California’s $25 billion agricultural industry depends on a large supply of fertile farmland—about 30 million acres statewide in both crop and animal production. As populations steadily expand from existing cities and other urban centers, homes, shopping centers and other urban uses nibble away at farmland in the Central Valley, coastal areas, and foothills that are the state’s principal agricultural areas. In some places the impacts of urbanization appear as conflicts between housing and commercial farming at the agricultural-urban edge.

This collection of 11 papers is the first single volume to address so many different aspects of the farmland-urbanization issue in California, including population trends, fringe area problems, the state policy framework, the work of land trusts, local policy developments, and land market dynamics. The papers cover both statewide patterns and case studies of particular regions and localities. The ten authors, representing a diverse set of backgrounds and perspectives, include community activists, farmers, land use experts, and UC academics.

Table of Contents

Introduction—Alvin D. Sokolow and Albert Medvitz

Statewide Patterns

Population Growth and Its Impact on Agricultural Land in California: 1850 to 1998—Albert Medvitz
California Agriculture Over Time—Mort Rothstein
Conflict on the Urban Fringe—Mary Handel
Growth Management and Farmland: The State Policy Context—Steve Sanders
Farmland Conservation in the Private Sector: Land Trusts and Conservation Easements—Erik Vink

Regional and Local Profiles
Twenty-Five Years of Farmland Protection in Napa County—Volker Eisele
MALT: The Land Trust Experience in Marin County—Phyllis M. Faber
Variations in Local Farmland Protection Policy: The Central Valley and the North Bay—Alvin D. Sokolow
Urbanization of the Resource Landscape in the Northern Sacramento Valley—Mark Radabaugh
Land Markets and Planning Boundaries at the Urban Edge: Ventura County Patterns—Michal C. Moore

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