



Connections

January 2010

Agricultural Highlights of Yuba County

Last year was a banner year for agriculture in Yuba County. In June, the first certified farmers' markets opened in Yuba County, Dobbins, Yuba-Sutter (Plumas Lake), and Marysville. In 2009, the county also saw its highest values for agriculture on record.

In the River Highlands area of the county, a group of property owners have come together to advocate for an agritourism organization to help market area farms. The River Highlands Growers and Ranchers Organization is interested in modeling their area after Apple Hill in El Dorado County. Owners representing over 1,600 acres are involved in this organization.

Yuba County is also in the process of updating its general plan.



Regional Emergency Preparedness

On January 1, 1997, a flood in Yuba and Sutter counties demonstrated the need for coordinated emergency response. Heavy rainfall followed by warm rain caused reservoirs to exceed flood control capacity, and voluntary evacuations were ordered for both counties. However, Yuba-Sutter Transit was not notified nor given evacuation orders. By chance, a transit analyst found out about the order and mobilized transit services for evacuation. With the help of bus drivers and volunteers, over 1,000 individuals were evacuated on buses that day.

The Sacramento region faces a number of potential emergency situations caused by events such as forest fires, flooding and earthquakes. The threat of natural (and man-made) emergencies establishes the

need for good emergency planning in both urban and rural areas. In the event of an emergency, residents must be able to evacuate their homes and go to a safer area; however, evacuation can be tricky in rural areas where residents are dispersed and emergency services are not readily available.

SACOG is working with partner agencies to implement a project called the Sacramento Transportation Area Network (STARNET) system. Transit operators and emergency responders will be able to use STARNET to exchange information and coordinate operations in the Sacramento region. STARNET will allow real-time sharing of data and live video, as well as adjustment of joint procedures pertaining to roadways and public transit operation,

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Federal Principles & Guidelines Update

On December 3, 2009, the White House Council on Environmental Quality released a draft update to the Principles and Guidelines for Water and Land Related Resources Implementation Studies. The document sets the framework for the management of all aquatic resources in the country.

Under existing guidelines, last updated in 1983, the only agencies covered were the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority. The proposed update would expand the scope of jurisdiction to include any federal agency that regulates water.

Late last year, SACOG Executive Director Mike McKeever and Consultant Stacey McKinley met with Terry Breyman, Deputy Director for Natural Resources at the Council on Environmental Quality. Given the implications of expanding the

jurisdiction, SACOG would like to have a voice in the decision making process and has suggested using the Sacramento region as a case study as procedures and guidelines are established.

Public comment will be accepted through March 6, 2010. The National Academy of Science is expected to review the document between now and November. Work will begin at the interagency level at the end of this month to begin drafting guidelines and, in parallel, policy for implementation.

SACOG staff and McKinley, under direction of the Board of Directors, will maintain engagement with the hope of further informing future regulation of water resources, flood management and land use.

For more information contact Stacey McKinley at smckinley@sacog.org.

Emergency... (cont.)

and public safety activities. It will also provide more information for travelers via the region's 511 website and interactive telephone service, 511.

For more information about emergency response, contact Lacey Symons at (916) 340-6212 or lsymons@sacog.org. For more information about the STARNET system, contact Mark Heiman at (916) 340-6232 or mheiman@sacog.org.

Better Data for Rural Regions

SACOG has been developing crop data and compiling other information sources to help farmers, local officials, and community members know more about their agricultural and rural lands.

The table at right is an example of this work. SACOG has developed a model that can be adjusted for different inputs (i.e., acres planted, market prices), which then can be used to estimate the economic return and resource costs of different agricultural land uses. For more information on the model, contact Raef Porter at (916) 340-6261 or rporter@sacog.org.

Project Information

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Local Winter Crops



Arugula **Chilies** **Green Cabbage** **Red Kale**
Bartlett Pears **Chives** **Sweet Peppers** **Rosemary**
Blood Oranges **Collard Greens** **Leeks** **Satsuma**
Bok Choy **Curly Endive** **Lettuces** **Mandarins**
Bonsai Trees **Curly Kale** **Mache** **Savoy Cabbage**
Bosc Pears **Dino (Lacinato)** **Grapefruit** **Sorrel**
Broccoli **Kale** **Meyer Lemons** **Sweet Potatoes**
Broccoli Raab **Escarole** **Navel Oranges** **Tangerines**
(Rapini) **Eureka Lemons** **Parsley** **Thyme**
Cauliflower **Gala Apples** **Potatoes** **Winter Squash**
Chard **Granny Smith** **Radicchio** **Young Onions**
Chervil **Apples** **Red Cabbage**

Crops in Yuba County

Based on Yuba County Crop Report and SACOG Crop Data and Model*

| Crops | Acres | Yield | Unit | Value | Water AF | Labor FTE | Truck Trips |
|---------------------|----------------|------------|------|----------------------|----------------|------------|---------------|
| Almonds | 1,019 | 2,241,869 | lbs | \$4,550,993 | 1,826 | 11 | 39 |
| Grapes | 104 | 678 | tons | \$385,758 | 136 | 5 | 25 |
| Olives | 387 | 1,935 | tons | \$975,445 | 774 | 6 | 0 |
| Other Citrus | 46 | 25,339 | cwt | \$337,011 | 115 | 1 | 18 |
| Other Fruits & Nuts | 821 | 1,888,748 | lbs | \$2,738,685 | 2,956 | 7 | 326 |
| Other Stone Fruits | 329 | 2,300 | lbs | \$2,300,013 | 986 | 3 | 130 |
| Peaches | 2,994 | 50,891 | tons | \$14,809,407 | 10,478 | 195 | 1,881 |
| Pears | 1,533 | 30,650 | tons | \$10,125,068 | 3,831 | 28 | 59 |
| Prunes | 8,644 | 34,577 | tons | \$50,275,115 | 21,611 | 177 | 1,278 |
| Rice | 35,097 | 2,753,396 | cwt | \$50,387,140 | 122,841 | 88 | 4,887 |
| Walnuts | 9,111 | 20,955,745 | lbs | \$30,385,830 | 32,800 | 76 | 909 |
| Rotations | | | | | | | |
| Alfalfa Rotation | 3,238 | 18,690 | tons | \$2,829,172 | 8,337 | 5 | 592 |
| General Field Crops | 2,687 | 12,793 | tons | \$2,057,792 | 5,643 | 4 | 412 |
| Non-Crops | | | | | | | |
| Habitat | 9,655 | | | | | | |
| Other | 74,120 | | | | | | |
| Pasture | 161,085 | | | | | | |
| Total | 310,870 | | | \$172,157,428 | 212,333 | 606 | 10,556 |

Notes: * 2004-2008 average prices
AF = acre feet
lb. = pound

cwt. = hundred weight
FTE = full-time equivalent