
- Alfalfa: 6%
- Sum of Others: 7%
- Sum of Others: 7%
- Alfalfa: 6%
- Corn: 2%
- Wheat: 4%
- Walnuts: 2%
- Processing Tomatoes: 1%
- Grapes: 1%
Top Commodities by value, Solano County

- Tomatoes, Processing: 20%
- Nursery Products, Misc.: 15%
- Vegetables, Unspecified: 12%
- Walnuts, English: 11%
- Hay, Alfalfa: 10%
- Nursery Products, Misc.: 10%
- Cattle & Calves, Unspecified: 10%
- Sunflower Seed, Planting: 7%
- Grapes, Wine: 6%
- Milk, Market, Fluid: 5%
- Wheat, All: 4%
Agricultural Regions of Solano County

Legend

- Winters
- Dixon Ridge
- Elmira & Maine Prairie
- Ryer Island
- Montezuma Hills
- Jepson Prairie
- Suisun and Green Valleys
- Pleasants, Vaca & Lagoon Valleys
- Western Hills
- Urban
- Major Roads
Value of Agricultural Production by Region, $ Millions

- Dixon Ridge, $64.2, 33%
- Elmira Maine Prairie, $41.7, 22%
- Jepson Prairie, $11.2, 6%
- Montezuma Hills, $7.4, 4%
- Pleasants Vaca Lagoon Valleys, $3.9, 2%
- Ryer Island, $15.3, 8%
- Suisun Valley Green Valley, $16.8, 9%
- Western Hills, $17.0, 9%
- Winters, $13.2, 7%
Value per Acre of Production

Agricultural Regions

Value Per Acre

Dixon Ridge
Elmira Maine Prairie
Jepson Prairie
Montezuma Hills
Pleasants Vaca Lagoon Valleys
Ryer Island
Suisun Valley Green Valley
Western Hills
Winters
Implications for Agriculture

• Urban expansion will significantly affect agriculture in the county
  – Parcelization is a significant issue because it decreases the number and size of fields available for commercial agriculture.

• Research is needed to quantify the impact on agricultural production of wildlife habitat establishment in row crop areas.

• The production of bioenergy feedstock will find it hard to compete for acreage with commodities currently being produced.

• In Yolo County, areas able to support agricultural tourism are likely to be the Clarksburg and Capay Valley regions
  – Most Yolo County commodity agricultural producers have little interest in the establishment of tourism within their agricultural operations.

• In Solano, Suisun Valley, the Delta, and selected I-80 corridor regions could support agricultural tourism.
Implications for Agriculture

• Present a positive image about the future of local agriculture, both to the general public and to the agricultural community.

• Protect the agricultural land base in policies and practices.
  – Give priority in zoning and other farmland protection policies to the Dixon Ridge and Winters agricultural regions
  – Minimize the negative impact of rural residential development in agriculturally zoned areas.

• Advance value-added opportunities for agricultural operators by minimizing regulatory barriers.

• Stimulate agricultural processors through county actions.
Project Title: Agricultural Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change in Yolo County, CA
California Energy Commission, 2009-2011

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Final report under review and available soon.
Historical maximum average temperature in summer and winter months for the period of 1909-2008 for Davis, CA
Historical minimum average temperature in summer and winter months for the period of 1909-2008 for Davis, CA
Example: Wheat acreage in Yolo County with projected acreage for the B1 and A2 climate scenarios
Thank you.
Dan Sumner
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