



Connections

September 2010

Ag Equipment Funding Forum

**Tuesday, September 29,
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., USDA
Service Center, 430 G Street,
Room 229, Davis**

Did you know funds are available for environmentally friendly upgrades to off-road agricultural equipment? The U.S. EPA Air and Agriculture Programs invite you to the Agriculture Off-Road Equipment Funding Forum. This meeting will update attendees on the California Air Resources Board's plans to regulate off-road agricultural equipment, as well as discuss the different funding options available to retrofit, replace or repower diesel engines used in off-road agricultural equipment.

Presenters include the California Air Resources Board, California Energy Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, contact Cindy Wire, Agriculture Program, U.S. EPA, Region 9, (415) 947-4242
wire.cindy@epa.gov



Building Knowledge With Crop Map, Model

Since starting the RUCS project, SACOG has continued to develop and refine tools and data to help decision makers understand the challenges and opportunities in rural parts of our region. Two recent developments are an updated crop map and an economic model based on historical crop information.

The crop map, shown below, is based on field-level observations as well as several years of data reported to counties about what crops are grown. Local farms are shown separately on the map, adding useful detail because of the differing transportation and land use needs of large-scale and small-scale operations.

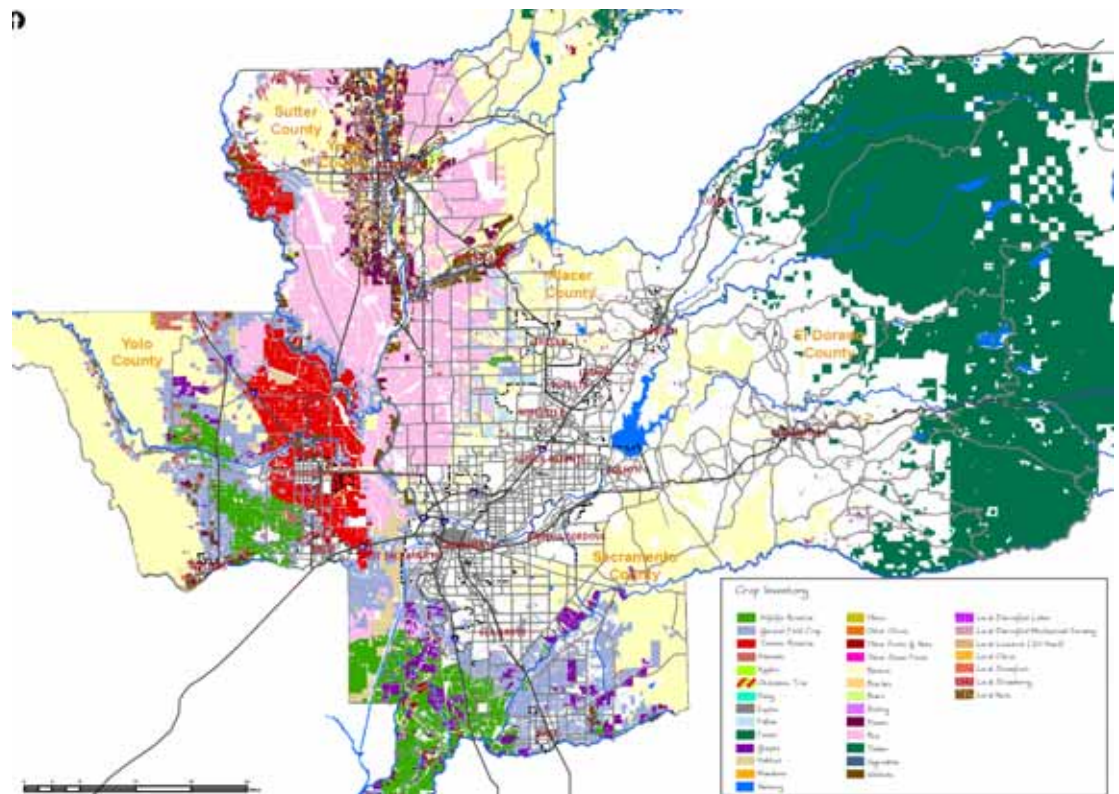
The economic model, still being refined, uses two types of variables to predict where crops

may grow, based on historical patterns: spatial (precipitation, soil, elevation, infrastructure) and time (crop prices, water supply, urban footprint).

The model distinguishes between perennial and annual crops, and groups annuals into six categories: tomatoes, grain, alfalfa, rice, rangeland, and fallow.

As the model is refined, it will be a useful tool for knowing where transportation and other infrastructure is needed, as well as for understanding the effects of local and global economic changes.

For more information, contact David Shabazian at (916) 340-6231 or dshabazian@sacog.org



Save the Date: RUCS Forum December 10

Mark your calendars for Friday, December 10 to learn more about our region's rural economy through engaging speakers, interactive activities, and more. The RUCS Forum will take place at

the Sacramento Convention Center. Watch for more information in the next issue of *Connections*.



CUESA/Culinary Academy Farm Series

Thursday, September 23

Farmer Series at the California Culinary Academy

Lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dinner: 6-8 p.m.

Thanks to a recent collaboration with the Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture (CUESA), the California Culinary Academy (CCA) is hosting a series of farmer lunches and dinners in the student restaurant, Carême 350. The prix fixe meals mark the culmination of each class' culinary education and will feature produce grown by a local farmer. Tickets available through Open Table.com.

For more information, call (415) 291-3276 or see www.cuesa.org.



Project Information

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Stay current on rural-urban issues at
www.sacog.org/rucs

Hoes Down Harvest Festival

Saturday & Sunday, October 2-3
Full Belly Farm

The Ecological Farming Association presents the Hoes Down Harvest Festival, featuring:

- educational farm tours
- a magical children's area
- hands-on workshops
- farm products
- live music
- an abundance of organic food

Sunday's program includes a bike tour, kids camp, sausage workshop and breakfast complete with live gospel music.



For more information, call (800) 791-2110 or visit www.hoesdown.org

Workshops to Shape Our Region's Transportation Future



We want your input on the update to the long-range transportation plan.

El Dorado County

Wednesday, October 13, 6 p.m.
El Dorado County
Department of Education
6767 Green Valley Road
Placerville, 95667

Yolo County

Thursday, October 14, 6 p.m.
UC Davis ARC Ballroom
Corner of La Rue & Orchard Park Roads
Davis, 95616

Placer County

Monday, October 18, 6 p.m.
Rocklin Sunset Center
2650 Sunset Boulevard
Rocklin, 95677

Sacramento County South

Wednesday, October 20, 6 p.m.
Elk Grove High School
9800 Elk Grove-Florin Road
Elk Grove, 95624

Placer Farm & Barn Tour

Sunday, October 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Enjoy a day in the country, learn about farming, and meet the people who grow our local food.

The Placer Farm & Barn Tour is a one-day self guided tour of nine working farms, ranches, and vineyards in the beautiful countryside of Placer County, California. Each venue features different activities; tours, demonstrations, farm animals, equipment displays, food and wine tasting, live music, artists, locally grown produce and prepared food for sale.

Tickets include a map with directions and a description of activities at each venue. Tickets are limited to 1000 and go on sale September 10, 2010. \$15 adult, \$25 family (2 adults, unlimited children).

For more information, call the Placer County Visitors' Bureau at (530) 887-2111 or visit www.placerfarmandbarn.com.

Sacramento County North

Thursday, October 21, 6 p.m.
Citrus Heights Community Center
6300 Fountain Square Drive
Citrus Heights, 95621

Yuba County

Monday, October 25, 6 p.m.
County Government Services Building
915 8th Street
Marysville, 95901

Sacramento County Central

Wednesday, October 27, 11 a.m. or 6 p.m.
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J Street
Sacramento, 95814

Sutter County

Thursday, October 28, 6 p.m.
Feather River Academy
1895 Lassen Boulevard
Yuba City, 95993

For more information, visit www.sacog.org/mtp2035 or contact Monica Hernandez at mhernandez@sacog.org or call (916) 321-9000.

Sacramento Area Council of Governments