

County Director's Notes

2006 Upcoming Meetings

January

February

- Forage Seminar (TBA)
- Table Grape Seminar
- Tri-County Walnut Day
- Winter Cotton Meeting
- Tri-County Vegetable Crop Meeting

March

April

- Spring Citrus Meeting

May

- Blackberry Field Day
- Blueberry Field Day
- Garbanzo Bean Field Day
- Olive Day
- Tree Fruit Research & Variety Trial Field Day

June

- Tree Fruit Research & Variety Trial Field Day
- Summer Cotton Growers Meeting

July

- Tree Fruit Research & Variety Trial Field Day
- Summer Cotton Growers Meeting

August

- Tree Fruit Research & Variety Field Day
- Fresh Market Tomato Variety Trial Field Day
- Specialty Crops Field Day
- Dry Bean Meeting

September

- Cotton Harvest Safety Training
- Alfalfa Field Meeting

October

- Fall Citrus Meeting
- Landscape Pest Management Evening Seminars

November

- Landscape Pest Management Evening Seminars
- Pesticide Workers Safety Meeting

December

- Annual Alfalfa Symposium

Land Use Review & Comments

Where did all these people come from? *By Jim Sullins*

When the population growth estimates for the Central Valley first came out about five years ago, my first response was, "In Tulare County, No Way". However today, as I drive by what seems like another 50 new homes that I swear were not there last week, I am a lot easier to convince. What do I know; I was wrong about Microsoft too.

Population growth estimates for the San Joaquin Valley by the California Department of Finance (May 2004) predicts from 2000-2050 that our population will increase from 3,320,000 to 7,935,000 (**Figure 1, Page 4**). For Tulare County that takes us from 401,500 in 2004 to a predicted 867,500 by 2050, more than a doubling in only 45 years. This seems extraordinary; however looking at past statistics we already doubled our population since 1975, only 30 years (**Figure 2, Page 4**). From 1990 to 1999 the state growth rate was 14%, however Tulare County was over 17% and it is predicted that population growth will be between 32% and 44% from 2000 to 2010.

As to "Where are these people coming from?" For the Central Valley as a whole, 58% of the population growth is from migration, and 60% of that migration is from the coastal regions. For us in the South San Joaquin the majority of growth is from births, however from 1995 to 2003 the South San Joaquin Valley had a net migration of 55,000 Californians; the equivalent of adding another good sized city.

Is "urbanization" paving over Tulare County agriculture?

Estimating how much farmland we have lost or even how much we have is difficult. Statistics on farmland differ between sources due to some definition differences.

California has 100 million acres of land, split almost evenly between public and private ownership. About half of the private land (27 million acres) is in agriculture, and about one third of the public land is in grazing allotments (16 million acres), therefore about 43 million acres (43%) is in agriculture, and about 5.5 million acres in urban use. It is estimated that about 497,000 acres of California farmland were urbanized from 1988 to 1998, averaging about 49,700 acres per year. This is a statewide loss of 1.8% or an annual rate of 0.18% per year (Ag Issues Center, 2001). For Tulare County from 1998 to 2004, according to the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program the net loss of Prime Farmland was 11,737 acres and Farmland of Statewide Importance net loss was 17,642 acres for a total loss of 29,376, or 3.89%, or an average loss of 4,896 acres per year, at an annual rate of 0.65% over the last 6 years.

Based on these estimates our rate of loss is much higher than the state average of 0.18% per year, however this rate is still very small and is only part of the story. If all classes of farmlands are included the total loss over this same period is only 1,252 acres as other classes such as Unique Farmland and Farmland of Local Importance showed a net

increase of 28,127 acres and therefore it appears that over this six year period the net farmland loss was only 1,252 acres. These results are due to various factors, one being a new soil survey that changed several thousand acres to Class I soils, and that only 51% of the county is inventoried. The bottom line is that the data we need is not accurate enough to know what the changes are at the county level. We do appear to be losing Prime Farmland at a higher rate than the state average, however even these percentages are small.

Will Urbanization change Tulare County Agriculture?

In *Urban Development Futures in the San Joaquin Valley* (M. B. Teiz, C. Dietzel, W. Fulton) analyzed the impacts of four different broad growth policy scenarios (computer models) on the spread of urbanization:

- The Accommodating Urban Development scenario was based on historical growth patterns of the last 60 years. Under this scenario, the urban areas grow faster than the population (urban sprawl), and prime farmland diminishes significantly. By 2040, US 99 is almost continuous urban development as well as considerable development on I-5.
- A Prime Farmland Conservation scenario is also based on historical patterns, however development on 3.2 million acres of prime farmland is prohibited. The result was still substantial urbanization and significant farmland loss, with little change in urban density. There is a development shift to other land categories.
- A High Speed Rail scenario intensified urbanization within a 20 mile radius of the stations, and decreased the probability of urbanization outside the radius.
- An Automobile-Oriented Managed Growth scenario assumes that Highway 65 is completed in most part, and that several east-west routes are improved. A future is projected in which highway transportation improvements help shape the urban growth. Like the High Speed Rail there are high levels of urbanization and farmland loss, and urban densities are reduced.

The authors point out that these scenarios are all very speculative and that none will likely represent what will actually happen, however they do demonstrate that different policies will probably have different results, and that there are probably choices we can make in planning for growth. Another conclusion is that urban growth in the San Joaquin Valley (and probably Tulare County) will be significant; three of the four scenarios predict the urbanization of at least one million acres by 2040... this is a tripling of the existing urban acreage. It also predicts a tendency for urban density to decline,

probably due to the extensive land available for urbanization. This automobile dependent, low-rise, low density development has significant implications for traffic congestion, and air quality. Most of the projections show at least a 15% loss of farmland, even the farmland conservation scenario predicted a 9% loss.

Will Urbanization Challenge Tulare County Agriculture?

We already see impacts that challenge farmers more today than just a few years ago. It is not just the loss of agricultural land to urbanization, this rapid pace of growth affects farming in several ways:

- Farming on the Urban Edge:
Farmers on the urban edge find themselves facing possible restraints on normal spraying and cultivating practices, increased liability for trespassers, theft, vandalism, litter, damage from dogs, increased risk of imported pests or objections to normal pest control, as well as increased traffic on local roads to name a few. The urban neighbors may object to pesticide use, nighttime farming activities causing light and noise, odors, dust, and smoke associated with farming, flies, mosquitoes and other pests. These issues can and often do increase management time and costs for the farming operation.
- Urbanization affects Agricultural Land Values:
We seem to have already experienced increases in ag land values that does not seem to be driven by increased commodity prices or increased profit potentials. Whether by the local farmer who has sold at development prices, or the farmer from southern California who has sold ag land for development and is reinvesting, or the family that decides that the cost of a lot in town or a coastal city is now so high they may as well build on a 20 acre parcel and live in the country, ag land prices are impacted. The resulting higher ag land prices may restrict opportunities for existing farms to expand, or for young farmers to buy farmland. As farmland prices increase there may also be positive impacts, either way there is an affect that we may not understand until it has happened.
- Changing Demographics, Environmental and Economics:
As Tulare County becomes more urban, or just less rural, it means there will be a relatively smaller agricultural community. There may be less of an understanding of the needs for agriculture.

The competition for natural resources such as water will become more intense. As urban impacts

on air quality increase, agriculture may become the mitigation bank to meet air quality standards.

As the economic bases shifted from agriculture in other urbanizing areas such as Los Angeles and San Jose, other industries with high paying jobs took the place of agriculture. As Tulare County and other parts of the South San Joaquin Valley have begun to rapidly urbanize, the new industries appear to be construction, retail and distribution centers. Better paying jobs, but not what will be sustaining in the long term. For agriculture, at this point it seems to have also contributed to a labor shortage. Unemployment has not changed much and average incomes are not increasing at the same rate as the cost of housing in the new urban developments.

What strategies should be considered in meeting these challenges?

When I was young boy on a ranch in New Mexico and TV was still black and white, we had only one channel. The 9 O'clock news was sponsored by a local real estate company and I have never forgotten how that news program signed off each night with their reminder "There will always be more people, but there will never be more land." I don't think that made a lot of people run out and buy more land back then, but it sure seems prophetic today. All the indicators point to more people and more urban growth, and we have to plan for that growth. Planning will have an impact on how we meet the challenges of that growth. For example, based on 1998 data Tulare County had over 540 miles of urban edge (a 34.5% increase since 1988), in comparison, Solano County, a more urban county, the urban edge is only 362 miles. Moreover, in Tulare County 79% of the urban perimeter is adjacent to farmland while in Solano County only 67% of the perimeter is adjacent. Does this mean that the urban edge affect on farming in Tulare County is greater than in Solano County, perhaps or perhaps not. Maybe our urban neighbors in Tulare County still appreciate agriculture more than they do in Solano County. It does seem to mean that Solano County has done something different in their planning that may have the potential to reduce that urban-farm interface and the potential for conflict.

Another impact that can be reduced by good and timely planning is what has been termed the "Impermanence Syndrome" which generally means a high degree of uncertainty among farmers about their ability to continue viable operations in areas of rapid

growth. The anticipation of selling their land for development or that urbanization will encroach on their ability to farm, may cause farmers to avoid investing in capital improvements, new technologies, or management time, which may cause a downward spiral, accelerating the selling and conversion to development. Whereas, a certainty in planning, allows a farmer to adjust their operation and plan for that window when development becomes the next step. For example, an orchard has reached its productive life; the decision to replant that orchard is dependent on some certainty that the orchard will have time to return the investment. If the city and LAFCO is committed to annexing land based on a set parameter such as total population or density, then the farmer has the planning certainty necessary to make that long term commitment.

There are strategies that have been used in California to help meet this challenge, a summary is below:

California Strategies for Reducing Urban-Ag Edge Conflicts	
Land Use Policies and Tools	
1.	Concentrate urban growth in cities and other existing urban centers
2.	Limit new residences in agricultural areas
3.	Efficient urban development (high density projects)
4.	Cluster development
5.	LAFCO control of city annexations
6.	County-city agreements on the direction of urban developments
7.	Environmental review of proposed development and mitigation of farmland impacts
8.	Agricultural buffers
9.	Agricultural Zoning
10.	Design urban neighborhoods and homesites to limit exposure to farmland
11.	Build new communities on poorer soils
Source: Sokolow, 2002	

Sources:
 California's Edge Problem: Urban Impacts on Agriculture; Alvin D. Sokolow Chapter 12, California Agriculture Dimensions and Issues 2003

Conflict on the Urban Fringe; M.E. Handel; Chapter 3 California Farmland and Urban Pressures: Statewide and Regional Perspectives; A.G. Medvitz, A.D. Sokolow, and C. Lemp; UC AIC DANR 1999

Farmland Conversion: Perceptions and Realities; N.V. Kuminoff, A.D. Sokolow, and D.A. Sumner; UC AIC Issues Brief 16:May 2001

How Will Urbanization Change the San Joaquin Valley; Public Policy Institute of California, Issue 98 Feb 2005.

How is Migration Changing the Central Valley; Public Policy Institute of California, Issue 97 Nov 2004

Modeling Farmland Conversion with New GIS Data; N.V. Kuminoff, D.A. Sumner Abstract American Agricultural Economics Assoc. Chicago August 5-8,2001 copyright 2001

Opportunities with Growth; R. Ingram; Foothill Rancher Summer 2005; <http://ceplacervevada.ucdavis.edu>

The State of the Great Central Valley of California: Assessing the Region Via Indicators, The Economy 1999-2004; Great Valley Center;www.greatvalley.org

The Central Valley's Four Subregions; Great Valley Center; www.greatvalley.org

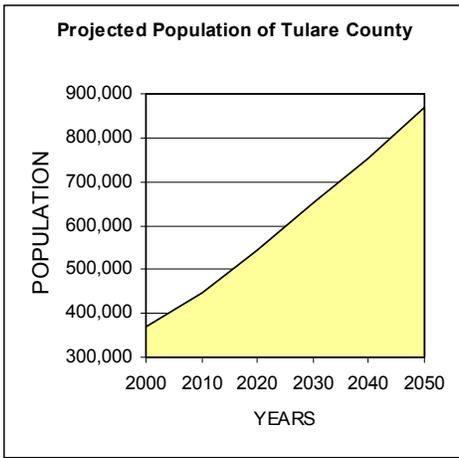


Figure 1

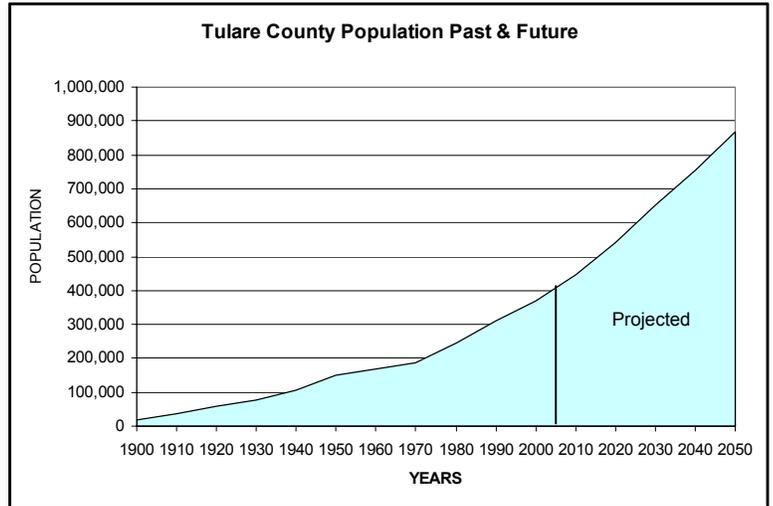


Figure 2

* * * * *

Please visit our redesigned website at
<http://cetulare.ucdavis.edu>

You can view previous editions of newsletters, sign up for the electronic version of our newsletters, check out the calendar of events for upcoming meetings and open up links for more details on a particular meeting. You may also request an email reminder to be sent to you regarding an upcoming meeting so you won't forget. These are just a few of the things you can find on our website. Visit our redesigned website and try it out.

The following pages are upcoming meetings

35th Alfalfa and Forage Symposium- December 12 - 14, 2005 in Visalia

This year the annual alfalfa and forage symposium will be held in Visalia, providing a convenient location for Tulare County growers and dairy producers to attend and hear the latest on alfalfa and forage issues, production and utilization. Over 20 industry exhibitors will be present. The 2-day meeting will be preceded by a tour on December 12. Details on the meeting agenda and registration can be found on the next 2 pages.

35th California Alfalfa & Forage Symposium

Visalia Radisson, Visalia, CA – December 12-14, 2005



Monday, December 12, 2005

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Agricultural Tour of the Lower San Joaquin Valley

Visit the heart of California's alfalfa production and dairy region – agricultural sites of interest including Friesian Horses, Heritage Museum, dairy farm, cheese making, alfalfa and winter forage production. For further details, see website. Includes lunch and returns about 5:00 p.m. Space is Limited, so sign up early, first- come first-served.

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Main Session – Industry Trends and Environmental Issues (8 am to 10 am)

Alfalfa supply and demand situation – Bees Butler, UC Davis, CA

Critical issues facing the dairy industry – Mike Marsh, Western United Dairymen, Modesto

Air quality issues with the dairy forage system – Frank Mitloehner, UC Davis

Implications of deficit irrigation management of alfalfa – Steve Orloff, UCCE, Yreka, CA

Main Session – Industry Trends and Environmental Issues (continued) (10:30 to noon)

Recycling manures using forage crops – Marsha Mathews, UCCE Advisor, Modesto, CA

Central Valley waivers and forage crops – Allan Fulton, UCCE Red Bluff, CA

Groundwater protection areas and Forages – Larry Schwankl, UC Davis

12:00 Banquet Lunch (raffles and awards)

Breakout Session I. Pest Management (1:30 – 5 pm)

Problem weeds in hay and forages for livestock—Birgit Puschner, UC Davis

Stand establishment: Round-Up and other herbicides—Mick Canevari, UCCE, Stockton, CA

Controlling weeds in established alfalfa —Ron Vargas, UCCE Madera, CA

Sclerotinia in alfalfa: biology and control – Carol Frate, UCCE, Tulare, CA

BREAK

Biological control of weevils; current status – Karey Windbiel, UC Davis

Controlling weevils in alfalfa – Larry Godfrey, UC Davis

Control of beet armyworm & alfalfa caterpillar – Eric Natwick, UCCE, El Centro, CA

Rodents and their control – Terry Salmon, UCCE, San Diego, CA

New insect threats to California forages – Charlie Summers, Kearney Ag Center, Parlier, CA

Breakout Session II. Producing High Quality Forages for Dairy Systems (1:30 - 5 pm)

Winter forage options for dairy systems – Gene Aksland, Resource Seeds, Visalia, CA

Utilizing the BMR trait in sudangrass and sorghums– Jon Reich, Cal West, Woodland, C

Cool season annual and perennial grasses – Devesh Singh, Barenbrug USA, Tangent, OR

Current status of elephantgrass as a potential forage crop – TBA

BREAK

Changing role of forage fiber in dairy rations – Peter Robinson, UC Davis, CA

Harvesting silage corn at the right time – Roger Vinande, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Modesto, CA

Monitoring phosphorus for alfalfa production – Jerry Schmierer, UCCE, Colusa, CA

Producing organic alfalfa – Rachael Long, UCCE, Woodland, CA

5:00-6:30 pm

Exhibitor Mixer: Refreshments and Cash Bar

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

6:30 a.m. Complimentary CAFA Breakfast (See CAFA booth for tickets.)

Main Session – Forage Quality (8 – 10 am)

Diurnal changes in forage quality – Hank Mayland, USDA-ARS, Kimberly, ID
What are you missing with your hay quality tests? – Mary B. Hall, USDA-ARS, Madison, WI
Balancing quality and yield using cutting schedules and varieties – Dan Putnam, UC Davis
Postharvest changes in alfalfa quality– Alan Rotz, USDA-ARS, College Park, PA

Main Session – Forage Quality and Genetic Engineering (10:20 am – noon)

Establishing a top-notch alfalfa stand – Shannon Mueller, UCCE, Fresno, CA
Do GE crops impact animal health and food products?—Alison Van Eenennaam, UC Davis
Coexistence of GE and non-GE alfalfa – Dan Putnam, UC Davis
Reinventing alfalfa – future innovations for alfalfa – Neal Martin, Madison, WI

12:10 Adjourn

6 PCA Hours (5 “other” and 1 “laws and regs”)

10 CCA Hours (0.5 Nutrient and management, 1.0 Soil and water, 2.5 IPM, 4.0 crop management, 2.0 Professional development)

For meeting registration, see <http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu> or use the form below.

Make your hotel plans now at the **Visalia Radisson: 559-636-1111** or 800-333-3333, \$89 Conference Rate.



35th California Alfalfa and Forage Symposium – Registration Form	
Please complete one form per person attending. Name	
Company/Ranch	Address
City, State, Zip Code	Phone Fax
E-mail (important) Confirmation by E-Mail only	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Symposium Tour \$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Registration (before 12/1/05) \$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Late Registration (after 12/1/05) \$160.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Day Registration \$100.00 (circle 12/13/2005 or 12/14/2005)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest Banquet Lunch Ticket \$27.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Copy of Proceedings @ 12.00 ea. (one included with registration)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Register online go to our website at http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu .	
Mail your check, made payable to “UC Regents,” to Janice Corner (jcorner@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-7091), Department of Plant Sciences, PRB, MS-5, UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616-8780.	

Landscape Pest Management Evening Seminars
Agricultural Building Auditorium - 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

\$30 for 4 seminars OR \$10/evening

2.5 hours CEU per seminar approved by CDPR

Contact the UCCE office for registration information at 559/685-3303

- Oct 27 **Laws & Regulations for Landscapes: Pesticides, Sprayers - How to comply - Glen Foth, District Manager Grounds Services, State Center Community College District**
- Nov 3 **ID & Management of Common Landscape Insects - Karen Robb, Entomologist, UCCE Mariposa County**
- Nov 10 **Abiotic Diseases & Problems Influenced by Soil and Water Chemistry - Dave Barlow, Area Manager, J.R. Simplot Co**
- Nov 17 **Root & Crown Disorders of Trees & Shrubs - Pam Geisel, Ornamental Horticulture, UCCE Fresno County**
Pre & Post Emergence Herbicides Update - Michelle Le Strange, Farm Advisor, UCCE Tulare & Kings Counties

Do You Want To Be A Master Gardener Volunteer?
Training Begins January 2006
Agricultural Building Auditorium

Wednesdays, January 11th - June 14th, 2006, 8:45 a.m. - Noon

\$60 registration - includes textbooks and materials

Contact the UCCE for information and applications at (559) 685-3303

Calf Health Program

November 21, 2005

10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Tulare County Ag Building Auditorium

Have you been trying to make the decision between a killed or modified live respiratory vaccine? Do you know what the risks are? How many boosters do you need to use if you choose the killed vaccine? What is your risk if you use the modified live and your cows are not vaccinated? Does it really make a difference to your buyer? We are going to answer these questions and more. This meeting will provide the information you need as a calf producer to develop an effective calf vaccination program that meets the buyer's and your needs.

Winter Tree Fruit Meeting

December 7, 2005, Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dinuba Memorial Building

\$20 registration fee includes refreshments, lunch and syllabus

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged

Detailed agenda and registration form available in next Orchard Notes newsletter

Continuing Education credits requested

For more information, please call Kevin Day at 559/685-3309 ext 211

Pesticide Worker Safety Training Program

The University of California Cooperative Extension and the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and Tulare County Farm Bureau will jointly conduct a Pesticide Worker Safety Training Program for your employees on the dates listed below. Each session is a complete training program. They need attend only one program for all information.



Dates

- ☞ Tuesday, November 15
- ☞ Wednesday, November 16

Times

- 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location

- Dinuba Memorial Bldg, 249 S Alta Ave.
- Exeter Veterans Memorial Bldg, 324 N Kaweah Ave.

Language

- English Session
- Spanish Session

These training sessions are for the purpose of helping employers' train their employees in the safe handling and application of pesticides as required by state regulations. A certificate of pesticide training will be issued to those who attend.

In addition to this training, employers are still required to provide and document annual training in specific pesticides to be used.

Continuing education hours have been requested. Individuals with the following certificates will receive 2.0 hours continuing education credit, which includes 1.0 hours of laws and regulations and 1.0 hours of other.

- ⊗ Private applicator certificate
- ⊗ Commercial applicator certificate
- ⊗ Agricultural pest control advisor license
- ⊗ Qualified applicator license
- ⊗ Qualified applicator certificate
- ⊗ Maintenance gardener pest control business license.

Other certificate or license holders should call the Dept. of Pesticide Regulations regarding certification of continuing education credits.

We urge you to send your workers, even if they have attended previous safety training sessions. A review of the laws and the procedures to handle and apply pesticides safely is in the best interest of reducing accidents.

Manuel Jimenez, Farm Advisor
(559) 685-3309 ext. 216

**Pesticide Worker Safety Training Program Registration
November 15 & 16, 2005**

Company Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Names: _____

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$5.00 per person if paid or postmarked by due date

LATE REGISTRATION: \$10.00 per person if paid or postmarked after due date or at the door

No. Attending: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Please enclose a check payable to: **UC REGENTS**

Mail to: **Pesticide Worker Training
 UC Cooperative Extension
 4437B S Laspina St
 Tulare, CA 93274-9537**

OFFICE USE ONLY:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____
Receipt # _____	

Due Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2005



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