

## Valley Land Alliance

Our mission is to educate and build alliances to protect our uniquely productive California Central Valley farmland.

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See what you know about California Agriculture

- T F Nine out of ten of the top farm counties in the USA are in California.
  
- T F More than ½ of the nation's fruits, vegetables and nuts are produced in California.
  
- T F California produces ALL of the nation's commercially grown almonds, artichokes, dates, figs, kiwifruit, nectarines, olives, persimmons, pistachios, prunes, raisins and walnuts.
  
- T F One California farmer supplies enough food, fiber and flowers for 135 people
  
- T F California farmers produce more than 350 commodities. (different crops)
  
- T F Agriculture supports 30% of the jobs in the Central Valley
  
- T F Twelve counties in California brought in a billion dollars from Agriculture. (Agriculture is the economic engine for these Counties)
  
- T F The average American earns enough income in less than 40 days to pay for his/her family food supply for the entire year.
  
- T F Farmer gets only \$.11 for each \$1.00 consumers spent at a grocery store.
  
- T F From our farms we have many benefits, products not only to eat but used for: heart valves, paper, ink, film, shampoo, toothpaste, adhesives, lubricants, solvents, pharmaceuticals, crayons, shoes, paint wallpaper, buttons, piano keys, candles, shaving cream, lotions, perfume, asphalt, leather gloves, musical instrument strings, charcoal briquettes, cat litter.

ANSWER TO ALL QUESTIONS: TRUE.

## **Here are a few things you can do to help protect our farmland.**

1. **Be Local.** Shop at markets that support local produce. Buy only California food. Make your dollar count! Encourage your grocer to stock local food. Support farmers markets. Support CSA – Customer supported Agriculture.
2. **Watch the water you use.** Don't take long showers, conserve on yard water. Don't water parts of yards never used. Don't leave water running while brushing teeth. Don't wash your car with a running hose. Put a nozzle at the end. **Think about the Drought**
3. **Support Groups that help get the message out.** Groups like Valley Land Alliance, Sierra Club, Farmland Trust, Planning and Conservation League and many more.
4. **Keep up to date on current issues.** Make your voice heard. Write letters to Editor, contact legislators and try to have an impact on decisions made in your county.

- **Every single minute of every day, America loses two acres of farmland.**  
From 1992-1997, we converted to developed uses more than six million acres of agricultural land—an area the size of Maryland.
- **We lost farm and ranch land 51 percent faster in the 1990s than in the 1980s.**  
The rate of loss for 1992-1997, 1.2 million acres per year, was 51 percent higher than from 1982-1992.
- **We're losing our best land—most fertile and productive—the fastest.**  
The rate of conversion of prime land was 30 percent faster, proportionally, than the rate for non-prime rural land from 1992-1997. This results in marginal land, which requires more resources like water, being put into production.
- **Our [food is increasingly in the path of development](#).**  
86 percent of U.S. fruits and vegetables, and 63 percent of our dairy products, are produced in urban-influenced areas.
- **Wasteful land use is the problem, not growth itself.**  
From 1982-1997, U.S. population grew by 17 percent, while urbanized land grew by 47 percent. Over the past 20 years, the acreage per person for new housing almost doubled; since 1994, 10+ acre housing lots have accounted for 55 percent of the land developed.
- **Every state is losing some of its best farmland.**  
Texas leads the nation in high-quality acres lost, followed by Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina and Illinois. And for [each of the top 20 states](#), the problem is getting worse.

### **Something to think about;**

If by 2040, population of our Valley from Redding to Bakersfield and assuming projections are accurate will grow by 7-8 million people, this would be equivalent to 10 more Fresno's in the next 35 years. Where do you think our food will come from? Do you care? Is it important to know how your food is grown? Who grows it and what is sprayed on it?

### **Valley Land Alliance**

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**[WWW.ValleyLandAlliance.org](http://WWW.ValleyLandAlliance.org)**

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