



Solano County Summit on Agriculture

June 20, 2000

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To: The Solano County Board of Supervisors

From: The Planning Committee for the
Summit on Agriculture Project

Re: Transmittal of the final Summit Project Report

The attached report represents the best efforts of the Planning Committee for the Summit on Agriculture Project and the consultant to comply with your charge to identify the concerns of the agricultural community and develop their ideas for how you might act to preserve and promote the vital agricultural life of Solano County. At your request we did not attempt to interpret or restate the words of the farmers who participated. The Planning Committee was not formed to represent agriculture but rather to assure that the process was honest, based in the grass roots, and that we asked the right questions to as broad a representation of the agriculture community as possible. This report is about what they actually said. However there have been some outcomes of the Summit Project that are greater than the sum of its parts. We felt that the appropriate place to discuss them is here.

The effort was the first like it to be held in this county. It was the first time that a broad and coordinated effort to bring together the entire community has been attempted. While the impetus came from the Board of Supervisors, the process was built from the ground up. We started by holding five regional town hall meetings to identify what was concerning the agriculture community. The next step was a survey of all farmers and ranchers, not just those who came to the town hall meetings. Finally, based on all that had come before, and the credibility earned, we held the Summit event.

Those who participated in the three-hour town hall meetings or the all day Summit event took what they perceive to be a risk by participating. They spoke openly about their fears. They faced the people responsible for regulating their farms, and criticized them. Many people spent political capital to get their neighbors and community members to attend. These people are waiting to see what you do with their effort.

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Initiative of the County Board of Supervisors*

The Summit Project has built a new sense of community and a new vision for the possibilities open to farmers and ranchers in our county. There is energy to move forward with many of the ideas in this report. You have provided the catalyst. The farmers and ranchers can help educate the urban dwellers, they can form their own economic development program, and they can start to build a regional marketing program. Now all that is needed is a little encouragement from you.

We are submitting this report to you without first distributing it for public comment. That decision is yours. However we recommend that you do seek public comment. The project has a web site in place that can facilitate this.

We thank you for the opportunity to help nurture the Summit on Agriculture Project. The farmers and ranchers have endorsed your effort to build an even stronger and more confident agriculture community.

SOLANO COUNTY
SUMMIT ON AGRICULTURE



REPORT TO THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JUNE 20, 2000



Solano County Summit on Agriculture

Report to the Solano County Board of Supervisors

June 20 2000

The Solano County Summit on Agriculture Project
Coordinated by David Visher Consulting under the supervision of
Birgitta Corsello, Director of the Solano County Environmental
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Contract Number 99R3654

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The Summit on Agriculture Project Report to the Solano County Board of Supervisors

June 20 2000

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INTRODUCTION

On September 22, 1998, Supervisor Gordon Gojkovich asked for and received Solano County Board of Supervisors support to convene a summit meeting to focus on policies for the preservation of agriculture in Solano County. The project was referred to the Department of Environmental Management which engaged David Visher Consulting to coordinate the process. A planning committee was formed to help guide the process.

The Summit on Agriculture Project was comprised of three separate activities: a series of five town hall meetings, a survey, and a capstone conference held on February 28 1999 in Vacaville.

The Summit project has successfully accomplished many of the Board of Supervisors' goals. These were:

- Create a forum where all agencies, interest groups, and individuals could come together to discuss current problems and possible solutions facing agriculture in Solano County.
- Broadly identify the issues and concerns of the agricultural community.
- Educate the larger community about the role of agriculture in the County
- Offer a high profile event that welcomes and informs all citizens about the agricultural element and the dynamic urban rural relationship in the County, and invite them to participate in a visioning process.
- Explore alternatives to the Williamson Act that could offer incentives and methods that preserve agricultural land in Solano County
- Construct a document that will guide the land use planning efforts of County staff, and influence the policy decisions of the Board of Supervisors.
- Bring into the public eye the Board of Supervisor's efforts to address the needs of diverse constituents.

The primary tools used to accomplish these goals were:

- A planning committee of individuals who understand the community and the issues and who guide the Summit Project.
- A series of five facilitated Town Hall Meetings held in different regions of the County. These meetings surfaced the issues of concern to the agriculture community and built public interest in the Summit Project.
- The results of the Town Hall Meetings were compiled and categorized and a survey was conducted to measure the relative importance of the issues. With an almost forty percent response from the agriculture community the survey provided credible data.
- A Summit Event was held on February 28 attended by one hundred and twenty-five people. Four topic areas were selected (based on the survey) and subcommittees formed to organize four facilitated workshops at the event. The goal of the

workshops was to identify solutions and ideas around the issues developed in the Town Hall Meetings and the Survey.

The Town Hall Meetings created a highly credible list of the issues that concern farmers. The Survey prioritized those issues. And participants at the Summit Event brainstormed solutions and ideas around the issues.

As the project evolved it became clear to the planning committee that all the issues and ideas should come from the agriculture community through the three main channels; the five Town Hall Meetings, the Survey, and the Summit Event. The committee became concerned that its attempt to, reframe, interpret, embellish or turn the ideas into policy recommendations had the potential to diverge from the intent and needs of the ranchers and farmers. The Planning Committee was formed to guide the process, not interpret the results. So after careful consideration a decision to present a report and leave development of implementation plans to the Board of Supervisors.

RESULTS

The planning committee organized the results of the Town Hall Meetings and the Survey into four categories and formed subcommittees to develop the workshops based on those categories. Each subcommittee met many times to sort out the best way to present the issue, select speakers, create support materiel, and to coordinate with the facilitator. The four *Workshop* sections contain the results of those meetings..

The last section is a *Results Table* consisting of the consultant's interpretation of the results. Comments from the planning committee have been incorporated into the table. Specific recommendations that were made by workshop participants were included. *The Results Table* is intended as a summary and a method to organize the information into an abbreviated form.

Organization of the Summit Event

The program for the Summit Event in the *Appendix* provides an overview of the format of the day and the speakers and facilitators who helped make it a success. It was a working meeting, an educational experience, and a community gathering.

The day opened in plenary session with keynote speaker, Dr. Alvin Sokolow, who described the context of Solano agriculture in several dimensions; global markets, population pressures, demographic changes, and historical land use decisions. The participants then moved into two breakout workshop sessions where they heard speakers and participated in facilitated exploration of the issues. The focus was on new ideas and solutions to problems that were identified during the Town Hall Meetings and Survey. Two more workshop sessions were held in the afternoon. Each participant could therefore attend two of the four workshops.

An important goal of the Summit Event was to strengthen the sense of community among the attendees. Therefore; substantial networking time was built in, a special

dinner using locally grown and donated products was served, a social offering local wine and donated beer was offered, and an inspirational speaker closed the evening.

Workshop #1 Breaking Barriers to Agriculture Business

More than forty people participated in the discussion. They were presented with the following question

What barriers or constraints may impede developing and/or managing a profitable agricultural business in Solano County in the next ten years?

- List constraints
- Identify potential strategies to overcome constraints
- Recommend steps to implement strategies

Each participant was instructed to write their thoughts/issues on paper and place them on the wall. The facilitator grouped the papers according to similarity. Participants decided on the title/identifier for each of the seven groupings.

The groupings were:

Working on the farm

- Not enough thinking time – (to make optimum management decisions)

Urban Edge

- Traffic problems
- Price of land
- Uncertainty about the future – city limits
- Urban development encroachment

Regulations

- Regulation - pesticides
- County, state and federal regulations
- Keeping up with ever-changing regulations
- New fire regulations
- Access to information about regulations
- Complying with additional environmental regulations
- Environmental regulations

Local Marketing Issues

- Need for investment capital

- Information about new markets
- Consumer education about product
- Consumer education about process
- Developing a Solano brand name
- Changing consumer perceptions
- Lack of processing facilities
- Do not utilize existing resources (community college)

International Competition

- International prices, GATT and NAFTA
- Changing markets
- NAFTA freedom to farm
- Commodity prices too low
- Lack of international money supply
- People in the USA have never been hungry
- Competition from foreign markets
- International overproduction
- Price for products
- International subsidies of agriculture imports to US

Cost of Production

- Labor pool
- Available labor
- Production cut (buy-outs)
- Labor cost
- Increasing production costs
- Liability costs

Ineffective Communication and Representation

- Growers do not get represented
- Lack of cooperation
- Board of Supervisors needs to be educated
- Commodity organization recommends

Each participant was instructed to place post-it notes indicating the importance of the issue on the following scale

1. do not lose sleep over it
2. important
3. very important
4. business cannot survive

After voting, the group decided that **Local Marketing Issues** were the most important.

A brainstorming session followed and the facilitator and recorder listed the following ideas from the audience:

- Supermarkets and distribution centers should buy local produce
- Solano agriculture needs a local label
- Market environmental benefits
- Farm trails map
- Enhancement of local appellation
- Education about community viability
- Education about nutrition in schools
- Future Farmers of America should be encouraged in schools
- Guarantee loans for small businesses
- Incubator system for innovative farms – directed toward cities
- Use the fairs for education
- Solano Economic Development Corporation (SEDCORP) equivalent for agriculture with steady financial support
- Better use of agriculture courses in schools
- Adapt courses for agriculture
- Better farmers market system
- Open field days on farms
- Talk to Board of Supervisors
- More things like the Tomato Festival
- Cultivate relationship with news media
- Use horticulture Department at Solano College
- Develop a County Agricultural Advisory Commission
- Exploration of getting new agriculture processing facilities
- Eco-tourism
- Assistance for adaptation
- Facilitating connection to buyers

- Brand products
- One-eight percent sales tax that goes to protection of local agriculture
- Expansion of open trails on farms
- Chamber of Commerce for agriculture
- Greater use of internet
- Student internships

After further interactions, the group agreed to propose two ideas for action:

Action:

- Board of Supervisors organize a follow-up meeting asking for representatives from existing organizations and open to interested parties to discuss means for organizing a marketing and economic development task force/committee/commission.
- Board of Supervisors organize a follow-up meeting asking for representatives from existing organizations and open to interested parties to discuss means for organizing an "Agricultural Advisory" task force/committee/commission.

The distinction between these two recommendations is that the first action creates, or provides the catalyst for an agriculture organization charged with promoting and building the industry in the County. The second action creates representative group from agriculture charged with advising the Board of Supervisors about agriculture matters.

Workshop #2 Educating the Community

Based on the information garnered at the Town Hall Meetings and the grower survey, four general categories were presented to the participants for discussion: Water Education, Land-Use Education, Marketing Education and General Education about agricultural issues. After opening remarks, the participants (Approximately forty-two individuals participated in the discussions) were divided into four groups based on personal identification with the four issues. They were encouraged to add to the list of issues and explore as many options as they felt necessary. The results of their discussion are presented in the attached tables and the analysis of their discussions is outlined below.

Water Issues

This discussion group felt that water education to the general public was significantly lacking. They identified five topics they felt were of immediate importance and noted that other issues may arise with time.

- Establish the value of the current water supply and the threat of its loss or reduction to agriculture.
- Determine the source cost of water distribution to agriculture and the urban users.
- Make public conservation issues necessary to adequately utilize the current supply for both farmers and urban users.
- Determine the value and the possibility of the capture and reuse of flood/run-off water.
- Educate the public and farmers on the value of using reclaimed treated water.

With all five issues they were uncertain as to the methods necessary to conduct these educational activities, but they were positive that both the farmers and the general public needed more information. They felt that all topics should receive immediate attention except for number five, which they felt needed further study. The group felt there were sufficient agencies and individuals within the County that could conduct these educational activities concerning water. They specifically identified the Solano Irrigation District, Solano County Water Authority, Solano County Department of Environmental Management, Solano County University of California Cooperative Extension, the Board of Education and city sanitation districts as possible groups to conduct the educational effort.

Land-Use Issues

Considerable discussion during the Town Hall Meetings about educating the public and farmers about issues of land use showed that there is confusion among farmers. This confusion was born out by the survey results as well. The individuals who participated in this discussion were adamant that a coordinated educational activity must take place to remove confusion over this issue. They identified seven topics that needed urgent action:

1. Ag/Urban Relations and Interfaces

Poor relationships and a failure to communicate at the interface line between the urban and rural communities create misunderstanding. This communication breakdown also involves county government and city governments. One-on-one discussion, and town hall meetings with affected parties are a good method at improving communication. Several cities are discussing general plan revisions and the County's is due shortly. Participants felt this is an opportunity to open lines of communication between effected parties. The Solano County Department of Environmental Management, University of California Cooperative Extension, Solano County office, the Agriculture Commissioner's office, the Board of Supervisors and city councils should play a pivotal role in resolving this issue.

2. General education about agricultural land protection directed to the farmers and general public.

This was a difficult topic for the group. Protecting agricultural land is a controversial issue that needs education but exactly what is unclear. The general population of the County; and both city and county governments are the groups that need the most education about land protection. Local agriculture support agencies, Environmental Management Department and city and county planning staff are responsible for educational activities.

3. Issues concerning bike trails on rural roads.

Bike trails, paths, and roadway lanes are difficult issues for farmers and landowners. Safety is a primary concern in the rural areas. The bicyclists and the recreational community in general are indifferent to the farmers on this issue. Specific resolutions were not offered. City and county planning departments should be made aware of landowner concerns. Several participants made statements that their property rights were put in second place in favor of those wanting to use open space for their recreational activities.

4. Storm drainage

This is an issue that is specific to different parts of the County. Property owners and local government agencies should work together to mitigate the specific problems in their area. Professional services should be incorporated into the solution process.

5. Misunderstanding about the Right to Farm Ordinance

The urban and rural communities need a strong educational effort on the current Right to Farm Ordinance. This was evident in the Town Hall Meetings and the grower survey. Most people are either unaware of the ordinance or do not have enough knowledge of its implications to understand their rights. It should be strengthened. County government and local property owners should take the lead in educating those involved.

6. Conservation Easements and Open Space

There is a lack of understanding about the concept of conservation easements and of the general property rights of landowners. Local governments as well as

landowners need to understand the ramifications of this concept. The Board of Supervisors should develop a mechanism whereby conservation easements can be purchased to prevent urban sprawl on to rural lands.

7. Rural Speed Limits

This topic was identified in several Town Hall Meetings but not in the grower survey as an issue. Participants felt that rural speed limits need to be realistic and suggested some creative mechanisms to raise the attention of motorists. The County and the cities should work with AAA to develop creative signage in problem areas. This should be done in cooperation with the County road department and city governments.

Marketing Issues

The education forum developed five topics about marketing that need immediate attention. This group was very specific in who should address the problem and whom it should be directed towards.

1. Alternative Crops

New and/or alternative crops offer advantages to growers. Educating them about this issue fell to University of California Cooperative Extension in Solano County and the Farm Bureau. An inventory of existing crops should be taken and seminars and workshops be offered to inform the farmers about these alternatives. The general population and local governments should be brought into the picture.

2. Alternative Markets

Local and regional markets for farm commodities are an untapped resource. This is most relevant to smaller farmers able to direct market to area consumers. It is harder to apply to traditional commodities such as wheat, corn, etc. grown on larger farms. Research should be done to identify new markets and assist growers in finding those markets. A local identity needs to be established along with support for a "marketing association/coordinator". UC Davis, UCCE Solano County, the Board of Supervisors and the city councils should all be involved in this research and educational effort.

3. Farm Trail Maps

Solano agriculture needs to develop a local identity. Farmers and the general public need education about local resources. Development and distribution of a farm trails map needs support. There is a need for the development of an "ag-tourism" concept to promote local identity. The concept of a "Solano Grown" label was strongly supported. UCCE Solano County; local schools (FFA) and the Farm Bureau should be involved with this project.

4. Farmers Markets

Farmers' markets are strongly supported by the group as a venue for educational outreach. The education of the general public through displays, demonstrations, seminars, etc. during these markets is of significant value to the local economy.

This could be a draw for the general public while increasing awareness of local agriculture and food systems.

5. Demonstration Farm

This concept is an addition to the known list of possibilities. No consideration is given to the cost or the management of a demonstration farm. The general public will use the facility as an educational tool to support the locally grown concept. Again, the UCCE Solano County, the Agriculture Commissioner, local schools (FFA), local farmers and the Farm Bureau should be involved with this project.

General Agriculture Educational Issues

The participants in this group determined that four topics needed immediate attention. They were strongly supportive of existing programs such as Agriculture in the Classroom and requested additional support and expansion of the program locally.

1. Educating the general public about agriculture

The urban community in Solano County does not know or appreciate the value of agriculture. Displays at fairs, schools, billboards, signs and newspaper columns are methods suggested by the group. They also felt very strongly that local labeling (Solano Grown) will increase local identity. This project should be supported by the Board of Supervisors, City Councils and coordinated by UCCE Solano County and Farm Bureau.

2. Agriculture in the Classroom

There is strong support for the existing Agriculture in the Classroom program conducted by the local Farm Bureau. A strong effort is needed that is directed towards school districts and teachers to increase participation in the program. The Board of Supervisors and City Councils should voice strong support for this program. Farm Bureau with support from UCCE and the Agriculture Commissioner should provide primary delivery.

3. Where food comes from?

The public has lost touch with the importance of agriculture and the food supply. The focus group determined that seminars, newspaper articles and civic presentations could help the problem. Again, the Farm Bureau, UCCE, RCD's and the Board of Supervisors should be major players.

4. Value of agriculture as a segment of the local economy

The general population is not well informed about the economic value that agriculture has within the County. Intensive work should be done with local schools involving 4-H and FFA along with civic groups and city councils. UCCE, the Farm Bureau and the Board of Supervisors should be the primary agencies involved in getting the message out.

Summary

Educating the public about agriculture issues is a common theme that threaded through the entire Summit. Participants were aware of the need, but had little knowledge of the resources available to accomplish the task. This is evidence of their frustrations and sense of not being appreciated by the urban community for the value (economic, social

and environmental) that farmers offer to the County. It is also obvious that the extensive work conducted by many groups and agencies in the County has fallen on deaf ears within the urban population. The primary solution is a strong and concerted effort towards public relations impressing on the citizens the importance of the industry. There is support for stronger and more directed efforts of existing groups and agencies to carry the task.

The following four tables were completed by each breakout group in the education workshop.

General Category: General Agricultural Education				
TOPICS	AUDIENCE (Who)	METHODS (How)	TIME FRAME (When)	BY WHOM (Individuals, agencies, etc.)
Educating the public about agriculture	General population	Educational displays at fairs, schools, signs, billboards, newspaper advertisements. Publish cookbook with "Solano Grown" theme. Develop local label concept "Solano Grown". Explore funding for project coordinator	As soon as possible	Support from Board of Supervisors and city councils. Conducted by UCCE
Agriculture in the Classroom	Local School districts and teachers	Support agriculture in the classroom program provided by Farm Bureau to fullest extent	On going with current activities	Support from Board of Supervisors and city councils. UCCE and Solano County Farm Bureau
Where food comes from?	General population	Seminars, newspaper articles, newsletters, civic presentations to service clubs	As soon as possible	Farm Bureau, UCCE, Resource Conservation Districts BOS
Value of Agriculture a segment of the local economy	General population, Local Schools	Work with high schools, 4-H and FFA, civic groups and city councils, relate to agriculture in the classroom program, better communications between Board of Supervisors and city councils. Hire a local PR/coordinator person, work close with media	As soon as possible	Farm Bureau, UCCE, Resource Conservation Districts BOS

General Category: Land Use				
TOPICS	AUDIENCE (Who)	METHODS (How)	TIME FRAME (When)	BY WHOM (individuals, agencies, etc.)
Agriculture/Urban Relation Interfaces (Mutual Investment Group)	General Population, city and county government	Town Hall Meetings with urban and rural sectors	General Plan Updates, Planning meetings, Ongoing	Environmental Management, UCCE, Agriculture commissioner, Board of Supervisors, City Councils.
Agriculture community education to the rest of the community – Agriculture land protection	General Population, city and county government	One to one?	On going	Effectuated agriculture individuals, Environmental Management, city and County planning
Bike Trails	Recreational Community, city and county planners	Public Outcry by farmers and ranchers	Now	Local governments and land owners
Drainage	Property Owners and Local governments	Information to all stakeholders	On going	Property owners to local governments with assistance from professionals
Right to Farm	Agriculture and Urban Community	Educate all levels of government and community by unified agricultural community	On going	County government, property owners
Conservation Easements/Open Space	Government and property owners	Find mechanism to fund	ASAP	Property owners and local agricultural agencies
Speed Limits	Local governments	Make speed limits realistic. Do creative signage in problem areas to get peoples attention. Work with AAA	ASAP	Public Works Departments, Agriculture Agencies, Property owners.

General Category: Marketing				
TOPICS	AUDIENCE (Who)	METHODS (How)	TIME FRAME (When)	BY WHOM (Individuals, agencies, etc.)
Alternative Crops	Farmers, general population	Develop inventory of local crops, regular and specialty. Seminars, workshops, local city councils	ASAP	Farm Bureau, UCCE, RCD
Alternative markets	Farmers, general population	Conduct research to identify demand for new commodities. Document Successes, who they supply, and how the crop is used. Survey consumers of products they want to use. More research on who are the people of Solano County and what do they like? Fund a marketing program. Do Research Develop elements of regional marketing Solano/cities	ASAP	UCD, UCCE, Board of Supervisors, City Councils
Farm Trails Maps	Farmers, general population	Publish farm trails maps based on "Solano Grown" Theme. Develop Agriculture Tourism project	ASAP	UCCE, Local Schools, Farm bureau,
Farmers markets	Farmers, general population	Promote farmers markets, have information boots present	ASAP	???
Demonstration Farm	General Population	Educate all on what is grown locally in one plate Develop Learning live lab/demo farm	ASAP	Farm Bureau, UCCE, Agriculture Commissioner, Local Farmers

Bin Items (Identified but not discussed)

- Local brand name
- Buy Locally promotion
- Signage – “support your local farmer
- Support for festivals, special events, wholesome image, fresh picked, quality of life, family farmers.
- Partner with SED COR or another type of marketing group.

General Category: Water				
TOPICS	AUDIENCE (Who)	METHODS (How)	TIME FRAME (When)	BY WHOM (Individuals, agencies, etc.)
Value of current supply and the threat of reduction	General public and agricultural community	To be determined	ASAP	SID, SCWA, UCCE
Use of reclaimed water for agriculture and urban uses	General public and agricultural community	To be determined	Start ASAP, long-term project	City Sanitation districts, UCCE, Environmental management
Determine source cost of distribution	General public and agricultural community	To be determined	Long Term	SID, SCWA
Rural Vs. Urban Water Conservation	General public and agricultural community	Develop conservation curriculum for schools	Long term	SID SCWA, BOE
Capture and reuse flood water	???	???	???	???

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Workshop #3 Challenges on the Agriculture and Urban Interface

The facilitator defined the agriculture urban interface in terms of four issue areas that emerged from Town Hall Meetings:

- Policy to develop a system for agriculture land protection
- Water Issues supply drainage
- Mitigation; how we can make it work
- Coordination of interface between city, county, and county government

The group divided into four breakout sections:

Policy to develop a system for agriculture land protection

- ❖ Buffers serve two purposes
 - They define the limit of urban growth
 - They provide a transitional zone between agriculture and urban use
- ❖ The buffer zone should be a cost of urban development. It should not be absorbed by existing farmer
- ❖ The creation and maintenance of buffers should be the local government responsibility
- ❖ Rethink county parcel size for agriculture parcels
- ❖ Explore additional agriculture protection
 - Conservation easements
 - Preserves
- ❖ Alternative land uses can serve as a substitute for buffers. Such as low intensive industrial type parks that process agriculture products. (The Napa Valley Corporate Park is a good example of transitioning from urban to open space.)
- ❖ County wide coordination and funding for establish "footprints" for agriculture, urban and open space
- ❖ County should form a "Farm Advisory" body for input into the land use at urban edge
- ❖ County and cities should be more proactive in response to ABAG land use dictates
- ❖ Revise the Right-to-Farm ordinance
- ❖ Better enforcement and follow through of existing County and local government dumping regulations.

Water Issues supply drainage

- ❖ Local ownership of Lake Berryessa project
- ❖ Recharge aquifers (with ponds)
- ❖ Government cooperation
- ❖ Cities need to mitigate drainage impact on agriculture lands
- ❖ Continue County policy protecting Berryessa water for agriculture use
- ❖ Industrial contamination of ground water and consumptive use
- ❖ Government assistance to the growers who conserve water by means of modern irrigation technology

Mitigation; how we can make it work

- ❖ Traffic
 - Enforcement
 - Divide agriculture from other traffic
 - Speed limits
 - Keep narrow bridges
- ❖ Bikes
 - Education
 - Enforcement
 - Bike lanes vs lane of traffic
 - Divert bike riders to routes with bike lanes in order to protect key agriculture areas
 - Outreach to bike clubs
- ❖ Buffers (note that this was also discussed in first section)
 - Existing interface
 - Education of the neighbors
 - Local ordinances
 - ◆ Rescind the right to farm ordinance
 - Land Trusts and or local government should buy the buffer (at the highest and best value)
 - New interface
 - Developer should provide landscaping and the city of homeowners should maintain it
 - New development should maximize the distance to agriculture through the use of roads and buffers
 - Local government planning should be proactive in designing buffers
 - Habitat preservation should depend on the crop
 - Land trust and local government should buy the buffer
 - Free garbage pickup (litter on farms or farmers garbage cans?)

Coordination of the Interface Between Citizens, County and Local Government.

Coordination = Better Communication

- ❖ Public involvement early on in the decision making process. Need better public notice
- ❖ Opportunity to appeal decisions if there is enough public outcry
- ❖ Improve outreach to agriculture community regarding upcoming land use issues
- ❖ Create a watchdog group to track issues and notify agriculture community
- ❖ Create a telephone hotline to the watchdog group that lists ongoing and upcoming issues at county meetings
- ❖ Area wide study of garbage issues and dumping on agriculture land
- ❖ Interagency coordination
- ❖ Elected officials and citizens need to discuss issues
- ❖ Better public notice of meetings!

- ❖ Communication not reaching property owners outside of the County
- ❖ Government needs to support policies that promote local growers and stop imports
- ❖ Communication via County hosted Web page
- ❖ Better scheduling of agendas – put important issues up front
- ❖ Need to involve agriculture community in land use changes before tentative decisions are made – agriculture community needs a bigger voice in the decision making process

Workshop #4 Changing Agricultural Regulations

Note: a table that draws together all the regulations and permits affecting farmers and the various agencies responsible for administering them is in the appendix. (*Government Agency Regulations and Permits in Agriculture*) This was a useful tool for informing the discussion at this workshop.

Issues were brainstormed and written on cards and posted to a big chart, then sorted into four categories. Many cards were completed by attendees and handed forward for posting anonymously. The group then divided into four breakout sessions to discuss solutions.

Land Use – Use Permits and Zoning

Brainstorm cards

- ❖ Transfer of building rights from one legal parcel to another by use of deed restrictions on the first parcel
- ❖ Bio-solid applications
- ❖ Wind power for agriculture use
- ❖ LAFCO has no effective agriculture representation
- ❖ On sight composting
- ❖ Bike riders on rural roads
- ❖ ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments)
- ❖ Non farmers on rural roads
- ❖ Cities and County place the onus for greenbelts on agriculture
- ❖ Need a better definition of agriculture viability
- ❖ Study the effect of past, present, and future parcel splits on surrounding commercial agriculture
- ❖ Get rid of "ghost subdivisions"
- ❖ Un-funded state mandates (?)

Discussion and solution to issues defined above during brainstorming

- ❖ LAFCO
 - Ask Board of Supervisors to ensure agriculture interests are present in LAFCO decisions
- ❖ Wind Power
 - Should be permitted as an "allowed use" at one per parcel; Conditional if more than one
- ❖ On-site composting
 - Develop policy permitting on-site composting for farm unit use
 - C.U.P
- ❖ Permanent use permits should be issued as long as conditions are met
- ❖ Deed restrictions
 - Develop a policy allowing transfer of residential building sites from one parcel to another equivalent parcel owned by the same person using permanent deed

- restrictions
- ❖ AGAG housing quotas
 - Propose a shift of housing allocation from unincorporated areas to cities
- ❖ Bike riders on rural roads
 - Enforcement ,education, and communication
- ❖ Bio-solids application
 - Re-evaluate regulations to reflect weather conditions and usage during application season. Use soil incorporation and thorough testing
- ❖ Agriculture viability must include and incorporate policies which consider the farmability of an economically viability unit.
- ❖ City / County "greenbelt" with spheres of influence
 - Policy should require that greenbelts be purchased

Air, Water and other Environment

Brainstorm cards

- ❖ Proposed diesel engine regulations
- ❖ Flood control regulations
- ❖ Ditch creek maintenance
- ❖ Water quality and down stream impacts
- ❖ Recognition for the fact that agriculture produces clean air
- ❖ Agriculture is blamed for natural erosion

Discussion and solution to issues defined above during brainstorming

- ❖ Diesel engine emission controls regulations (Federal (?), ARB)
 - Ensure that regulations are reasonable. Provide agricultural exemptions
- ❖ Flood control and ditch maintenance
 - Ability to clean creek
 - Streamline permit process
 - Public agency responsibility
 - Habitat regulations are counter productive (sharpshooter bug)
- ❖ Agriculture is blamed for natural erosion
 - Farmers should be held harmless for natural sloughing of hillsides causing impacts on downstream users
- ❖ Illegal dumping
 - Landowner should not be responsible.
 - Re-evaluate policy and regulations

Construction and Business Operations

Brainstorm cards

- ❖ Pre-existing agriculture operations, (processing; hullers, dryers, grain storage, etc.) that are non-conforming with county ordinances
- ❖ Reduce taxes to nothing. Landowners have given up building rights.
- ❖ Fire sprinklers in agriculture buildings
- ❖ Fee inspections

- ❖ Road side stands, "parcel issue"
- ❖ Building permits for agriculture buildings; ease, expense, time
- ❖ Farm Building permits and tax
- ❖ Site specific for county building (rules)
- ❖ Give the same "sweetheart" deals for agricultural enterprises for facility development that are given to other developments; smoothing of permit process, even possible funding of process!

Discussion and solution to issues defined above during brainstorming

- ❖ Building permits for agriculture buildings
 - Engineered plans for engineered buildings. (Change)
 - Investigate fire sprinkler needs for agriculture buildings (change / eliminate)
 - Minimum square feet triggers a building permit (change or streamline)
 - Plot plan for entire agriculture site triggered by a building permit (eliminate or change to split from permit process)
 - Permit processing should set timeline and manage a tighter turnaround (Napa city all staff there the same day-allows an over the counter process)
 - Fees are unclear
 - Simplify fees
 - Why have a "travel fee?" (reduce)
 - Look at valuation tables
- ❖ Building or development standards
 - Septic appears to be different. Permits should be more specific to the region (change)
 - Building requirements re earthquake zones and standards (change)
- ❖ Business promotion
 - Seek economic development funds to help attract and or expand agriculture businesses. (assist with fees and development)
 - Fees for agriculture business should be reduced and the process smoothed
- ❖ Non-conforming uses
 - Change the definition to reflect common sense
 - Be more lenient in permitting
 - Allow uses to grow and evolve
 - Create an agriculture service zone
- ❖ Roadside stands
 - Type of buildings
 - Sale from field
 - Sale of agriculture products (Change to reflect agriculture business needs)
- ❖ Off site processing
 - Change to be more supportive of cooperative efforts.
- ❖ Transfer development rights
 - Create a system that allows the transfer of development rights from one parcel to another if both are commonly owned. Allows for more dwellings on the farm headquarters, while placing a deed restriction on the other parcel
- ❖ Land with agriculture conservation easements

- Need to have more tax breaks or reductions
- Make more funds available for the purchase of agriculture easements
- ❖ Revisit Super Williamson act; should it be reviewed implemented

Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) / Pesticide

Brainstorm cards

- ❖ Clarify HAZMAT requirements for farmers and farming activities. Update the regulations
- ❖ Hazmat material reporting
- ❖ Fine structure for littering or dumping
- ❖ Dead animals
- ❖ Hazardous and illegal dumping on agriculture land by others. The property owner is required to clean up
- ❖ Agencies, fee inspections, mandates

Discussion and solution to issues defined above during brainstorming

- ❖ Slough turbidity (water agency) especially at dead end sloughs
 - Define who is responsible for cleanup?
 - California water agency should be responsible, not the landowner
 - Rules should not be enforced for acts of god
- ❖ Dead animals in fields
 - Problem – they are a visual nuisance to the public
 - Solution – Owner should call the tallow company, non-owner should pull the animal to the road to be picked up by the County
- ❖ Garbage on county property
 - Divert tipping fees to Public Works, the Department of Transportation, or Environmental Management
 - Solution – use money from tipping fees to pay the Transportation Department to pick up garbage using inmates. Including big items like refrigerators and hot water heaters. The local law enforcement takes too much time
 - Landfills should reduce charges for pickup loads on weekends to \$3 vs \$20. Thus the County subsidizes dumps to reduce illegal dumping on agriculture land.
 - Landfills should provide a recycling area for reusable items
 - Provide special free days when appliances can be left at landfills for free
 - Note that the EPA requirement that freon be removed from appliances by a certified expert is a disincentive to legal disposal, and increases dumping on agriculture land
- ❖ Live animal dumping at farms
 - Problem – urban people dump pets on farmers
 - Solutions –
 - Educate the urban population about spay and neuter programs
 - County should provide facilities for leaving them (shelter)
 - More localized facilities
 - Education about the effect of releasing pets in the country
- ❖ Regulatory updating about fertilizer and fuel hauling

- Solution
 - California Highway Patrol should provide updates on new laws
 - Use a data base of permittees and send out information
 - Instead of citations for violations of new rules, there should be a "There has been a change..." Notice.
- Enforcement agencies should do free compliance inspections
- ❖ Problem- HAZMAT dumping is property owners responsibility
 - Solution –
 - Property owner should not be responsible
 - Law enforcement is responsible
 - County should take a "superfund" approach to pay for cleanup
 - Provide more education about HAZMAT dumping
 - Provide local and affordable dumping facilities for HAZMAT
- ❖ HAZMAT disclosure should be a farmer reporting system not a business plan. Compliance prevents additional regulations

Underlying Issues that did not fit into the four categories

- ❖ Create a "one stop permit shop"
- ❖ Re-examine policies and "sunset" those that are outdated
- ❖ Farmers are afraid of retaliation by agencies granting permits
- ❖ Regulators, CHP, sheriffs, and city police need to keep updated on the regulations. They need to use common sense and stay educated
- ❖ Have a central clearinghouse for regulations and permits. Help farmers navigate their way through all the regulations and agencies that apply
- ❖ Prevent misinformation given by state and federal agencies at county public forums. The County should maintain a presence at these meetings and provide methods for giving correct information
- ❖ There is a concern that enforcement fines fund agencies. This causes more fines to be imposed
- ❖ Unfunded state mandated regulations are a major burden

Results Table

This Table is the consultant's interpretation of the results. Direct recommendations from the Summit participants and comments from the Planning Committee have been incorporated. Its purpose is to simply organize the information from all the workshops in a consistent fashion.

Results	Options
BREAKING BARRIERS TO AGRICULTURE BUSINESS	
1. Board of Supervisors organize a follow up meeting asking for representatives from existing organizations and other interested parties to discuss a the formation of a marketing and economic development committee or organization.	Convene the first meeting.
2. Board of Supervisors invite stakeholders to form an Agriculture Advisory task force / committee / commission to advise the board	Convene a formation commission (See #24)
3. Create a regional marketing program to build a brand name for Solano and to educate local consumers about local product, and non-local buyers about Solano products	Evaluate the creation of an Agriculture Development Coordinator to oversee a regional marketing program, to develop a brand identity for Solano products, encourage direct marketing to local consumers through Farmers' Markets, CSA, and direct sales to independent retailers and restaurants. Coordinator could staff the "Agriculture Chamber of Commerce", the Agriculture Advisory Board, and create and disseminate publications
4. Encourage processing and other support businesses to locate near agriculture operations	
5. Create incubator program for innovative farms near cities	
6. Create a tax that goes to support and promote local ag	

Results	Options
EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY	
Water	Direct a county department to convene a meeting of all the responsible agencies to coordinate a public education plan about water
Land Use	
7. Agriculture /Urban relations and Interface	Create an information seminar for city and county government for ways to ameliorate rural urban tension.
8. Bike routes on rural roads	Create bike routes that are signed and patrolled. Publish a map with educational information. See result#3
9. Rural Speed Limits	Direct the County Road Dept. to work with AAA and the cities to create creative signage in problem areas See result#3 and 8
10. Right to Farm Ordinance	Require early notice to new buyers of the Right to Farm Ordinance. Create an informational brochure.
Marketing	
11. Alternative Crops	Direct CE to continue to evaluate and promote alternative crops. Work with other local to support development of alternative crops
12. Alternative Markets	See #3
13. Farmers' Markets	These Markets are excellent venues and channels for all educational efforts about agriculture to the public. The Board of Supervisors should encourage them in all ways available. (See <u>Marketing Association Coordinator</u> proposal in #3 above).
14. Demonstration Farm	Direct CE to evaluate the feasibility of creating such a farm, and provide county land and resources to support the venture
General Agriculture Education Issues	
15. Educating the general public about Agriculture	Invite CE and the Solano County Farm Bureau to increase promotion in public media and public events of the role of Agriculture in the County. Direct the <u>Marketing Association Coordinator</u> (if funded) to promote local

Results	Options
16. Agriculture in the Classroom	labeling that increases the general publics identification with local products.
17. Where food comes from	Publicly voice support for this program
	Publicly voice support for education and promotion programs that build public awareness of their connection to local farms
CHALLENGES ON THE AGRICULTURE AND URBAN INTERFACE	
Buffers	
<p>18. Buffers; Who is responsible?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For fire protection For maintenance For cleanup after litter For cleanup of dumping What land uses are OK on buffer zones Good research exists on this topic 	<p>Make buffers the responsibility of the developer or city rather than the farmer. It should be a cost of development, not agriculture.</p>
19. Buffers; Right to farm notice	<p>Periodically remind homeowners of the right to farm ordinance Cities don't have a "right to farm ordinance" so the County must coordinate with the Cities.</p>
20. Buffers; Alternative land use; Land use restrictions on agriculture use should not be imposed on farmers to achieve buffers. (No buffer for a buffer on farmland).	<p>Change zoning to create alternative land uses that serve as buffers or transitional land use zones</p>
21. Buffers; Easements	<p>Establish a conservation easement program in the County to: provide income for farmers, deal with buffers and land that should be protected</p>
22. Buffers; Litter pickup	<p>Make litter removal on buffer zones the responsibility of the County, not the farmer If the County creates the situation where dumping increases on farmer's land, the County should clean up.</p>
Policy to Develop a system for Agricultural Land Protection	
23. County wide coordination to establish "footprints" for agriculture, urban and open space	<p>Launch a coordinated effort of county and cities This reflects the desire for certainty. Need long term planning horizon between</p>

Results	Options
24. Agriculture Advisory Commission / committee / etc.	city and county Form an "Farm Advisory" body for input into the land use at urban edge (See #2)
25. ABAG	be more proactive and aggressive in relation to ABAG land use dictates
26. Dumping	Better enforcement and follow through of existing county and local government dumping regulations
Water Issues supply drainage	
27. Lake Berryessa	28. Continue county policy protecting Berryessa water for Agriculture uses. Continue drainage policies as well.
Mitigation; how we can make it work	
29. Traffic conflicts with agriculture	Work with Solano Transportation Authority to find ways to separate agriculture traffic from other traffic, (and bicycles) where possible
30. Traffic enforcement	Enforce existing regulations and maintain narrow bridges to keep speeds down
31. Bike routes	Divert bike riders to routes with bike lanes in order to protect key agriculture areas
32. Buffers	See <u>Agriculture and Urban</u>
Coordination of the Interface Between Citizens, County and Local Govt.	
33. Communication between Agriculture and Government.	Charge the Agriculture Advisory Commission (if formed) to maintain a web site and or hotline about ongoing and upcoming issues that affect agriculture. (In addition to it's other charges)
34. Garbage dumping on agriculture land	Divert tipping fees to pay for cleanup
35. Imports from out of County	Make a policy statement supporting the purchase of local products by local citizens. (See Regional marketing)
CHANGING AGRICULTURAL REGULATIONS	
Land Use – Use Permits and Zoning	
36. LAFCO	Ensure agriculture interests are present in LAFCO decisions
37. Wind Power	Wind Power should be permitted as an Allowed Use at one per parcel; Conditional if more than one

Results	Options
38. On-site composting	Develop policy permitting on-site composting for farm unit use
39. Use Permits	Permanent use permits should be issued as long as conditions are met
40. Deed restrictions	Develop a policy allowing transfer of residential building sites from one parcel to another equivalent parcel owned by the same person using permanent deed restrictions
41. ABAG housing quotas	Propose a shift of housing allocation from unincorporated areas to cities
42. Biosolids application	Re-evaluate regulations to reflect weather conditions and usage during application season. Use soil incorporation and thorough testing
43. City / County "greenbelt" with spheres of influence	Policy should require that greenbelts be purchased
Air, Water and other Environment	
44. Diesel engine emission controls regulations (Federal (?), ARB)	Ensure that regulations are reasonable. Provide agriculture exemptions
45. Flood control and ditch maintenance	Streamline permit process To protect landowners ability to clean creek Clarify the Public agency responsible. (See <u>Government Agency Regulations and Permits in Agriculture in Appendix</u>)
46. Natural erosion	Farmers should be held harmless for natural sloughing of hillsides causing impacts on downstream users
47. Illegal dumping	Reevaluate policy and regulations Landowner should not be responsible.
Construction and Business Operations	
48. Building Permits for agriculture buildings	Engineered plans for engineered buildings. (Change) Investigate fire sprinkler needs for agriculture buildings (change / eliminate) Minimum square feet triggers a building permit (change or streamline) Plot plan for entire agriculture site triggered by a building permit (eliminate or change to split from permit process) Permit processing should set timeline and

Results	Options
	manage a tighter turnaround (Napa city all staff there the same day-allows an over the counter process) Fees are unclear Simplify fees Why has a travel fee? (reduce) Look at valuation tables. See <u>Government Agency Regulations and Permits in Agriculture in the Appendix</u>
49. Building or development standards	Permits should be more specific to the region (change) Building requirements re earthquake zones and standards (change)
50. Business promotion	Fees for agriculture business should be reduced and process smoothed
51. Non-conforming uses	Change the definition to reflect common sense Be more lenient in permitting Allow uses to grow and evolve Create an agriculture service zone
52. Roadside stands	Change to reflect agriculture business needs
53. Off site processing	Change to be more supportive of cooperative efforts. Refine codes to reduce the use of use permits through performance standards
54. Transfer development rights	Create a system that allows the transfer of development rights from one parcel to another if both are commonly owned. Allows for more dwellings on the farm headquarters, while placing a deed restriction on the other parcel
55. Land with agriculture conservation easements	Need to have more tax breaks or reductions. Make more funds available for the purchase of agriculture easements
56. Super Williamson Act;	Revisit Super Williamson Act; should it be implemented?
Hazardous Materiel / Pesticide	
57. Slough turbidity (water agency) especially at dead end sloughs	Define who is responsible for cleanup CA water agency should be responsible vs. the landowner Rules should not be enforced for acts of god
58. Garbage on County property	Divert Tipping fees to Public works, Dept.

Results	Options
	<p>of Transportation, or Environmental Management</p> <p>Solution – use money from tipping fees to pay the Transportation Dept. to pick up garbage using inmates. Including big items like refrigerators and hot water heaters.</p> <p>The local law enforcement takes too much time</p> <p>Landfills should reduce charges for pickup loads on weekends to \$3 vs\$20. E.G. the County subsidizes dumps to reduce illegal dumping on agriculture land.</p> <p>Landfills should provide a recycling area for reusable items</p> <p>Provide special free days when appliances can be left at landfills for free</p>
59. Live animal dumping at farms	<p>Educate the urban population about spay and neuter programs</p> <p>County should provide facilities for leaving them (shelter)</p> <p>More localized facilities</p> <p>Education about the effect of releasing pets in the country</p>
60. Regulatory updating re fertilizer and fuel hauling	<p>CHP should provide updates on new laws</p> <p>Use a data base of permittees and send out information</p> <p>Instead of citations for violations of new rules, there should be a “There has been a change....” Notice.</p> <p>Enforcement agencies should do free compliance inspections</p>
61. Problem- Hazmat dumping is property owners responsibility	<p>Property owner should not be responsible</p> <p>Law enforcement is responsible</p> <p>County should take a “superfund” approach to pay for cleanup</p> <p>Provide more education about hazmat dumping</p> <p>Provide local and affordable dumping facilities for hazmat</p> <p>Hazmat disclosure should be a farmer reporting system not a business plan.</p> <p>Compliance prevents additional regulations</p>

Results	Options
Underlying Issues that did not fit into the four categories	
62.	Re-examine policies and "sunset" those that are outdated
63.	There is a concern that enforcement fines fund Agencies. This causes more fines to be imposed
64.	Create a "one stop permit shop" Have a central clearinghouse for regulations and permits. Help farmers navigate their way through all the regulations and agencies that apply

APPENDIX

Summit on Agriculture Town Hall Meetings transcript of comments

October 8 1999

Note: the first six pages of this section are a summary of the comments made during the Town Hall Meetings. The complete record of those meetings follows.

I. Rio Vista

A. Education

B. Right to farm

1. Farming on the fringe

C. Regulations

1. Regulators appear to be against agriculture rather than allies
2. Use permit process

D. Transportation

1. Farmers need good roads to move equipment
2. Bike riders obstruct traffic
3. Urban growth is cutting off farmer access
4. Towns are restricting agriculture drainage
5. Development impacts transport

E. Marketing and profitability

1. Consolidation of Packing industry
 - a) Profit margin is squeezed
 - b) GATT and NAFTA reduces margins
2. Regional Marketing
 - a) County should help create a regional marketing program including Farm Trails map like Apple Hill
 - b) Tour through agricultural areas in Solano County.
3. New Specialty crops
 - a) CE should help find non commodity alternatives
4. On sight processing
 - a) Is hindered by regulations by too many agencies.
5. Regulators appear to be hostile to agriculture business

F. Zoning

1. General plan is not followed by the board in all cases
2. Bring zoning Map up to speed with the general plan

G. Conservation easements and mitigation

1. Williamson Act

H. CALFED

1. Protecting agriculture land is not enough, we must think about markets, water, and profitability

I. Other

1. Summit is about city as well as county land
2. Loss of agriculture land changes cities too
3. 2010 is not a long term vision
4. Protecting agriculture land is not enough, we must think about markets, water, and profitability

II. Dixon

A. Education

1. Agricultural education
 - a) Curriculum
 - b) Education should continue into college
 - c) Rural urban interface field days
2. Pesticides

B. Farming on Fringe

1. Right to farm
 - a) Quality of life
 - b) Agriculture Grievance Committee
 - c) Problems occur on the interface
 - d) Communication and liaison
2. Farmers on land within city limits need assessment relief or deferments
3. Buffers and Greenbelts
 - a) Poor communication between city and county
 - b) Buffers
 - c) Compensation
 - d) Planning for growth

C. Regulations

1. City and county regulations
2. Regulators of agriculture know nothing about farming
3. Legitimate agriculture operations seen as illegal by cities and counties
4. Agriculture industry services need to be permitted in agriculture areas
5. County regulations about sloppy, trashy farm buildings should be enforced

D. Transportation

1. Connections
2. Widen roads
3. Dust control on roads
4. Illegal dumping
5. Prop A
6. Drainage is poor on rural roads in winter
7. Bike paths and trails.

E. Marketing and profitability

1. Banking institutions
2. Competition from imported crops

F. Zoning

1. Use permit process,
2. Facilities permits and regulations as relates to LAFCO decisions and determinations with respect to development issues.
3. Prime agriculture land needs to be protected (class 1, 2 and 3 soils)
4. Ancient subdivisions
5. Drainage and trash
6. Gentleman farmers

G. Conservation easements and mitigation

H. CalFed

1. Summit should look at CALFED impact on land and water

I. Other

III. Vacaville

A. Education

1. Support Cooperative Extension
2. Teach the community the dollar value of agriculture
3. Agriculture land needs permanent protection
4. Three components of agriculture land protection are: permanent protection, open space, and right to farm.
5. Water
 - a) Public awareness of finite water supply at Berryessa
 - b) SID needs to be protected
 - c) Public needs to know how the water is used
 - d) Agriculture and urban areas are dependant on canal maintenance
 - e) Agriculture needs drainage within 24 to 48 hours
6. Agriculture pays more taxes than it costs
7. Agriculture industry may create a net decrease in pollution
8. Farmers are environmentalist who also need to stay in business
9. Land use issues are being decided without farmers having a vote

B. Farming on the fringe

1. Right to farm
 - a) Ordinance needs clarification
 - b) Too many complaints on the rural urban interface
 - c) Farmers are environmentalists
 - d) Politicians should not bow down to urban complaints
 - e) D/A office and Sheriff office not responsive to farmer
 - e) Complaints

C. Regulation

1. Use permits
 - a) Staff should help applicants maneuver through the permit process
 - b) Permit agriculture support and processing facilities
 - c) Some regulations are unreasonable for agriculture
2. Change the fine structure for littering and dumping

D. Transportation

1. Farmers should asses a vista tax for bike trails and urban vistas
2. Drainage is poor on rural roads in winter

E. Marketing and profitability

1. Value added options
2. Permit agriculture support and processing facilities
3. Property tax should be structured to make farming more viable
4. County should promote Solano County agriculture products

F. Zoning

1. The zoning map needs to be brought into conformance with the General Plan
 - a) Ancient subdivision maps
2. Look at Napa County merger policy
3. Adopt permanent urban limit lines
4. Zoning is the key to preservation
5. Regulations should be tightened and enforced to permanently protect farm land
6. LAFCO needs to be reorganized.
7. There are two kinds of farm land: very threatened and lightly threatened

G. Conservation easements and mitigation

1. Some land owners don't want permanent protection
2. In Napa Valley land owners get tax write off for not developing
3. Solano County Farmland and Open Space Foundation needs to purchase conservation easements

4. County needs to help find conservation easement opportunities
5. Adopt the Super Williamson Act
6. Permanent areas need to be identified for agriculture land. Buffers and open spaces are needed but they must be paid for.

H. CalFed

I. Other

1. Solano County has unique needs
2. Suisun Valley land is threatened
3. Hard to get SID service, not eligible. SID is not really addressing farm needs.
4. Measure I is a big lie
5. Agriculture uses reduce carbon dioxide
6. Reorganize LAFCO
7. Agriculture should get incentives to raise crops that tie up carbon
8. Growth of executive housing in N. Vacaville should be stopped.

IV. *Fairfield*

A. Education

B. Farming on Fringe

1. Spraying complaints
2. Vandalism
3. Trespass is big problem for ranchers
4. Dust and noise came first
5. Suisun Valley is surrounded by houses and buffer zones
6. Next generation may not farm
7. Sulfur fumes

C. Regulations

1. Right to farm Ordinance is watered down
2. Bio solids can't be applied after Oct. 15
3. Permits should be issued for on sight composting

D. Transportation

1. Increased rural traffic from Solano College
2. Four lane road upgrade on Rockland was defeated for the sake of agriculture interests
3. Excessive speed on Suisun Valley Road North.
4. Slower speed limits on rural roads
5. Bike trails are needed
6. Removal of vegetation from creeks will allow fast drainage of farm fields
7. Reliever routes are an intrusion on farmland to move city residents

E. Marketing and profitability

1. County should permit fruit stands and on and off site sales for cattle and vegetables
2. County should support the production of a harvest trail map.
3. Pick your own
4. Need to develop promotion plan for cattle industry

F. Zoning

1. Large operator has different issues than small farmer or rancher on the urban fringe
2. Update zoning maps
3. Multi parcel owners should be able to consolidate housing at headquarters
4. Farm land values are critical
5. New criteria should be set for economically viable parcel sizes of farms
6. A commission of farmers and other experts can be formed to assess the agriculture value of a given piece of land. (Moratorio)
7. Go back to 2.5 – 5 – 10 – 20 acre zoning plan

8. LAFCO should act to protect agriculture land
9. Urban encroachment on Suisun Valley
10. Orderly growth initiative

G. Conservation easements and mitigation

1. Habitat conservation plan devalues property
2. Property rights

H. CalFed

1. Is using up much of Eastern county
2. County lacks political power to counter CALFED

I. Water

1. Water reservoirs
2. SID should play a greater role in encouraging county to bank water
3. Water is heading south.
4. Lack of planning for water needs as County grows
5. There is a lack of understanding about where water comes from and goes to; for whom; and the roles SID, county, N. Bay aqueduct etc. play.

J. Other

1. Measure I
2. Farmers have no voice

V. Benicia

A. Education

1. Non farmers about what farmers do to use water efficiently
2. Coordinate to develop
3. Agriculture education materials in schools
4. Teach value of property taxes contributed by agriculture
5. Study economic impact of annexations by cities and of Prop A
6. People in urban areas don't appreciate the value and benefits of agriculture
7. Create collaborations with schools and the Solano Community College
8. Network with 'Farm Bureau and schools – provide incentives with educational units
9. Get teenagers involved in farming activities
10. - Encourage expansion of 4H to urban areas
11. -Teach about cultural diversity in agriculture
12. - Define what the agriculture community is made up of

B. Farming on Fringe

1. Put the buffer on the city side, not the farmer on the fringe
2. Vandalism is a problem on farms
3. Dogs kill stock
4. Trespass is particularly bad for cattle ranchers

C. Regulations

1. Wind power is a compatible use of agriculture property
2. Permitting process is too complex
3. Allow agriculture support business into unincorporated areas

D. Transportation

1. Lengthy response time for sheriff service
2. Road conditions are poor

E. Marketing and profitability

1. Create events to promote agriculture like tours, Farmers' Markets, school field trips, harvest festival, tours, etc.
2. Encourage value-added farming. Make it legal and easier
3. Recognize the different needs of large and small farmers and ranchers.

4. Create a regional marketing program for Solano County products
5. Promote farm tours
6. Place special signage to get people out to farms in Suisun
7. Promote linkages with biotech at UC Davis to provide opportunities to agriculture in Solano

F. Zoning

1. Cities tell farmers what to do.
2. Update the county plan to designate agriculture as an industry that needs protection; not as open space waiting for development.
3. Review classification criteria for prime agriculture land

G. Conservation easements and mitigation

1. Put BOS feet to fire to preserve agriculture land and open space
2. Conservation easements and urban growth boundaries are the solution. They take away the speculative value of land.
3. Cities should assess developers a special assessment on new homes for preservation of agriculture (Like in Fairfield)
4. Provision to maintain open space need to be included in acquisition plans
5. Educate realtors, bankers, planners, and supervisors about conservation easements

H. Water

1. Dual focus: on flood control and retention for agriculture uses
2. Educate non farmers about what farmers do to use water efficiently
3. Build water retention areas

I. CalFed

J. Other

1. Introduce legislation that changes the distribution of tax dollars

Compiled Notes

I. Rio Vista

Twenty eight attendees

A. Education

This was discussed in the context of a regional marketing program

B. Right to farm

1. Farming on the fringe

Little discussion perhaps because Rio Vista is only urban development in region. Not a big concern for these farmers

Farmers need rights strengthened and a better understanding of what they are

C. Regulations

1. Regulators appear to be against agriculture rather than allies
2. Use permit process

Off site / on sight nit picking is unfriendly to business

D. Transportation

1. Farmers need good roads to move equipment
2. Bike riders obstruct traffic
3. Urban growth is cutting off farmer access
4. Towns are restricting agriculture drainage
5. Development impacts transport

Ability of agriculture to commodities

E. Marketing and profitability

1. Consolidation of Packing industry
 - a) Profit margin is squeezed
 - b) GATT and NAFTA reduces margins
2. Regional Marketing
 - a) County should help create a regional marketing program including Farm Trails map like apple hill
 - b) Tour through agricultural areas in Solano County.
3. New Specialty crops
 - a) UC Cooperative Extension should help find non commodity alternatives
4. On sight processing
 - a) Is hindered by regulations by too many agencies.
5. Regulators appear to be hostile to agriculture business

F. Zoning

1. General plan is not followed by the board in all cases
(Sikh temple)
2. Bring zoning Map up to speed with the general plan

G. Conservation easements and mitigation

1. Williamson Act
Should be aggressively used by the county. Board should revisit Super Williamson act

H. CALFED

CALFED is hard to understand and to deal with. It is a water grab. Farmers need help from county to understand it and to watch the process.

CALFED needs to mitigate for land going out of production

Wetland proposed near farms will make farming harder and threatens the levee system.

1. Protecting agriculture land is not enough, we must think about markets, water, and profitability

Highest level of priority -

Al Medvitz suggests SEDCORP be involved in process because this is not only a land use issue.

Suggests a detailed study be done with regards to land market, water and the ability to make a profit from land. Expresses concern and opposed to CALFED and recommends the Board of Supervisors closely supervises CALFED. City of Rio Vista needs put on notice as well as to damage from CALFED.

Solution – CALFED needs to be watched by farmers

Provide information regarding CALFED to County & State and agricultural community and farmers and or groups to organize against group.

Close monitoring of CALFED by BOS and /or specific groups

I. Other

1. Summit is about city as well as county land
2. Loss of agriculture land changes cities too
3. 2010 is not a long term vision
4. Protecting agriculture land is not enough, we must think about markets, water, and profitability

II. Dixon

Thirty nine attendees

A. Education

1. agricultural education

There is a need for agricultural education. Perhaps going to schools, utilizing parent teacher associations, and field trips to help educate city students and encourage the next generation to promote and preserve agriculture. Other suggestions could be a summer agricultural institute and utilize the resources of Conservation Districts.

a) curriculum

Teachers need help building a curriculum that integrates with the rest of their classroom programs

b) Education should continue into college

c) Rural urban interface field days

2. pesticides

Education is needed to address uses of pesticides and dusting as relates to the agricultural community when farming is done on the fringe of urban population as city people do not understand or accept the pesticides and complain when spraying is done.

Cooperative Extension needs support to transfer information about biological pesticides and GEO's and

other biotechnology

B. Farming on Fringe

1. Right to farm

a) quality of life

How much responsibility does agriculture bear for quality of life issues for the city? What if there are conflicts?

b) Agriculture Grievance Committee

Susan Cohen responded that there was an Agriculture Grievance Committee and their position is to resolve disputes before they go before litigation.

c) Problems occur on the interface

d) Communication and liaison

Conflicts between operational needs of farm vs. city regulations

2. Farmers on land within city limits need assessment relief or deferments

3. Buffers and Greenbelts

a) Poor communication between city and county

Between the agriculture community and cities which continue to expand beyond limits. Affects land values

b) buffers

Buffers are usually on farmer's side of the border not the cities

c) compensation

Farmers to be compensated for losses of production / farmers compensated when land is taken away. Cities need for open space is met by Zoning overlays without compensation to farmers. Violates property rights

d) Planning for growth

Cities don't take into account effects of planning decisions on farmers
County should support city efforts to preserve agriculture / open space/ habitat.

C. Regulations

1. city and county regulations

Weed abatement, storage of seasonal farming equipment.

Several inquired they would like to see seasonal permits for the agriculture community in the form of license tags for farming equipment.

2. Regulators of agriculture know nothing about farming

There is an us vs. them mentality. Regulators should be facilitators

Regulators need education about farming and more open communication with farmers.

3. Legitimate agriculture operations seen as illegal by cities and counties
4. Agriculture industry services need to be permitted in agriculture areas
5. County regulations about sloppy, trashy farm buildings should be enforced

D. Transportation

1. connections

Access to certain agriculture areas of Yolo and Solano counties are being restricted because of urban expansion

2. widen roads
3. dust control on roads

Needed to control mites

4. Illegal dumping

And the county does not help with cleanup
County should look at a recycle rebate for returning old tires

5. Prop A
6. drainage is poor on rural roads in winter
7. Bike paths and trails.

Transportation, chip and seal, potholes and road connections and access were addressed. Several row crop growers expressed that roads were not wide enough for equipment and traffic, and felt that Prop A creates more problems. Agriculture community would like to be neighbor's and have good relations and communication with the cities and feels relations could be better if the Transportation Department was more involved and road improvements done in a timely fashion. Roads south of I-80 area are of concern. Drainage problem is a major issue as are bike paths and trails. Farmers feel Transportation Department is bias on these issues.

E. Marketing and profitability

1. banking institutions

Access to capital and markets are damaged by US political positions

2. competition from imported crops

F. Zoning

1. Use permit process,
2. Facilities permits and regulations as relates to LAFCO decisions and determinations with respect to development issues.
3. Prime agriculture land needs to be protected (class1, 2 and 3 soils)

But soil quality is only one element of farm economics. Parcel size needs to be taken into consideration

as well.

4. Ancient subdivisions

Become non-agriculture. Counties need to seek legal assistance to prevent this

5. Drainage and trash

from town end up on farms while farmers are under pressure to make it look pretty.

6. Gentleman farmers

Cause loss of productive agriculture land

G. Conservation easements and mitigation

Landowners need compensation as cities continue to grow out and absorb agriculture land.

H. CalFed

Skip Thompson specifically requested that CalFed not be dwelt on, therefore there was little discussion. However at least one evaluation form said that was a big mistake, and that CalFed was key.

1. Summit should look at CALFED impact on land and water

I. Other

III. Vacaville

A. Education

1. Support Cooperative Extension
2. Teach the community the dollar value of agriculture
3. agriculture land needs permanent protection
4. Three components of agriculture land protection are; permanent protection, open space, and right to farm.
5. Water
 - a) **Public awareness of finite water supply at Berryessa**
 - b) **SID needs to be protected**
 - c) **Public needs to know how the water is used**
 - d) **Agriculture and urban areas are dependant on canal maintenance**
 - e) **Agriculture needs drainage within 24 to 48 hours**
6. Agriculture pays more taxes than it costs
7. Agriculture industry may create a net decrease in pollution
8. Farmers are environmentalist who also need to stay in business
9. Land use issues are being decided without farmers having a vote

B. Farming on the fringe

1. Right to farm
 - a) **Ordinance needs clarification**

Farmers and urban people need more education about what the right to farm means

- b) **Too many complaints on the rural urban Interface**

Put R to F ordinance on paperwork before the sale of property

- c) **Farmers are environmentalists**
- d) **Politicians should not bow down to urban complaints**
- e) **D/A office and Sheriff office not responsive to farmer complaints**

C. Regulation

1. Use permits

Farmers need to have other options or value added enterprises to assure economic viability. One new farmer with property on Pleasant Valley Rd. wants to offer corporate picnics or horseback riding as an occasional barbecue or party as an option on her land. She is also growing grapes. Fruit stands and other businesses should be able to get permits. The Nut Tree could not be built under today's regulations.

- a) **Staff should help applicants maneuver through the permit process**

- b) **Permit agriculture support and processing facilities**

Regulations should be changed to allow packinghouses, processing facilities, fruit stands, and other agriculture support business to build

- c) **Some regulations are unreasonable for agriculture**

A new barn building in Dixon was required to install sprinklers that doubled the cost

2. Change the fine structure for littering and dumping

Putah creek is turning into a dump,

D. Transportation

- 1. Farmers should asses a vista tax for bike trails and urban vistas
- 2. Drainage is poor on rural roads in winter

E. Marketing and profitability

1. Value added options

Farmers need to have other options or value added enterprises to assure economic viability. One new farmer wants to offer corporate picnics or horseback riding as an occasional option on her land. Fruit stands and other businesses should be able to get permits. The Nut Tree could not be built under today's regulations.

2. Permit agriculture support and processing facilities

Regulations should be changed to allow packinghouses, processing facilities, fruit stands, and other agriculture support business to build

3. Property tax should be structured to make farming more viable
4. County should promote Solano County agriculture products

F. Zoning

1. The zoning map needs to be brought into conformance with the General Plan

a) Ancient subdivision maps

Near Stevenson Bridge, Putah Creek, and along A-80

2. Look at Napa County merger policy

David Nievel

3. Adopt permanent urban limit lines

Force cities to go up not out

4. Zoning is the key to preservation

as long as the General plan is adhered to. Zoning needs to be more clearly delineated, and then regulators should stick to it.

5. Regulations should be tightened and enforced to permanently protect farm land

6. LAFCO needs to be reorganized.

Cities control LAFCO votes.

7. There are two kinds of farm land; very threatened and lightly threatened

Suisun Valley is very threatened and needs different treatment and protections than land further out. The speaker was a grape farmer in Suisun Valley who wants SID to serve his property.

G. Conservation easements and mitigation

1. Some land owners don't want permanent protection

2. In Napa Valley land owners get tax write off for not developing

Growers and vintners in Napa are also developers

3. Solano County Farmland and Open Space Foundation needs to purchase conservation easements
4. County needs to help find conservation easement opportunities
5. Adopt the Super Williamson Act
6. Permanent areas need to be identified for agriculture land. Buffers and open spaces are needed but they must be paid for.

H. CalFed

I. Other

1. Solano County has unique needs

Other counties and regions don't have the same needs. Don't rely exclusively on high priced consultants

2. Suisun Valley land is threatened
3. Hard to get SID service, not eligible. SID is not really addressing farm needs.
4. Measure I is a big lie
5. Agriculture uses reduce carbon dioxide
6. Reorganize LAFCO

The cities control LAFCO and the cities benefit

7. Agriculture should get incentives to raise crops that tie up carbon
8. Growth of executive housing in N. Vacaville should be stopped.

IV. Fairfield

27 attendees

A. Education

Public needs awareness of agriculture economy

Other issues of which people from the city do not understand but which are of major importance to farmers are spraying pesticides, dust, fertilizers and aerial spraying.

B. Farming on Fringe

Farmers / ranchers and people who choose to live in the unincorporated areas of the County are two different types of people and both need to respect each others rights.

1. Spraying complaints
2. Vandalism

Against spray equipment

3. Trespass is big problem for ranchers

4. Dust and noise came first

Yet homes are given higher priority than farms that were there first

5. Suisun Valley is surrounded by houses and buffer zones

Making it very hard to farm profitably

6. Next generation may not farm

If urban development continues as it has in Suisun or if Measure I passes

7. Sulfur fumes

Resident's complaints about fumes force farmers to create big buffer zones

C. Regulations

1. Right to farm Ordinance is watered down

To satisfy real estate interests

Susan Cohen discussed the "Right to Farm Ordinance". A suggestion was made to strengthen the "Right to Farm Ordinance", as the one on the books was weak.

"Right to Farm" has too many restrictions and regulations, and with city annexations of agricultural land more regulations are imposed on them as well as the increase of taxes.

2. Bio solids can't be applied after Oct. 15

A bio solids company representative complained that they could not place material on farmland after Oct. 15 because of leaching. Yet the material is useful for farmers and when spread and mixed leaches less than if it were thrown into a dump. Wants an extension of the date.

3. Permits should be issued for on sight composting

D. Transportation

1. Increased rural traffic from Solano College

On Rockville road

2. Four lane road upgrade on Rockland was defeated for the sake of agriculture interests

Traffic on Rockville Road, especially on Fridays and weekends and the difficulty they have when backing out of their driveways. Much traffic take the back way to Lake Berryessa, as well as problems with bicycles, motorcycles, narrow bridges and road rage. Mangles Road appears to be a problem as well. Sheriff's Office and Highway Patrol do patrols but roads need much improvement and patrols beefed up. Measure I will make the problem worse

3. Excessive speed on Suisun Valley Rd. N.
4. Slower speed limits on rural roads
5. Bike trails are needed
6. Removal of vegetation from creeks will allow fast drainage of farm fields
7. Reliever routes are an intrusion on farmland to move city residents

E. Marketing and profitability

1. County should permit fruit stands and on and off site sales for cattle and vegetables
2. County should support the production of a harvest trail map.

And assist farmers with a grant or in getting a grant for the map and signs A Harvest Trail was organized several years ago, but funding for such fell on the farmers, and there was not enough support from the Community at large. It could be possible to receive grants and etc. through the UC Extension and Agricultural Office.

3. Pick your own

is profitable but the public damages the farm. One participant indicated many years ago they had "Pick – U- Own", - It was well accepted but they began to have problems when people would leave their litter around house and parking area and some would wander around property and then they became a nuisance.

4. Need to develop promotion plan for cattle industry

F. Zoning

1. Large operator has different issues than small farmer or rancher on the urban fringe
2. Update zoning maps

Zoning maps need to be updated as well as the Zoning Regulations and these need to conform to the General Plan

3. Multi parcel owners should be able to consolidate housing at headquarters

A farm family with many parcels could build on every one, but can't build housing for family members at the home place. Suggestion was for farmer to trade of the rights to build homes on some parcels in exchange for permission to build more homes on the headquarters parcel.

4. Farm land values are critical

To getting funding to continue to farm. Farmers need land use options

5. New criteria should be set for economically viable parcel sizes of farms

County should look at the economic viability with respect to soils classification and parcel sizes and uses of land, water, slope and grade – not just soil classification.

6. A commission of farmers and other experts can be formed to assess the agriculture value of a given piece of land. (Moratorio)

7. Go back to 2.5 – 5 – 10 – 20 acre zoning plan

In the past zoning plan was a target with plot size increasing with distance from urban area. The effect is to block large scale developments on urban fringe by forcing developers to buy out many owners if they want to build a large multi home project. We should return to that simple system.

Parcel size should be reduced under orderly growth plans. Smaller parcels, more houses

8. LAFCO should act to protect agriculture land

But they have not done so because agriculture interests don't have the vote on LAFCO

9. Urban encroachment on Suisun Valley

Concerns with regards to Measure I and encroaching development upon the Suisun Valley, and it was hoped that Suisun Valley remains as is.

10. Orderly growth initiative

Density restructure look at density transfers and trade off. Deed restructures are another area that can allow clusters of structures —re ranch headquarter structures

G. Conservation easements and mitigation

1. Habitat conservation plan devalues property

2. Property rights

Land owners should be compensated when their parcel values are taken away by zoning regulations

H. CalFed

1. Is using up much of Eastern county

2. County lacks political power to counter CALFED

I. Water

1. Water reservoirs

Water reservoirs for future use to not only be used by ranchers, and the agricultural community but cities as well because the impact of CALFED issues could be detrimental to the community and generations to come.

2. SID should play a greater role in encouraging county to bank water

3. Water is heading south,

causing concerns to farmers about brackish water and water loss in general

4. Lack of planning for water needs as County grows

5. There is a lack of understanding about where water comes from and goes to; for whom; and the roles SID, county, N. Bay aqueduct etc. play.

J. Other

1. Measure I

If passed will doom agriculture in Rockville area

2. Farmers have no voice

There are very few farmers and will always lose a vote with city people. More legislation is needed to allow farmers to farm and sell property to other potential farmers

V. Benicia

A. Education

1. Non farmers about what farmers do to use water efficiently

2. Coordinate to develop

3. Agriculture education materials in schools

To include agriculture impacts as well as an urban focus

4. Teach value of property taxes contributed by agriculture

To local, and state govt.

5. Study economic impact of annexations by cities and of Prop A

6. People in urban areas don't appreciate the value and benefits of agriculture

7. Create collaborations with schools and the JC

Look at local interest in urban gardening, food prep, and healthy eating habits as source of energy for education about farming

8. Network with Farm Bureau and schools – provide incentives with educational units

9. Get teenagers involved in farming activities

10. Encourage expansion of 4H to urban areas

11. Teach about cultural diversity in agriculture

Show the value of the hard work of farm workers and their impact on the community

12. Define what the agriculture community is made up of

B. Farming on Fringe

1. Put the buffer on the city side, not the farmer on the fringe
2. Vandalism is a problem on farms
3. Dogs kill stock
4. Trespass is particularly bad for cattle ranchers

C. Regulations

1. Wind power is a compatible use of agriculture property
What other dual uses would support agriculture / environmental / open space

2. Permitting process is too complex
3. Allow agriculture support business into unincorporated areas

D. Transportation

1. Lengthy response time for sheriff service
2. Road conditions are poor

E. Marketing and profitability

1. Create events to promote agriculture like tours, Farmers' Markets, school field trips, harvest festival, tours, etc.
2. Encourage value-added farming. Make it legal and easier
3. Recognize the different needs of large and small farmers and ranchers.

Separate programs are needed for each group from the county

4. Create a regional marketing program for Solano County products
That focuses on selling internally first then, regional markets, but also promotes product globally (see #3)

5. Promote farm tours
Self education for non – farmers

6. Place special signage to get people out to farms in Suisun
7. Promote linkages with biotech at UC Davis to provide opportunities to agriculture in Solano

F. Zoning

1. Cities tell farmers what to do.
2. Update the county plan to designate agriculture as an industry that needs protection; not as open space waiting for development.

Create policies that protect the agriculture usage

3. Review classification criteria for prime agriculture land

Use more criteria e.g. soil conditions, water, size, economic viability, etc.

G. Conservation easements and mitigation

1. Put BOS feet to fire to preserve agriculture land and open space

People need to get support from city elected officials too!

2. Conservation easements and urban growth boundaries are the solution. They take away the speculative value of land.

3. Cities should assess developers a special assessment on new homes for preservation of agriculture (Like in Fairfield)

4. Provision to maintain open space need to be included in acquisition plans

5. Educate realtors, bankers, planners, and supervisors about conservation easements

Using seminars and workshops

H. Water

1. Dual focus: on flood control and retention for agriculture uses
2. Educate non farmers about what farmers do to use water efficiently
3. Build water retention areas

I. CalFed

J. Other

1. Introduce legislation that changes the distribution of tax dollars

To address the unique rural urban mix in Solano County

Improve county support of Farm Bureau

Survey Results

The survey serves as an empirical measure of how important the issues are to agriculture community. At the request of Supervisor Skip Thomson, Larry Clement of UC Cooperative Extension included his analysis of the results of the survey. Also included here is an evaluation of the economic importance of agriculture to Solano County.

Solano County Ag Summit - 2000 Grower Demographics

1. **What percentage of your income is derived from agriculture?**

100%	49.40%
75-100%	11.45%
50-75%	8.43%
25-50%	7.83%
<25%	22.89%

Over 60% of the respondents received greater than 75% of their income from agricultural production.

2. **Are you actively engaged in farming?**

Yes	90.96%
No	9.04%

The vast majority of survey respondents are actively engaged in farming.

3. **What percentage of your land is:**

	Owned (75.90%)
100%	53.61%
75-100%	7.23%
50-75%	3.61%
25-50%	5.42%
<25%	6.02%

Leased (24.10%)
4.82%
6.02%
4.82%
4.82%
3.61%

Over 75% of the respondents operate on owned land. Many respondents stated that they lease a portion of their total farming operations.

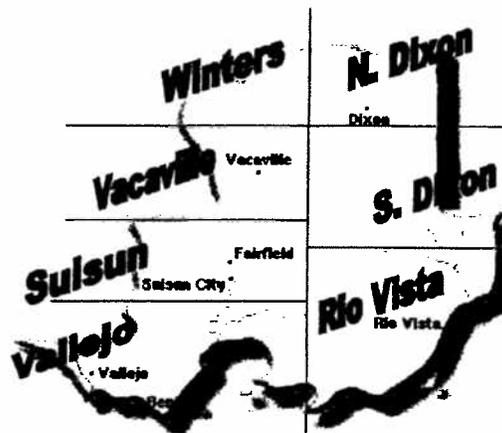
4. **What categories of crops do you grow?**

	<u>% of Respondents</u>
Field Crops	21.09%
Vegetable Crops	10.18%
Fruit Crops	16.73%
Nut Crops	22.18%
Grapes	10.55%
Livestock & Pasture	14.18%
Specialty Crops	2.91%
Nursery	1.09%
Waterfowl	0.36%
Bees	0.36%
Meat Processing	0.36%

The distribution of crops grown by survey respondents is consistent with data from the Solano County Crop Report from the Department of Agriculture and with data represented in the 1997 USDA Census of Agriculture. The major crops grown in the county were well represented.

5. **In which region your farmland is located?**

	<u>% of Respondents</u>
Winters	19.60%
Vacaville	13.60%
Suisun	20.40%
Vallejo	2.00%
N. Dixon	17.60%
S. Dixon	6.00%
Rio Vista	11.20%
Yolo	4.80%
Sacramento	4.40%
Napa	0.40%
Colusa	0.40%



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Analysis of Solano County Summit on Agriculture Grower Survey

**Lawrence Clement, Director
UCCE Solano County**

Introduction;

In November 1999 a survey was sent to identified agricultural clientele in Solano County. The mailing list was provided by the UC Cooperative Extension department and modified with updates from the Agricultural Commissioner's office and the Solano County Farm Bureau. Included in the survey were growers, agriculture industry representatives and individuals from the Town Hall Meetings. A total of 569 surveys were sent; 47 were returned as insufficient address or returned unanswered by the recipient. 149 were returned answered for a 28.54% return rate.

The questions asked on the survey were extracted from discussions at the Town Hall Meetings held in September and October 1999. The questions were discussed and amended through input by the Summit on Agriculture Planning Committee. 28 questions were asked in 6 categories of the respondents. In addition, a simple demographic survey was taken to determine the scope of their interests in farming, their level of farming in the County, commodities produced and the geographic region of the County in which they predominately farm.

Demographic Responses

The purpose of soliciting demographic information from respondents was to determine their level of activity in agriculture, the relative income derived from agricultural production, whether they were landowners or leasee', what commodities they produced and their general distribution within Solano County.

The results indicate that almost 60% of the respondents derived 75% or more of their income from active agricultural production. This is consistent with data from the USDA 1996 Census of Agriculture. A strong majority, 89.8% were actively engaged in farming. Of the remaining 10.2%, most stated they were retired yet still deriving a significant portion of their income from leasing farm lands they owned.

The distribution of commodities grown is consistent with the known distribution of crops grown in the County. Field crop and nut crop producers were the highest respondents, 45% followed by grape in fruit growers, 28% and livestock and vegetable crops at 21%. The remainder produced a variety of commodities ranging from nursery stock to bees, to waterfowl, to meat processing.

With respect to geographic location, farmers from the Suisun Valley had the highest return rate. This was followed closely by Winters and North Dixon. All areas of the

County were represented equitably based on population densities. Several responses were received from growers farming in the neighboring counties of Sacramento, Yolo and Colusa. Their responses revealed some consistency with Solano respondents.

Issues Related to Education

Education about agricultural issues was a specific concern of not only the Town Hall Meeting participants but also of the survey respondents. There was strong agreement that the lack of general public education about agriculture issues is a problem. There was strong agreement that the County should support efforts to increase public awareness about agriculture related issues. The respondents felt there was a need to do something about increasing and emphasizing the agriculture curriculum in public schools, but no indication about how it should be done. There may be a general lack of understanding of who controls the curriculum in public schools; however there is a positive feeling that something should be done in about it. There was no strong agreement that farmers are in favor of environmental protection legislation. From a regulation perspective the response could have been significantly different. Studies have shown that farmers are generally in favor of protecting the environment, but most resulting regulations tend to hamper traditional production practices. Therefore, farmers tend to not support environmental issues and are perceived by the public as anti-environment. This particular issue is loaded with options and alternatives and is a subject for further study and evaluation.

Regionally, public education on agricultural issues is important to all areas. There was strong agreement that that the public needs to know about the problems facing farmers. There was no agreement concerning agriculture curriculum enhancement in public schools. Winters, Vallejo, Dixon and Rio Vista tended to agree with the statement while Suisun and Vacaville were less enthusiastic. This could be due to local positive relationships with current Vo-Ag programs in the high schools. Winters and Vallejo seem to be more concerned with the environmental identity of farmers while Vacaville, Suisun and Rio Vista were indifferent. Only the Dixon area had a strong negative response to this question.

Issues Related to Farmers Rights

Overall, most respondents do not feel protected or favored by existing farmers rights laws. The perception is that there is a general lack of understanding and awareness of the current Right to Farm Ordinance and those that are aware feel it is not strong enough to be important to them. There also was a lack of understand of zoning ordinances and related protections. Urban encroachment is definitely a "hot button" item for farmers. Even those who do not live near urban areas responded negatively when asked about urban limit lines. There was; strong agreement among respondents that developers should pay the full bills for their activities and not rely on the farmers to provide amenities for development.

Not surprising was the response to their feelings about local governments paying attention to their concerns. This question alone received the most negative responses. Stated generally, the question did not identify a specific local government, so it could be said that the respondents were speaking of county, city and perhaps state government as well.

Regionally, farmers from Winters and Suisun seem to have stronger opinions about the Right to Farm ordinance than farmers from other areas. This is perhaps because they are more impacted by urban encroachment than in other areas. Suisun and Dixon, in particular, feel that urban encroachment infringes on their right to farm. All regions, except Dixon, felt the Right to Farm ordinance protected urban residents more than themselves.

Issues Related to Regulations

Responses to regulations were consistent with popular expressed feelings of farms. They feel over-regulated and in many cases singled out for excessive regulations. The vast majority of respondents felt that most regulations imposed by the County were unreasonable and impeded their farming operations. This was true across all geographic regions in the County along with a strong feeling of being over-regulated.

The most interesting inconsistency was found in question #12 - "Does the size of a farm influence profitability? Conventional wisdom would say that it does and Vallejo, Dixon and Rio Vista would agree. Respondents from Winters, Vacaville and Suisun feel differently. Since most of the larger farms are located in the Northern and Eastern portions of the County it is not difficult to understand this natural segregation of opinion. Statistically and through several studies it has been revealed that the size of the farm is not the limiting factor for profitability. The entrepreneurial ability of the owner, the willingness to explore new options and other factors related to the management of the farm are more of a determinate factor for profitability than farm size.

Issues Related to Transportation

The respondents did not generally consider transportation issues important. Most responses were slightly less than neutral indicating that it is a concern, but there are other issues that are more important. Winters and Dixon respondents feel that there are insufficient transportation corridors for their use, however, the balance of the County feels neutral on this issue. Drainage is a more general concern for farmers due to flooding during periods of high rainfall. This is a relatively significant issue for Winters, Vacaville, Suisun and Dixon. Vallejo and Rio Vista were less concerned. The most varied responses came from the question of bicycle trails or paths. Again this was a regional issue, but the responses were considerably more negative. Winters, Suisun, Vacaville are opposed to the concept while Vallejo, Dixon and Rio Vista are relatively neutral. Again, this is a proximity issue and response. Those most impacted will react stronger than those not impacted.

Issues Related to Economics and Marketing

Next to education Economics and marketing, were the most consistent and "near to the heart" issues for Solano County farmers. There is a strong feeling that the County should do more to promote agriculture, however, there were no indication as to how this should be done. A "buy local" initiative is important to farmers but not as strong as other issues related to economics. One of the strongest responses was the issue of locating agriculture related industries in agriculturally zoned areas. There was a strong feeling that this should be permitted as an enhancement to the overall agricultural economic development of the County. Only Dixon and Rio Vista were less enthusiastic about the issue, but still strongly supported it.

Those areas that have significant on-farm fruit stand businesses support more lenient regulations on their operations. This was not a major concern for the Vallejo area and somewhat less important to Rio Vista, but in the Suisun, Vacaville, Winters and Dixon area it is highly significant.

Issues Related to Zoning and Land Use

Zoning and land use issues are more regionalized than most of the other categories. Most respondents felt that zoning laws hinder free markets, which is consistent with their other similar responses in the survey. They do not feel that there are significant protections through zoning laws and that limits on parcel size are outdated. The concept of zoning maps appears to be a mystery to most respondents. The impression was left that they are not sure of the significance of zoning maps and their use. This is an education issue that needs to be addressed.

As always, water remains a concern of farmers. Most respondents see the need for the development of additional water supplies for the County. This was a strong concern in all areas except Vallejo.

Several years ago, it was difficult to discuss conservation easements with farmers. Their ignorance of the mechanics of conservation easements was perceived as the reason. Today, the farmers in Solano County are quite aware of the concept and support the idea as a means to support and preserve agriculture. The primary difference here is that they feel that the development industry should purchase these easements since it will mostly benefit their goals rather than those of the farmer. There was a general feeling that the County should explore this option further and in more detail.

The CalFed project tended to excite the respondents, especially on a regional basis. Most farmers felt that the CalFed project will be detrimental to Solano County agriculture. This was especially true with respondents from Rio Vista, Suisun and Vacaville.

Respondents Comments:

1. Although I live in Solano County, my ranch is in Colusa County. I wish other counties would take such an active interest in farming issues. - Winters
2. Urban limits need to be done. Agricultural zones need to be permanently protected. SID needs to return to a farmer-based district. - Dixon
3. New question - Should Solano County inform farmers about existing and proposed regulations periodically? - Winters
4. We need to protect some of the best farmland in Solano County from becoming a parking lot - Suisun
5. The County should be involved in farming, but not to the point of purchasing all the land it can. It can't keep care of what it has now. - Suisun
6. I think this survey is an excellent idea; however, I no longer farm in Solano County. I am retired. - Winters
7. Unless there is a buffer zone between farm areas and urban areas, there will always be problems - Suisun
8. CalFed is very important. CalFed is after our riparian water rights for LA region. Increases in property taxes will drive us out of business. We are in the Williamson Act and our taxes are increasing at an alarming rate. Tom Hannigan is not protecting our water rights, in Solano County. He is a local politician and should have the guts to protect us local farmers and the residents of Solano County for our water rights. - Rio Vista
9. It is a fine line between government and too much government when it comes to farming. Let's not go overboard! - Winters
10. I believe there is a need for farmers to be permitted to derive some of their income from associated activities to their farms. E.g. Camping, weddings, retreats, etc. - Dixon
11. We are so overtaxed, over-regulated and controlled by government mandates. (Raising minimum wage) that I am not sure I can survive much longer. But I feel my input is useless. You will listen to us and then do exactly what you want regardless of our input. - Suisun
12. There are too many people trying to tell us what is good for us. No one listens when we say what we need. - Dixon
13. I am now to this area, but very interested in farming and how to protect it for the future. - Suisun
14. I am a PCA consulting on many crops. - Rio Vista
15. The questions are poorly stated and may be misinterpreted. - Rio Vista
16. Agriculture producers represent about 1.5% of the voters. Consumers represent about 98.5%. That is all you need to know! - Vacaville
17. I do not farm. I work as a pest control advisor in Dixon.
18. The agriculture industry and economics are changing to remain competitive.
19. If Solano County politicians and staff don't modify their mind-set the whole area will quickly become another LA or Bay Area region. - Winters
20. Post Solano County Right to Farm Ordinance on the Internet. - Suisun
21. Get Ernest Kimme off the committee. - Vacaville

22. Our natural heritage and wildlife requires some habitat space and should be provided for and educated to encourage and require thorough regulations that require farming operations not to plow fence to fence and instead leave and improve some farm areas for habitat for wildlife including animals, pheasants, quail, reptiles, etc. Seminar should be one day having to do with wild land and wildlife farm retention/protection. A two-day meeting should deal with education and awareness. I am a physician, "gentleman farmer", naturalist and steward of the land. I would be willing to give a short presentation on my above comments. I plan to be out of town March 4-5. I have given such a presentation to the Yolo/Solano Audubon Society. - Dr. Edward Dawkins, MD Winters, CA 530/795-4812
23. The Solano County Agricultural Commissioners office should establish information/ service projects to provide a more positive relationship with farmers - Dixon
24. Question 23 - No Way!!! Question 24 - Absolutely!!! - Winters
25. I do not have a copy of the Right to Farm Ordinance. Please send a copy. - Winters
26. We need more bike trails/paths to keep bikes off the roads. – Suisun
27. Does the Winters Express print information regarding the Solano County Agriculture Summit? I've missed the info if it was in the paper. - Winters

Conclusions

The farmer survey provided a factual basis to weight many of the comments taken from the Town Hall Meetings. It also provide significant insights into where local farmers place emphasis on issues and what directions they would like county and local governments to go in addressing their issues. The following opinions, expressed by the author, (CE Director Larry Clement), are intended to add additional perspectives to the survey. They should not be construed as opinions expressed by the respondents to the survey.

Education - The education of the general public on agriculture issues and concerns appears to be a top priority for the County. The survey indicated that education was a top priority for farmers and they want it to be one for the County also. Farmers generally feel that they are not heard or listened to when their concerns reach a political forum or in the decision making process. The County may not have the authority to impact the local schools curriculum, however, there is ample opportunity for the County to stimulate discussion and support issues important to agriculture. What needs to be determined are not only what topics need to be put before the public, but more importantly what method or venue will best serve the purpose. A local forum to develop these issues could be formed to provide input to the Board of Supervisors. This would allow a vehicle for the discussion of concerns before they become political concerns.

Farmer's Rights –The individual property rights of farmers was not discussed or brought up.. The good of the whole vs. the good of the individual is an issue near to the heart of many farmer/landowners, but not adequately discussed in public. The Right to Farm Ordinance obviously needs strengthening. Farmers don't know of the ordinance and those that do often do not feel it adequately protects their interests. There is a feeling that an informational ordinance, without some teeth, has little real meaning. "If

you farm next to urban encroachment it is an issue with you. If not, all you can do is sympathize with your fellow farmers." This was the general feeling drawn from the survey. It is a regional issue as well as a property rights issue and most farmers' feel it needs to be addressed. Farmers have strong concerns about who should pay for urban development and encroachment on farming areas. Almost to a person, they feel that the developers should pay all the bills and make most of the sacrifices - that is, unless they want their land developed for urban use, then their opinions change quickly.

Regulations - Not surprisingly, farmers feel over-regulated. In most instances the reason for or the purpose of the regulation is not adequately explained thus heightening the anxiety and "that over-regulated" feeling. Environmental regulations seem to be the most contentious to farmers since the public perceives the farmer as a major contributor to environmental problems. Most farmers consider themselves stewards of the land and take that responsibility seriously. If the land lost productivity or the commodities produced are not environmentally acceptable to the consumer they stand to lose considerable economic leverage. A forum needs to be in place where farmers can vent their frustrations and have their cases heard with the hope of some resolution. This will be difficult locally since most regulations are of state or federal origin.

Transportation – Is not a burning issue within the agricultural community. Perhaps the largest issue with farmers is the presence (or absence) of bicycle paths. Most farmers feel this to be another intrusion on their individual right to farm within the law. Compatible use of rights of way must be considered.

Economics and Marketing - Right now the economics of farming are a significant concern to farmers. There have been occasions in the past (usually when markets are hot) that this issue fades from the front. Our national and state economy is booming while the agriculture economy is in a recession. What farmers need is stability in the markets and economic assurances that urban sprawl and forces beyond their control will not erode their investments in land and machinery.

Zoning and Land Use - From the survey results, it became obvious that this is an extremely misunderstood topic. There is poor understanding of zoning laws and other land use concepts. The concepts of conservation easements and the purchase of development rights are better understood now than in the past. The key questions are; who will benefit and who will pay. CalFed is a very hot item and is feared by the farming community in general. Two perceptions exist; first, the belief that farmers' concerns are not being heard by the CalFed regulators and secondly, the perception that in the end agricultural resources will be taken from farmers.

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The Economic Importance of Agriculture in the Suisun Valley of Solano County

Lawrence Clement, County Director
UC Cooperative Extension Yolo/Solano Counties

Executive Summary

From time to time the economic impact of a segment of a local economy comes into question. Agriculture has been and continues to be a mainstay of Solano's overall economy and its economic impact has been evaluated several times in the past. The conclusion has always been the same. Solano's farmers produce over 75 different commodities that have a wholesale value (Farm Gate Value) of about \$200,000,000 each year. This amount varies from year to year depending on what "Mother Nature" delivers as well as market fluctuations, but it has been on a steady incline for the past 25-30 years.

The economic climate of the County is composed of many commodity segments, regions, and sub-regions that all input into a larger economy. For this study we looked closely at the economic input/output of agricultural production the Suisun Valley and surrounding areas of Green Valley and Cordelia. The database we used has, as its smallest unit the infamous zip code, hence, the inclusion of these additional areas that have not traditionally been considered part of the valley proper. It is further justified by the fact that the economy of this sub-region has a significant impact on the local non-agricultural economy because proceeds are first spent locally. We determined that this area encompasses 14, 706 acres, which is 4.14% of agriculturally farmed areas in the County. We have historically estimated that this area produces about 10% of the gross farm sales in the County. The study revealed that 14.59% is a more realistic value noting the current resurgence of the wine grape plantings in the area.

The model we used for this study is known as the input/output model. It is a well established and effective technique for assessing the effect of any one segment of the local economy on the balance of the local economy. With agricultural production, it involves the quantification of the volume of material processed and sold as well as the total income generated by the sector as compared to the balance of the economy. For Solano County, agriculture represents 15 out of 250 economic sectors. These others would include such things as mining, heavy and light manufacturing, retail sales, warehousing, etc. When the relevant factors for the agricultural sector are analyzed, one can determine the impact of the dollar amount of sales in each sector caused by \$1 change in sales in any particular sector.

Based on this approach we isolated the economies of the Suisun Valley, Green Valley, and Cordelia along with the pasture and livestock production in the area. From this information we isolated several standard type sectors of the local economy and the results are presented in the table on the following page.

The standard database on economic sectors indicates that nine economic units are present in the study area. In 1998 the study area produced an estimated \$27,437,834 in gross farm sales. This value is broken down through the nine identified sectors. Wine grapes are the largest sector followed by pasture and livestock and fruit crops.

Agricultural Production Inputs -- Impact on other Economic Sectors

Description	Gross Value of Ag Production	Output Multipliers	Total Income Coeff.	Value Added Coeff.	Jobs per Mil \$\$	Impact on Total Sales	Impact on Total Income	Impact on Added Value	Impact on # of Jobs
Food Grains	575,726	1.2714	0.7992	0.8808	22.8094	731,863	460,120	507,099	13
Pasture/Livestock	3,960,526	1.2585	0.8254	0.9195	38.8255	4,984,322	3,269,018	3,641,704	153
Wine Grapes	18,062,154	1.4648	0.8562	1.1163	24.3250	26,457,443	15,464,816	20,162,782	439
Fruits	3,410,583	1.3881	0.6866	0.7402	17.4100	4,734,230	2,341,706	2,524,513	59
Nuts	343,980	1.3337	0.8868	0.9300	15.5627	458,776	305,042	319,901	5
Vegetables	718,347	1.3195	0.9444	0.9904	13.6771	947,858	678,407	711,451	10
Sugar	83,803	1.1655	0.9459	1.0109	17.9031	97,672	79,269	84,716	2
Oil Crops	157,471	1.2496	0.8918	0.9844	19.2163	196,776	140,433	155,014	3
Misc. Crops	125,244	1.4309	0.6276	0.6770	23.8672	179,212	78,603	84,790	3
Totals	27,437,834					38,788,142	22,817,414	28,191,970	687

This data set estimates the impact of \$1, generated or spent in the agriculture sector, and its influence on the balance of the local economy. For example, the \$18 million generated in gross farm sales in the wine sector generates \$26 million in total sales, influences personal income by \$15 million, has an added value in sales of \$20 million and creates 429 jobs in areas other than agriculture. The inverse is also true. If the \$18 million in total sales were suddenly removed from the economy it would negatively impact the local economy by the indicated amounts.

Overall, the economy of the Suisun Valley and the surrounding area has a positive and highly significant impact on the local economy. This is in addition to other more esthetic values related to the ambiance the valley provides to the community. We can calculate a total economic impact that the valley has on the entire community by multiplying the total farm gate sales of all products by a calculated economic multiplier. We estimate that the valley and the surrounding agricultural economy impacts the local economy by \$111,397,600. This means that for every dollar generated by agriculture in the valley increases the value of the total economy by \$4.06 and generates an additional 687 non-farm jobs. These jobs are considered permanent as long as the economy of the valley remains constant. This ladder effect is the engine that drives the local economy.

The significance here is capital investments. Having a strong raw product base, the Suisun Valley has the potential to become a more significant economic engine through additional capital investments in raw product development and processing. This would generate more jobs and increase the total value significantly. For example, using the

blooming wine industry again, if we were to increase the wholesale value of projection by 20% its impact on the balance of the economy would increase to \$21 million and impact the overall economy to over \$133 million.

It is an economic fact that capital invested in local economies and remains in the local economy, before moving out of the area, has a higher impact on the rest of the economy. We know that retail sales generate significant amounts of income; however, they are at the end of the economic chain and have a lower impact on the local economy than does raw product development. Raw product development, processing and manufacturing, generates a larger economic impact by the capital investment remaining in the area longer and more people and business' using a portion of that capital for their own purposes. The most significant impact is the creation of permanent jobs.

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SOLANO COUNTY



SUMMIT ON AGRICULTURE

February 28, 2000

Ulatis Community Center
Vacaville



SUMMIT ON AGRICULTURE

WORKSHOPS

Challenges on the Ag/Urban Interface

As the urban population increases, the tension between farmers and urban residents will increase. This workshop will examine and explore the challenges we face in Solano in the Ag/Urban Interface. We will look at the problem from the perspective of a farmer, a rancher, a city mayor, and an expert on smart growth.

Speakers: Al Sokolow, Bill Robbins
Joe Martinez, Don Erickson
Facilitator: Marcia Gibbs

Breaking Barriers to Agricultural Business

The business of agriculture in Solano County is undergoing significant change. But there is potential for a brighter future if we address various barriers to new or expanded agricultural businesses.

Speakers: Russ Lester, Daniel Sumner
Larry Clement
Facilitator: David Pratt

Changing Agricultural Regulations

Do you know what you can or can't do on your ag land? Are there regulations that should be changed that will allow more flexibility in your farming decisions? We know there are rules that can't be altered, but come to this forum to address those that can.

Speaker: Clif Poole
Facilitator: Stephanie Larson

Educating the Community

Do you think that farmers and ranchers need the people in town to know more about what agriculture is all about? Come to this workshop and help identify what needs to be done by the Board of Supervisors and the communities in Solano County to open up channels of communication between urban and farm people.

Speakers: Donna Harr, Larry Clement
Facilitator: Dave Chaney

SCHEDULE

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Welcome by Supervisor Skip Thomson and Keynote by Al Sokolow
Room D
- 10:00 Challenges on the Ag/Urban Interface
Room E
- 10:00 Breaking Barriers to Agricultural Business
Room C
- 12:30 Lunch
provided as part of registration
- 2:00 Changing Agricultural Regulations
Room C
- 2:00 Educating the Community
Room E
- 4:30 Social/Reception
- 5:15 Call to order and committee reports
- 5:45 Dinner Buffet
provided as part of registration
Dinner Speaker, Craig Zablocki
- 7:30 Adjourn

MENU

Continental Breakfast

Luncheon Buffet

Mixed sandwiches
Assorted Salads
Chips
Dessert sampler
Soda and coffee

Dinner Buffet

Chef served butterflied leg of lamb
Chicken in wine sauce
Lamb and chicken gravies
Roasted new potatoes with herbs
Stir-fried vegetables
Tossed green salad
Dinner rolls
Mixed dessert sampler
Lemonade

SPECIAL THANKS

Solano County Farm Bureau City of Vacaville
Lester Farms McCormick Ranch
Wooden Valley Winery Cadenasso Winery
Suisun Valley Fruit Growers
California Prune Board

SUMMIT ON AGRICULTURE

Evaluation Tabulation of the Summit Event

March 20, 2000

On a scale of one to five, **one** being the *agree completely* and **five** *strongly disagree*, please rate the following:

- | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|----|---|----|
| 1. I think the Summit Project will result in a change in policies that the Solano County Board of Supervisors can effect | 10 | (15) | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. The meeting appeared to be genuinely seeking my opinion | (25) | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 3. The format of the event was effective | (16) | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. The building and meeting rooms worked well | (22) | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 5. Rate the food and drink (one is great food, five is nasty) | (25) | 11 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 6. Rate Al Sokalow's keynote presentation (one is riveting) | 11 | (15) | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| 7. Rate Craig Zablocki's dinner presentation (one is riveting) | (15) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 8. Which workshops did you attend: | | | | | |
| Challenges on the Ag/Urban Interface | | | | | 29 |
| Breaking Barriers to Agricultural Business | | | | | 10 |
| Changing Agricultural Regulations | | | | | 15 |
| Educating the Community | | | | | 19 |

Rate your morning workshop:

- | | Agriculture/urban | Business |
|---|-------------------|-------------|
| 9. Most people who wanted to speak were heard | 12 (13) 4 1 0 | (9) 1 1 0 0 |
| 10. The things that needed to be discussed, were discussed | 10 (12) 6 1 0 | 4 4 0 0 0 |
| 11. The format of the workshop was effective | 9 (13) 4 3 1 | (6) 2 1 0 0 |
| 12. The facilitator did a good job | (18) 9 4 0 0 | (9) 0 0 0 0 |
| 13. We were successful at creating good ideas recommendations | (15) 4 1 0 0 0 | 4 4 1 0 0 |

Rate your afternoon workshop:

- | | Regulations | Education |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| 14. Most people who wanted to speak were heard | 8 (9) 2 0 0 | (8) 7 1 0 0 |
| 15. The things that needed to be discussed, were discussed | (7) 6 6 0 0 | 6 6 4 0 0 |
| 16. The format of the workshop was effective | (7) 6 5 1 5 | 6 (8) 2 0 0 |
| 17. The facilitator did a good job | (12) 4 3 0 0 | (8) 5 3 0 0 |
| 18. We were successful at creating good ideas recommendations | (9) 6 2 0 0 | (9) 7 0 0 0 |

Describe yourself

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----|-------------------------|---|
| Farmer | 17 | Non-profit organization | 4 |
| Rancher | 10 | Interested citizen | 9 |
| Agriculture Business | 5 | Other | 3 |
| Educator | 5 | | |
| Public agency | 5 | | |

Government Agency
Regulations and /or Permits
in Agriculture

			PERMITS						REGULATIONS
FEDERAL AGENCIES	AIR	Water	Land Use	Construction	Haz. Mat./ Pesticide	Business Operations	Other Environmental		
United States Fish & Wildlife					Pesticide labels; emergency exemptions		Incidental Take Permits	Consults & issues Biological opinions	
Environmental Protection Agency								Federal standards, NEPA, Endangered Species Federal Control of Water Allocations	
Bureau of Reclamation								Federal permit agency International trade	
Army Corp. of Engineers United States Department of Agriculture			401 & 404 permits			Export/Import			
STATE AGENCIES									
California Air Resources Board								State Standards/Federal Implementation	
California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Central Valley or Bay Area		Waste Water Discharge permit, small water systems		Permit - large flow & Alternative Septic Systems				State Regulations on Surface & Ground Water Quality	
California Integrated Waste Management Board			State Approval for some Composting Activities					State Regulations on Solid Waste Disposal & hazardous waste - Delegated to Local Enforcement Agency	
California Department of Toxic Substance Control						Permitting authority for operating permits for Haz. Material & Haz. Waste Facilities		Responsibility for Hazardous Waste Enforcement given to County Haz. Mat.	
California Department of Food and Agriculture								Responsibility for Enforcement given to County	
California Department of Pesticide Regulation					Pesticide Product Registration and Labelling			Responsibility for Enforcement given to County	
California Dept. of Fish & Game		Stream Bed Alteration Permits					Endangered species protections	State Regulations regarding habitats, endangered species, stream beds & water ways	
California Department of Housing and Community Development				regulates construction of and modification to mobile homes & manufactured homes		Regulates & oversees Permitted Farm Labor camps		State regulatory authority for construction & modifications to manufactured dwellings & trailers	

Government Agency
Regulations and/or Permits
In Agriculture

STATE AGENCIES (cont.)	AIR	Water	PERMITS Land Use	Construction	Haz. Mat/ Pesticide	Business Operations	Other Environmental	REGULATIONS
California Department of Water Resources - Division of Safety of Dams				permits & regulates dams between 6ft in height holding more then 50 acre ft. of water, and dams higher then 25ft holding 15 acre ft. of water				State regulatory agency and permitting agency in specific dams holding water which can include retention ponds
Cal Fed								Multi disciplinary state & federal gov. organization tasked with water quality improvement and water availability enhancement
Cal OSHA						Worker safety Investigations		
Labor Commissioner						Farm Labor Contractor Licensing		
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)								
Bay Area Air Quality Management District	Burn Permit, Air Discharge Permits			Permit to Construct & Permit to Demo.				
Yolo Solano Air Quality Control District	Burn Permit, Air Discharge Permits			Permit to Construct & Permit to Demo.				
Bay Conservation & Development Council (BCDC)			Marsh Development Permit					Permits for Activities in the Primary Marsh
Solano Water Agency								Lead Agency for Water Allocations From the Montecello Dam
LOCAL AGENCIES								
Solano County - Agricultural Commissioner	Approval of burn permit applications for disease control	Groundwater Protection Regulations			Pesticide use & application inspections, permitting, hazardous materials inventories	Registration of certified producers, organic farmers; seed crop, quarantine, quality inspections	export inspections, compliance investigations, integrated pest management	
Solano County - Sealer of Weights & Measures						Weighing Device Registration (eg. cattle, truck scales)		

Government Agency
Regulations and/or Permits
in Agriculture

LOCAL AGENCIES (Cont.)	AIR	Water	PERMITS					REGULATIONS
			Land Use	Construction	Haz. Mat./ Pesticide	Business Operations	Other Environmental	
Resource Conservation Districts								Exercise powers to control runoff, the prevention or control of soil erosion, and the distribution of water
Reclamation Districts								construction, operation, and maintenance of reclamation works including dewatering, watering, or irrigation of district land.
Solano County Administrator's Office				Capital Facility Impact Fee requirements				County Ordinance - Public Facilities Impact Fee, collector assigned to Env. Mgmt. & each city.

100

Government Agency
Has Regulations and/or Permits

R = Agency has regulations
P = Agency issues permits

LOCAL AGENCIES (Cont.)	AIR	Water	Land Use	Construction	Haz. Mat & Pesticides	Business Operations	Other Environmental
Env. Mgmt. -Planning Services Division			R & P			R & P	R
Env. Mgmt. -Building & Safety Division							
Env. Mgmt. -Environmental Health Services Division		R & P	R & P	P		R & P	R & P
Env. Hlth. - Hazardous Materials Section			P	R & P			
Local Fire District	P		R	R & P	P		
Solano Irrigation District		R					
Solano County Tax Collector/Treasurer							
Resource Conservation Districts		R				R & P	
Reclamation Districts		R					
Solano County Administrator				R			

Agriculture Education Resources in Solano County

Solano County Department of Agriculture

(Agriculture Commissioner)
Pesticide Use Enforcement
501 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA
94533

707/421-7465

Solano County Farm Bureau

(Farmer Organization and Agriculture in the Classroom Program)

2210 Boynton Ave
Fairfield, CA 94533

707/425-8044

Solano Community College Horticulture Department

(Urban Horticulture)

4000 Suisun Valley Road
Suisun, CA 944585

707/864-7155

Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Foundation

(Farmland Preservation)

744 Empire Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

707/432-0150

Solano Irrigation District

(Water Conservation and Usage)

508 Elmira Road
Vacaville, CA 95687

707/448-6847

Resource Conservation Districts

(Conservation of Natural Resources)

Suisun Resource Conservation District

2544 Grizzly Island Road
Suisun, CA 94585

707/425-9302

Ulatis Resource Conservation District

1170 North Lincoln Street
Dixon, CA 95620

707/678-1655

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Districts

(Soil Conservation Service)

1170 North Lincoln Street
Dixon, CA 95620

707/678-1655

USDA Farm Services Agency

(Agricultural Support Programs)

1170 North Lincoln Street
Dixon, CA 95620

707/678-1931

University of California Cooperative Extension Solano County

(Farm and Home Advisors, 4-H

Youth Development Program) (University of California, Davis)

501 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

707/421-6790

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June 20 2000



Summit on Agriculture Project

June 16, 1999

Attachment I - Summit on Agriculture Project Workplan

Overview of the Summit on Agriculture Project

Introduction

On September 22, 1998, Supervisor Gojkovich asked for and received Board support for the holding of a summit meeting focusing on policies for the preservation of agriculture in Solano County. The project was referred to the Department of Environmental Management for research, and to be brought back for approval to fund and proceed.

Subsequent to the September 1998 referral to the Department of Environmental Management there were several discussions at the Board of Supervisors and at LAFCO regarding the vision, purpose, goals and objectives for a Summit on Agriculture. Since January 1999, the County Administrator's office, and Environmental Management met with the Board Subcommittee on Environmental and Transportation Issues to try to focus and refine the concept of an agricultural summit in Solano County.

On April 6th the Board was asked to review and comment on the proposed format for an agricultural summit that includes several working or smaller run-up meetings, culminating in a day long cap-stone event or Summit on Agriculture that the larger community is invited to. In addition, the Board was asked to review the proposed objectives for a Summit on Agriculture. Finally, the Board was asked to approve the use of county resources to proceed with establishing a budget, and the development of a contractual agreement for professional services to help facilitate and coordinate an agricultural summit.

The Board approved a motion to allocate the resources to proceed as outlined above and to authorize the Board Subcommittee on Environmental and Transportation Issues to develop a contractual agreement for professional services to help facilitate and coordinate the agricultural summit.

Goals and Objectives

Theme for Summit Project

Pending discussion by the Planning Team the working title of the Summit is, "Everyone has a Stake in Agriculture's Future in Solano County; Keeping Agriculture in Solano County". A forum for the sharing of concerns and ideas for protecting and promoting the agricultural industry that will assist policy makers in their decisions regarding land use and development.

Goals

1. Create a forum where all agencies, interest groups, and individuals can come together to discuss current problems and possible solutions facing agriculture in Solano County.

2. Create a forum where invited representatives of interests groups meet to find common ground and to discuss the future of agriculture in Solano County.
3. Create a collaborative vision statement of how agriculture, the environment, and development will integrate in the county by 2010.
4. Construct a document that will guide the land use planning efforts of the county staff, and influence the policy decisions of the board.
5. Explore alternatives to the Williamson act that will offer incentives and methods that preserve agricultural land in Solano county
6. Bring into the public eye the efforts of the board and the county staff to address the needs of diverse constituents.
7. Offer a high profile event (Capstone Conference) that welcomes and informs all citizens about the agricultural element and the dynamic urban rural relationship in the county, and invites them to participate in a visioning process.

Objectives

1. Market project to the citizens of Solano County both to encourage participation and to extend education about rural-urban, and rural-rural relationships in the county.
2. Create a management framework to meet the project objectives
3. Form a group of key people and committed citizens (Planning Team) to guide the summit process and provide grass roots input about distinct *issues* or relevant topics. Facilitate consensus and relationship building among participants.
4. Create four to six White Papers that reflect the conclusions of the *issue* group; and create scenarios of how Solano County may look in 2010
5. Create a pre-capstone Main Document that supports and channels the Capstone Conference
6. Produce a Capstone Conference at Dixon Fairgrounds attended by a wide and representative group of interested citizens. Event to include, plenary sessions, facilitated breakouts, and possibly tours. Solicit input about Main Document. Adopt a vision statement.
7. Convene Planning Team to evaluate and consolidate the Main Document. Facilitate a second round of Issue Group meetings. Create document with specific policy recommendations.

Plan of Work

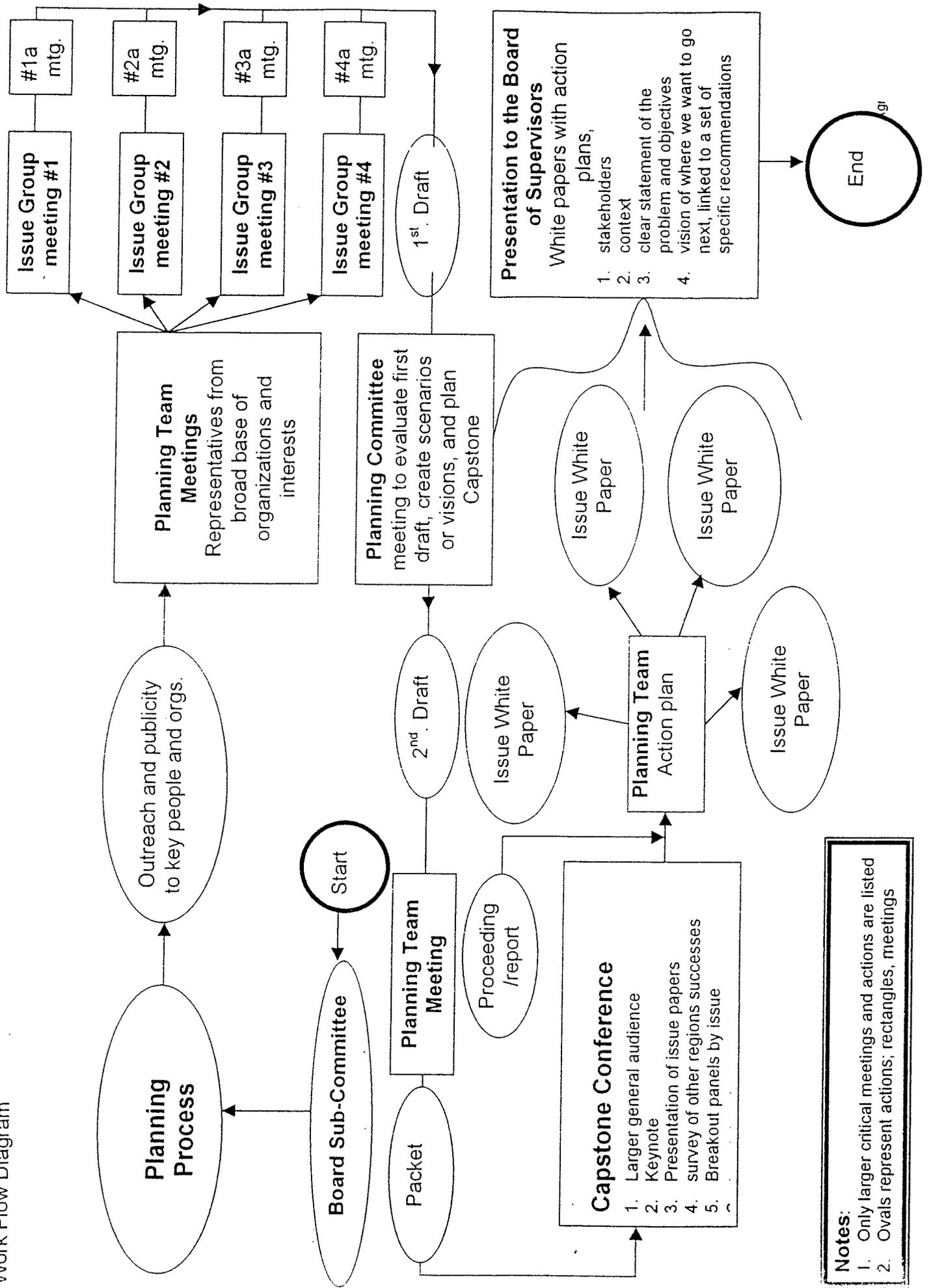
Narrative

The Summit on Agriculture Project will be completed in a year. The plan of work must be flexible and able to adapt to new information, good new ideas from the stakeholders, and changing circumstances as required. Assuming the plan will change, the following are the steps currently envisioned: (refer to exhibit A, Scope of Services, for more specifics related to deliverables)

1. After review and comment the Board Subcommittee on Environmental and Transportation Issues, will approve the scope of work, the workplan and contract and engage the contractor.
2. Working with the subcommittee, county staff, and key stakeholders a Planning Team

- made up of a cross section of interest group representatives and individuals will be appointed to guide the project to completion.
3. The first large planning meeting attended by organizational and individual stakeholders will convene to; a) choose up to six key issues or challenges to explore in issue meetings, b) agree to support the Summit Project, and to bring their ideas and contacts to the table and, c) suggest changes to the proposed summit process.
 4. Up to six issues will be explored in facilitated meetings held throughout the county. During each meeting the issue will be defined, the implications in Solano County discussed, the most affected groups identified, and some solutions proposed. The meeting results will be summarized in writing and supplemented by appropriate additional information. A second Issue meeting will bring the results into focus and guide the production of a White Paper on that issue.
 5. All the Issue White Papers will be compiled into a draft Main Document and submitted to the second large planning team meeting where a) a draft vision for the county is proposed and, b) three scenarios created as discussion tools and, (see objective 3). c) modifications and additions to the Main Document proposed. D) assistance in the production of the capstone conference is solicited
 6. In February 2000 a Capstone Conference will be offered to the entire community where a) the vision is modified and discussed, b) the scenarios used as discussion points in breakouts and, c) the issues revisited and new input recorded. The event will be at the Dixon fairgrounds, last one day, and consist of one or two plenary sessions and several facilitated breakouts.
 7. The Main Document will be updated with input from Capstone then reviewed by the Planning committee. Another round of Issue meetings will be conducted to make policy recommendations based on all the input gathered to date.
 8. The final document is submitted to the board and the community.

Work Flow Diagram



Notes:
 1. Only larger critical meetings and actions are listed
 2. Ovals represent actions, rectangles, meetings

Stakeholders

Stakeholders are defined as any individual, group, or agency that has an interest in the future of agriculture in Solano County. The broadest possible representation will be invited to participate. Only the Board Subcommittee will have a predefined and exclusive membership. The initial makeup of the Planning Team will be appointed by the Board Subcommittee on Environmental and Transportation Issues in cooperation with key organizations in the county, but membership will change as more leaders emerge.

Publications

Two primary types of documents will emerge from the project

Main Document

This will be the primary working document for the Capstone conference, and will evolve into the final report to the board and community. It will contain background information, up to six White Papers derived from the Issue Group meetings, several scenarios of how agriculture, the environment, and development might integrate in the county by 2010. In its final form it will contain a vision statement, and a set of recommendations that will guide the land use planning efforts of the county staff, and influence the policy decisions of the County Board of Supervisors.

White Papers

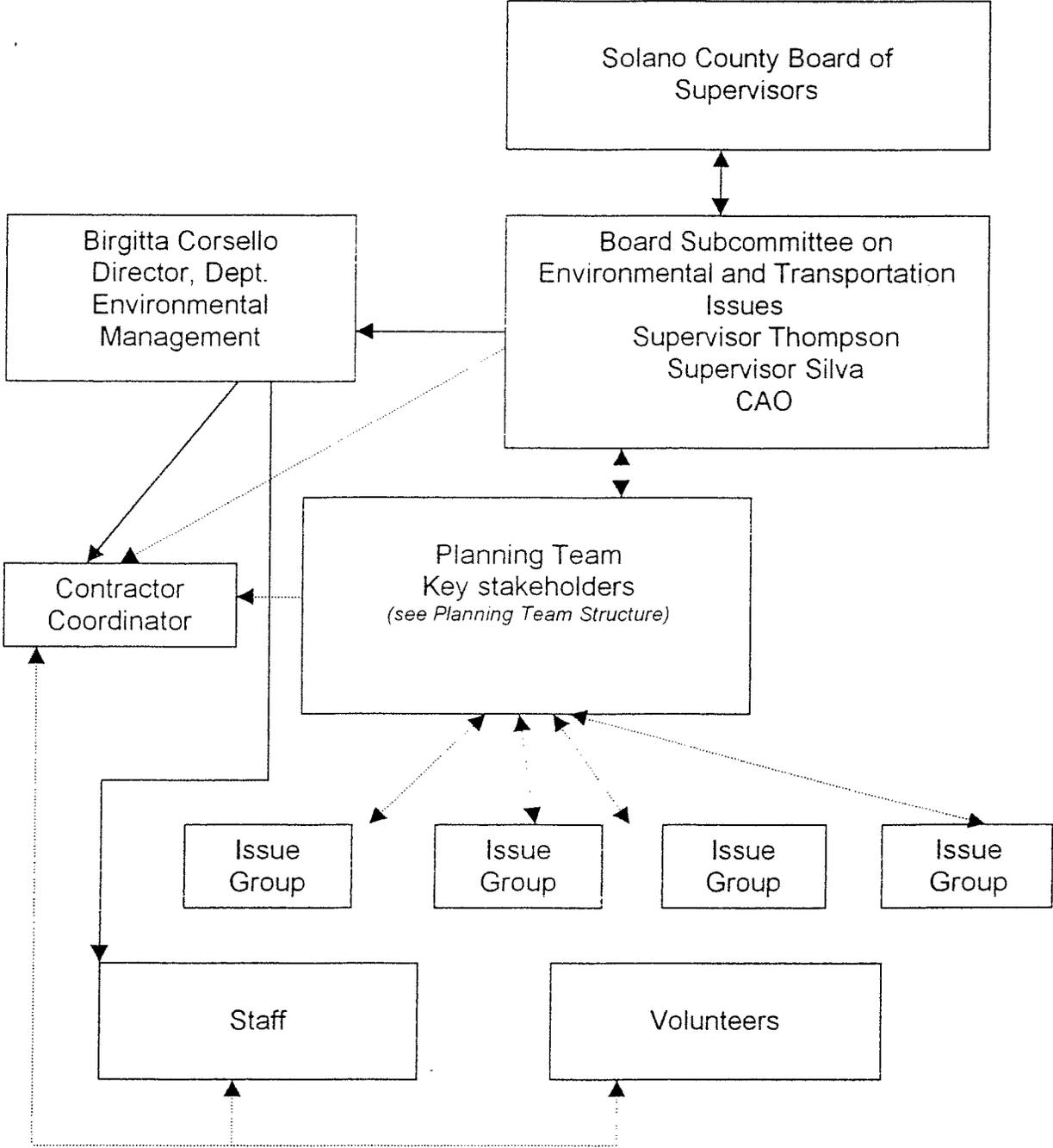
The Planning Team will choose up to six key issues that affect the future of agriculture in the county. Issue based meetings will convene to discuss these issues and their ramifications to Solano County. The contractor will record and compile this information into up to six White Papers. Each paper will define the issues, explore the local ramifications, and record the solutions, recommendations, or collaborative vision of the participants.

Secondary publications

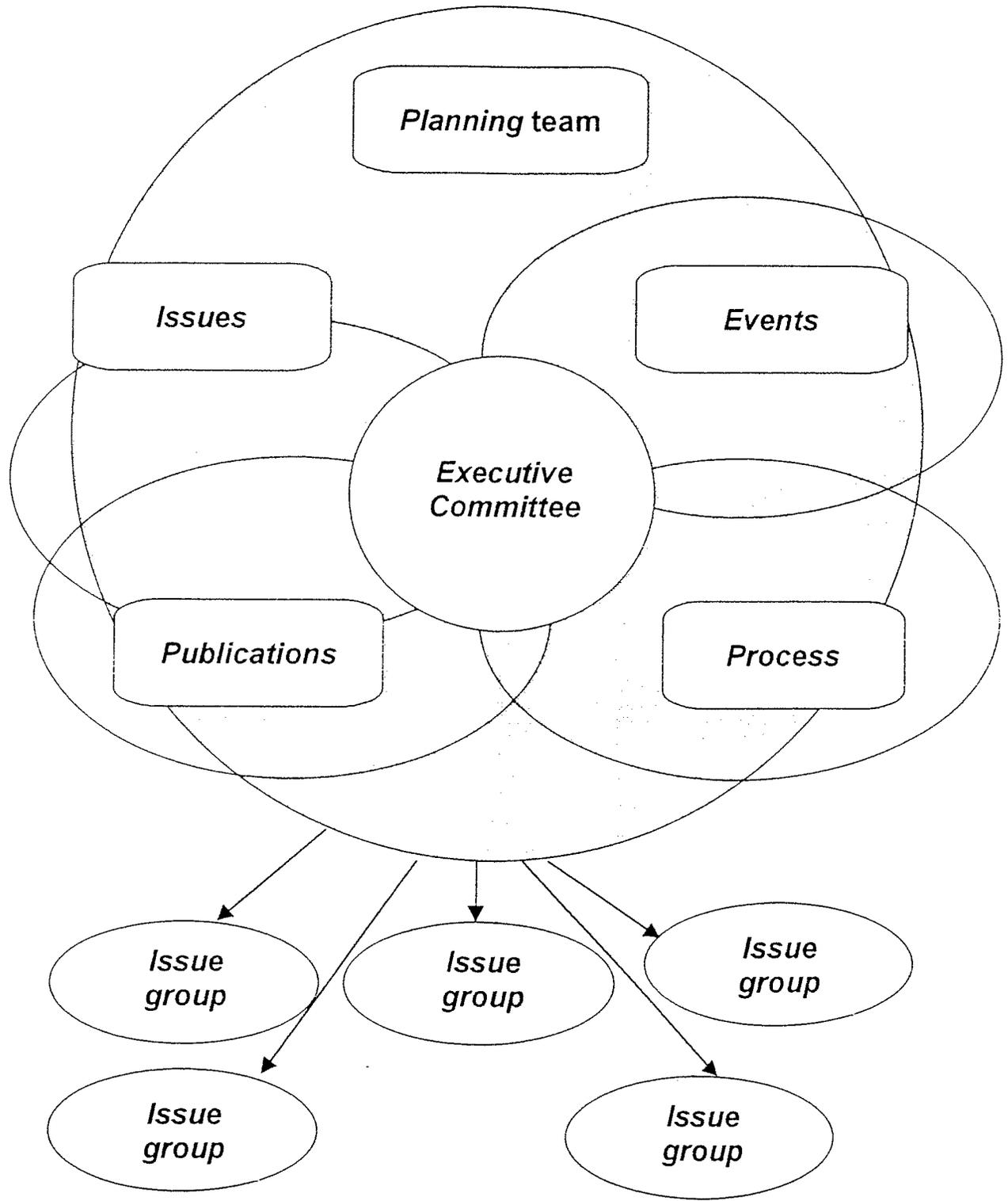
A variety of other publications will be produced as required, these include; press releases, direct mail conference marketing material, conference program, meeting minutes agendas and announcements, and progress reports.

Administration

Organization Chart



Planning Team Structure



Roles of participants

Contractor

The contractor is responsible for coordinating the entire project according to the terms of the contract and this workplan. The essential responsibility is to coordinate and facilitate among the stakeholders, staff, and community to achieve the goals and objectives of the project and to communicate among and between all participants to assure buy-in and trust in the process.

Director of Environmental Management

Birgitta Corsello will be the primary liaison to the Contractor and the Board Subcommittee. allocate staff resources as appropriate, and advise the Contractor about county process and the dynamics of the Solano County community. She will evaluate the Contractors performance and provide fiscal oversight. Finally, she will serve on the Steering Team

Board of Supervisors Subcommittee on Environmental and Transportation Issues

This group will assure that the project is on track and that the Contractor is meeting the goals and objectives. We hope they will also serve on the Planning Team especially at the end of the process when the total output of the project is being translated into language useful for policy guidance.

Planning Team

The Planning Team will guide the agenda of the planning meetings, chair the Issue Group meetings, and serve on working committees. These will include an Executive, an Events, a Process, and a Publications committee. This group will be the primary reviewers of the White Papers and the Main Document.

Volunteers and Facilitators

Volunteers will assist with tactical issues associated with the meetings and the Capstone event. They may chair working committees like facilities, publicity, speakers, and tours.

The Public

The community at large will be invited to participate at every level of the project, but in particular during the Issue Meetings and the Capstone event.

Exhibit A – Scope of Services

Performance benchmarks, deliverables and time estimates

Objective	Deliverables	Target Date	Hours
1. Market project to the citizens of Solano County both to encourage participation and to extend education about dynamic rural-urban and rural-rural relationships in the county.	A. Marketing plan for project B. Various stories in the press C. Significant increase in public awareness	5/30/00	84
2. Create a management framework to meet the project objectives	A. Similar project survey B. Workplan C. Executive Committee meeting D. Preliminary budget E. Preliminary task schedule	7/01/99	10
3. A) Form a group of key people and committed citizens (Planning Team) to guide the Summit process and identify up to six distinct <i>issues</i> for discussion at meetings open to any interested citizen B) Facilitate consensus and /or relationship building among participants	A. Contact data base for various committees and stakeholders B. First Large Planning Meeting; schedule, document, and facilitate C. Identified and met with team of volunteer meeting facilitators for capstone and other meetings	10/7/99	292
4. A) Create up to six White Papers that reflect the conclusions of Issue group meetings B) Create scenarios of how Solano County may look in 2010.	A. Up to six Issue Meetings: schedule, document, and facilitate B. White Papers of results of each Issue Meeting C. Three written scenarios options	2/5/00	200
5. Create a pre-capstone draft Main Document / packet that supports and channels the Capstone Conference	A. Reviewed and consolidated first draft and second draft of main project document B. Second Large Planning meeting: schedule, document, and facilitate C. Budget update for Capstone Conference	2/5/00	270
6. Produce a Capstone Conference at Dixon Fairgrounds that a wide and	A. Capstone Conference B. Supporting conference packet to include	2/15/00	104

<p>representative group of interested citizens attend. Event to include a tour, plenary sessions, and facilitated breakouts. Solicit input on document. Adopt a vision statement.</p>	<p>1 Draft of consolidated White Papers 2 Three Scenarios 3 Program 4 Evaluation form 5 Contact and sponsor list</p> <p>Note: at least 120 hours of county clerical staff time will be allocated to this item to assist Contractor</p>		
<p>7. Convene Planning Team to evaluate and consolidate the event document and create specific policy recommendations.</p>	<p>A. Proceedings incorporated into Main Document C. Second round of Issue Group meetings B. Final report to include: 1 Consolidated Main Document 2 Set of issue based policy recommendations 3 Recommendations to county staff 4 Lessons learned 5 Where to go from here</p>	<p>6/1/00</p>	<p>200</p>
			<p>1160</p>

Fees

Contractor fee is \$35.36 per hour. The maximum fee to the County for the project herein described is \$41,000. The consultant will bill the County monthly according to the contract item #2.

Responsibilities of Contractor and County

Contractor responsibilities:

- Achieve the objectives and deliver the performance benchmarks as listed above.
- Facilitate planning meetings
- Facilitate working meetings
- Recruit and coordinate community volunteers to assist with certain tactical responsibilities like, Facilities, Marketing, Speaker Coordination, Development, Volunteer, Facilitation, Publications, etc.
- Agenda, minutes, reports, synopsis, or proceedings of all meetings as appropriate
- Conduct information surveys and data gathering as required examples may include, focus groups, interviews, library research, and surveys
- Prepare budget and provide information to county staff required for its management
- Oversea volunteer or staff Facility Coordinator who contracts for facilities,

- equipment, food, insurance, and permits
- Coordinate speakers
- Publicity and press releases
- Marketing of event to public via press, direct mail, internet, PSA on TV and radio, posters, allied publications, and web site
- Provide registration and speaker coordination data base
- Compile, (but not design, layout or print) programs and other publications
- Compile conference packet
- Survey and network with similar projects in other counties

County Staff responsibilities:

- Advise and provide feedback to the Contractor about strategy and the political and social environment in the county that affects the project
- Participate in appropriate meetings
- Review publications and letters
- Collect and account for all fees, pay all invoices, review budget, and assist Contractor in budget preparation
- Clerical support, (limited typing, copying, filing)
- Data entry for survey results if such a survey is conducted
- Answer the phone and collect all registration material, then do data entry. Mail confirmation letters
- Direct mailing
- Mailings to planning meeting attendees
- Staff registration tables at Capstone Event, and at planning meetings as required
- Take minutes at meetings.
- Layout , printing and copy edit publications
- Review documents issued to the public

Support services provided by County

The County will provide copier, phone, postage, printing, and incidental office supplies used for this project when those expenses are incurred at the Environmental Management offices. Direct expenses of this type incurred by the Contractor while away from that office are dealt with in the Contract.

Communications and reports

The Contractor will provide the County a short monthly progress report along with the invoice that measures progress towards completion of each benchmark.

Prepared by David Visher

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June 16 1999 8:55 AM

PRELIMINARY BUDGET
County of Solano – Summit on Agriculture

ACTIVITY

Potential Cash Outlay

Project Consultant	\$41,000
Advertising & Promotion	5,000
Speakers – expenses	2,000
Handouts, Materials (Xerox, printing, postage)	7,000
Facilities (set up, clean up, equipment rental)	3,000
Refreshments	<u>2,500</u>
Total	\$ 60,500

INKIND (Soft cost)

Staff time
Meeting facilities
Run up meeting refreshments
Additional Handout Materials
Speaker & Presenter Time

SOLANO COUNTY



SUMMIT ON AGRICULTURE

February 28, 2000

Ulatis Community Center
Vacaville

WELCOME AND PURPOSE

Welcome to the Summit on Agriculture. Your participation today will have a significant impact on how agriculture is preserved and promoted in Solano County. We will work together today to craft a set of recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors for how they can address many of the important challenges facing your community. Farmers and ranchers are dealing with both local and global issues and there are some real limits to the Board of Supervisor's reach. But the Supervisors have committed to doing what they can. This Summit is a real opportunity for your concerns and ideas to be heard in a constructive way by the people who can effect change.

Today's workshops are working meetings. They all begin with speakers who will set the stage for the two and a half hour facilitated sessions designed to build creative solutions. The workshops build on the ideas you provided during the five town hall meetings held in 1999 and through a survey that many of you completed. During the next few months we will compile your ideas and develop them into a comprehensive set of recommendations and implementation strategies for the Board of Supervisors consideration.

The opening speaker is Dr. Alvin Sokolow, a public policy specialist at UC Davis. He brings a deep understanding of farmland and land use policy in California and specifically in Solano County. Our dinner speaker is Craig Zablocki, a teacher who understands the tough realities of living a balanced life today, yet believes in the importance of lightening up and laughing. After the workshops, unwind at the beer and wine social featuring local donated products. At 5:45 we will hear reports from all the workshops, then move to our buffet dinner.

So, roll up your sleeves, and help preserve and promote Agriculture in Solano County. Have a great day!

SPONSORED BY THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

William Carroll, District 4 - Barbara Kondylis, District 1 - Duane Kromm, District 3
John Silva, District 2 - Skip Thomson, District 5

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Larry Clement, *UC Cooperative Extension, Solano and Yolo Counties*
Marci Coglianese, *Rio Vista City Council, Solano Farmlands & Open Space Foundation*
Susan Cohen, *Solano County Agricultural Commissioner*
Barbara Comfort, *Rancher, Solano County*
Birgitta Corsello, *Solano County Department of Environmental Management*
Don Erickson, *Mayor of Dixon*
Bill Ferlatte, *Solano County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner*
Mike Gonzales, *Farmer, Solano County*
Donna Harr, *Farm Bureau*
Robert Isaac, *Solano Irrigation District*
Russell Lester, *Farmer, Solano County*
Mary McCarthy, *SEDCORP*
Al Medvitz, *Rio Vista Farm Bureau*
Mario Moratorio, *UCCE Solano County*
David Neivelt, *retired Napa Planner*
John Pierson, *Rancher*
Charlene Ping, *Solano County Administrator's Office*
Clif Poole, *Solano County Citizens Land Alliance*
John Silva, *Solano County Board of Supervisors, District 2*
Skip Thomson, *Solano County Board of Supervisors, District 5*
David Visher, *Summit Project Coordinator*

Prepared by:

Visher Consulting
2230 Lassen Place
Davis, CA 95616

(530)758-2429 visher@yolo.com

June 20 2000



SUMMIT ON AGRICULTURE

WORKSHOPS

Challenges on the Ag/Urban Interface

As the urban population increases, the tension between farmers and urban residents will increase. This workshop will examine and explore the challenges we face in Solano in the Ag/Urban Interface. We will look at the problem from the perspective of a farmer, a rancher, a city mayor, and an expert on smart growth.

Speakers: Al Sokolow, Bill Robbins
Joe Martinez, Don Erickson
Facilitator: Marcia Gibbs

Breaking Barriers to Agricultural Business

The business of agriculture in Solano County is undergoing significant change. But there is potential for a brighter future if we address various barriers to new or expanded agricultural businesses.

Speakers: Russ Lester, Daniel Sumner
Larry Clement
Facilitator: David Pratt

Changing Agricultural Regulations

Do you know what you can or can't do on your ag land? Are there regulations that should be changed that will allow more flexibility in your farming decisions? We know there are rules that can't be altered, but come to this forum to address those that can.

Speaker: Clif Poole
Facilitator: Stephanie Larson

Educating the Community

Do you think that farmers and ranchers need the people in town to know more about what agriculture is all about? Come to this workshop and help identify what needs to be done by the Board of Supervisors and the communities in Solano County to open up channels of communication between urban and farm people.

Speakers: Donna Harr, Larry Clement
Facilitator: Dave Chaney

SCHEDULE

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Welcome by Supervisor Skip Thomson and Keynote by Al Sokolow
Room D
- 10:00 Challenges on the Ag/Urban Interface
Room E
- 10:00 Breaking Barriers to Agricultural Business
Room C
- 12:30 Lunch
provided as part of registration
- 2:00 Changing Agricultural Regulations
Room C
- 2:00 Educating the Community
Room E
- 4:30 Social/Reception
- 5:15 Call to order and committee reports
- 5:45 Dinner Buffet
provided as part of registration
Dinner Speaker, Craig Zablocki
- 7:30 Adjourn

MENU

Continental Breakfast

Luncheon Buffet

- Mixed sandwiches
- Assorted Salads
- Chips
- Dessert sampler
- Soda and coffee

Dinner Buffet

- Chef served butterflied leg of lamb
- Chicken in wine sauce
- Lamb and chicken gravies
- Roasted new potatoes with herbs
- Stir-fried vegetables
- Tossed green salad
- Dinner rolls
- Mixed dessert sampler
- Lemonade

SPECIAL THANKS

*Solano County Farm Bureau City of Vacaville
Lester Farms McCormick Ranch
Wooden Valley Winery Cadenasso Winery
Suisun Valley Fruit Growers
California Prune Board*

SPEAKERS

Larry Clement

County Director, University of California Cooperative Extension, Yolo and Solano Counties.

Don Erickson

A long time resident of Dixon, Don is currently Mayor. He has served the city and county on a long list of boards and commissions.

Donna Harr

Chair of the Solano County Citizens Land Alliance and former Solano County Farm Bureau board member and rancher.

Russ Lester

Walnut rancher, member of the California Farm Leadership Program class of 2000.

Joe Martinez

Walnut, prune, and almond rancher, Farm Bureau Board Director, Board President of the Ulatis RCD, Chair of the Solano County Water Agency Flood Control Advisory Committee, Director of the CA Walnut Bargaining Association, Director for the CA FFA Foundation.

Clif Poole

Local activist and small rancher engaged in many areas of county policy. He is active in the Solano County Citizens Land Alliance.

Bill Robbins

Robbins is a lawyer specializing in land use entitlements for property owners. His family has farmed in Solano County for eighty years. He is a graduate of Green Valley School, Yale University, and Boalt Hall School of Law at UC Berkeley.

Alvin D. Sokolow

Public policy specialist with the University of California Cooperative Extension, and associate chair of the Department of Human and Community Development at UC Davis. His research and extension activities focus on community governance issues especially farmland and land use policy in California. As associate director for rural – urban issues of the UC Agriculture Issues Center, he edits the research series on California farmland and open space policy.

Daniel Sumner

Dan is the Frank H. Buck, Jr., Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC Davis and the Director of Agricultural Issues Center. He has published broadly about the consequences of farm and trade policy on agriculture and the economy. Sumner was raised on a fruit farm in Suisun Valley and was active in 4-H and FFA activities.

Craig Zablocki

Craig understands the tough realities of living a balanced life today, yet believes in the importance of lightening up and laughing. His program participants - teachers, farmers and ranchers, students, healthcare workers, business executives, victim's rights groups and more have learned to let laughter do its magic in their lives.

FACILITATORS

Dave Chaney

Dave has worked for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program at UC Davis since 1987 and has been involved in a number of projects that extend practical information about sustainable agriculture to California farmers and ranchers. He has extensive experience in training and meeting facilitation.

Marcia Gibbs

Manager of the Ulatis Rural Conservation District in Dixon, and formerly Coordinator of CAFF BIOS program in walnuts.

Stephanie Larson

Farm Advisor for Marin and Sonoma counties, specializing in sheep management and production, fiber production, rangeland and natural resource management, and water quality. She has experience as a facilitator in a variety of natural resource arena.

Dave Pratt

Served as the range and livestock Farm Advisor for Solano County for 15 years before joining Ranch Management Consultants, an international consulting firm.

SUMMIT ON AGRICULTURE

Evaluation Tabulation of the Summit Event

March 20, 2000

On a scale of one to five, **one** being the *agree completely* and **five** *strongly disagree*, please rate the following:

- | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|----|---|---|
| 1. I think the Summit Project will result in a change in policies that the Solano County Board of Supervisors can effect | 10 | (15) | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. The meeting appeared to be genuinely seeking my opinion | (25) | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 3. The format of the event was effective | (16) | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. The building and meeting rooms worked well | (22) | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 5. Rate the food and drink (one is great food, five is nasty) | (25) | 11 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 6. Rate Al Sokalow's keynote presentation (one is riveting) | 11 | (15) | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| 7. Rate Craig Zablocki's dinner presentation (one is riveting) | (15) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 8. Which workshops did you attend: | | | | | |
| Challenges on the Ag/Urban Interface | | | 29 | | |
| Breaking Barriers to Agricultural Business | | | 10 | | |
| Changing Agricultural Regulations | | | 15 | | |
| Educating the Community | | | 19 | | |

Rate your morning workshop:

- | | Agriculture/urban | Business |
|---|-------------------|-------------|
| 9. Most people who wanted to speak were heard | 12 (13) 4 1 0 | (9) 1 1 0 0 |
| 10. The things that needed to be discussed, were discussed | 10 (12) 6 1 0 | 4 4 0 0 0 |
| 11. The format of the workshop was effective | 9 (13) 4 3 1 | (6) 2 1 0 0 |
| 12. The facilitator did a good job | (18) 9 4 0 0 | (9) 0 0 0 0 |
| 13. We were successful at creating good ideas recommendations | (15) 4 10 0 0 | 4 4 1 0 0 |

Rate your afternoon workshop:

- | | Regulations | Education |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| 14. Most people who wanted to speak were heard | 8 (9) 2 0 0 | (8) 7 1 0 0 |
| 15. The things that needed to be discussed, were discussed | (7) 6 6 0 0 | 6 6 4 0 0 |
| 16. The format of the workshop was effective | (7) 6 5 1 5 | 6 (8) 2 0 0 |
| 17. The facilitator did a good job | (12) 4 3 0 0 | (8) 5 3 0 0 |
| 18. We were successful at creating good ideas recommendations | (9) 6 2 0 0 | (9) 7 0 0 0 |

Describe yourself

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----|-------------------------|---|
| Farmer | 17 | Non-profit organization | 4 |
| Rancher | 10 | Interested citizen | 9 |
| Agriculture Business | 5 | Other | 3 |
| Educator | 5 | | |
| Public agency | 5 | | |

Government Agency Regulations and Permits in Agriculture

The following tables bring together a listing of the regulations and permits effecting agriculture and the agency responsible.

Government Agency
Regulations and/or Permits
in Agriculture

			PERMITS					REGULATIONS
FEDERAL AGENCIES	AIR	Water	Land Use	Construction	Haz. Mat./ Pesticide	Business Operations	Other Environmental	
United States Fish & Wildlife							Incidental Take Permits	Consults & issues Biological opinions
Environmental Protection Agency					Pesticide labels, emergency exemptions			Federal standards, NEPA, Endangered Species Federal Control of Water Allocations
Bureau of Reclamation								Federal permit agency
Army Corp. of Engineers						Export/Import		Federal permit agency
United States Department of Agriculture			401 & 404 permits					International trade
STATE AGENCIES								
California Air Resources Board								State Standards/Federal Implementation
California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Central Valley or Bay Area		Waste Water Discharge permit, small water systems		Permit - large flow & Alternative Septic Systems				State Regulations on Surface & Ground Water Quality
California Integrated Waste Management Board			State Approval for some Composting Activities					State Regulations on Solid Waste Disposal & hazardous waste - Delegated to Local Enforcement Agency
California Department of Toxic Substance Control						Permitting authority for operating permits for Haz. Material & Haz. Waste Facilities		Responsibility for Hazardous Waste Enforcement given to County Haz. Mat. Enforcement given to County
California Department of Food and Agriculture								Responsibility for Enforcement given to County
California Department of Pesticide Regulation					Pesticide Product Registration and Labelling			Responsibility for Enforcement given to County
California Dept. of Fish & Game		Stream Bed Alteration Permits					Endangered species protections	State Regulations regarding habitats, endangered species, stream beds & water ways
California Department of Housing and Community Development				regulates construction of and modification to mobile homes & manufactured homes		Regulates & oversees Permitted Farm Labor camps		State regulatory authority for construction & modifications to manufactured dwellings & trailers

Government Agency
Regulations and/or Permits
in Agriculture

STATE AGENCIES (Cont.)	AIR	Water	PERMITS Land Use	Construction	Haz. Mat/ Pesticide	Business Operations	Other Environmental	REGULATIONS
California Department of Water Resources - Division of Safety of Dams				permits & regulates dams between 6ft in height holding more than 50 acre ft. of water, and dams higher than 25ft holding 15 acre ft. of water				State regulatory agency and permitting agency in specific dams holding water which can include retention ponds
Cal Fed								Multi disciplinary state & federal gov. organization tasked with water quality improvement and water availability enhancement
Cal OSHA						Worker safety Investigations		
Labor Commissioner						Farm Labor Contractor Licensing		
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)								
Bay Area Air Quality Management District	Burn Permit, Air Discharge Permits			Permit to Construct & Permit to Demo.				
Yolo Solano Air Quality Control District	Burn Permit, Air Discharge Permits			Permit to Construct & Permit to Demo.				
Bay Conservation & Development Council (BCDC)			Marsh Development Permit					Permits for Activities in the Primary Marsh Lead Agency for Water Allocations From the Montecello Dam
Solano Water Agency LOCAL AGENCIES								
Solano County - Agricultural Commissioner	Approval of burn permit applications for disease control	Groundwater Protection Regulations			Pesticide use & application inspections, permitting, hazardous materials inventories	Registration of certified producers, organic farmers, seed crop, quarantine, quality inspections	export inspections, compliance investigations, Integrated pest management	
Solano County - Sealer of Weights & Measures						Weighing Device Registration (eg. cattle, truck scales)		

Government Agency
Regulations and/or Permits
in Agriculture

LOCAL AGENCIES (Cont.)	AIR	Water	PERMITS	Construction	Haz. Mat./Pesticide	Business Operations	Other Environmental	REGULATIONS
Solano County - Dept. of Transportation Solano County - Dept. Environmental Management			Land Use Eroachment permits, Road Standards					Local Agency & Local Ordinance for Road Standards
Env. Mgmt. - Planning Services Division			Gas Well Permits, Zoning Administrator Permits, Use Permits, Marsh Development in Secondary Marsh			Sign off on Business Licenses, Rural Enterprise permits, Home business permits, farm labor camps, farm labor housing	CEQA, Local coordination on NEPA for County projects Flood Plain Determinations, Code Enforcement programs - Housing code violations, Abandoned Vehicle abatements, zoning violations	County General Plan, County Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), SMARA
Env. Mgmt. - Building & Safety Division		Well Drilling	Land applications of Biosolids, composting(solid waste) permits	Building Permits- Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, building demolition, Grading		Retail food establishments		Uniform Building Codes, Uniform Fire code, County Grading Ordinance, County Addressing, Local agency for investigation of Code complaints, Local agency for Flood Plain determinations
Env. Mgmt. - Environmental Health Services Division		Permits, well destruction permits, small water systems		Building Permit, Septic System permits				State Health & Safety Codes, Local Ordinances, Public Health Officer input
Env. Hlth. - Hazardous Material Section			Underground & above Ground Fuel Storage Tanks Fire Breaks, Ingress & egress for emergency vehicles		Haz. Material Business Plans			Solano County - Comprehensive Unified Permit Agency (Haz. Material & Haz. waste, UGST)
Local Fire District	Residential Burn Permits			Fire suppression & building sprinklers				Uniform Fire Code & Local Fire District adopted regulations
Solano County Tax Collector/Treasurer						Business Licenses		County Ordinance - Business License
Solano Irrigation District								Water purveyor for many unincorporated areas including agricultural lands

Government Agency
Regulations and/or Permits
in Agriculture

LOCAL AGENCIES (Cont.)	PERMITS							REGULATIONS
	AIR	Water	Land Use	Construction	Haz. Mat./ Pesticide	Business Operations	Other Environmental	
Resource Conservation Districts								Exercise powers to control runoff, the prevention or control of soil erosion, and the distribution of water
Reclamation Districts								construction, operation, and maintenance of reclamation works including dewatering, watering, or irrigation of district land.
Solano County Administrator's Office				Capital Facility Impact Fee requirements				County Ordinance - Public Facilities Impact Fee, collector assigned to Env. Mgmt. & each city.

100

Government Agency
Has Regulations and/or Permits

R = Agency has regulations
P = Agency issues permits

LOCAL AGENCIES (Cont.)	AIR	Water	Land Use	Construction	Haz. Mat & Pesticides	Business Operations	Other Environmental
Env. Mgmt. - Planning Services Division			R & P			R & P	R
Env. Mgmt. - Building & Safety Division							
Env. Mgmt. - Environmental Health Services Division		R & P	R & P	P		R & P	R & P
Env. Hlth. - Hazardous Materials Section			P	R & P			
Local Fire District	P		R	R & P	P		
Solano Irrigation District							
Solano County Tax Collector/Treasurer		R					
Resource Conservation Districts						R & P	
Reclamation Districts		R					
Solano County Administrator				R			

Agriculture Education Resources in Solano County

Solano County Department of Agriculture

(Agriculture Commissioner)
Pesticide Use Enforcement
501 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA
94533

707/421-7465

Solano County Farm Bureau

(Farmer Organization and Agriculture in the Classroom Program)
2210 Boynton Ave
Fairfield, CA 94533

707/425-8044

Solano Community College Horticulture Department

(Urban Horticulture)
4000 Suisun Valley Road
Suisun, CA 944585

707/864-7155

Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Foundation

(Farmland Preservation)
744 Empire Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

707/432-0150

Solano Irrigation District

(Water Conservation and Usage)
508 Elmira Road
Vacaville, CA 95687

707/448-6847

Resource Conservation Districts

(Conservation of Natural Resources)

Suisun Resource Conservation District

2544 Grizzly Island Road
Suisun, CA 94585

707/425-9302

Ulatis Resource Conservation District

1170 North Lincoln Street
Dixon, CA 95620

707/678-1655

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Districts

(Soil Conservation Service)

1170 North Lincoln Street
Dixon, CA 95620

707/678-1655

USDA Farm Services Agency

(Agricultural Support Programs)
1170 North Lincoln Street
Dixon, CA 95620

707/678-1931

University of California Cooperative Extension Solano County

(Farm and Home Advisors, 4-H

Youth Development Program) (University of California, Davis)

501 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

707/421-6790