



South Coast Agriculture Resource Survey

Working to preserve the agricultural way
of life on the South Coast



The Survey

Purpose

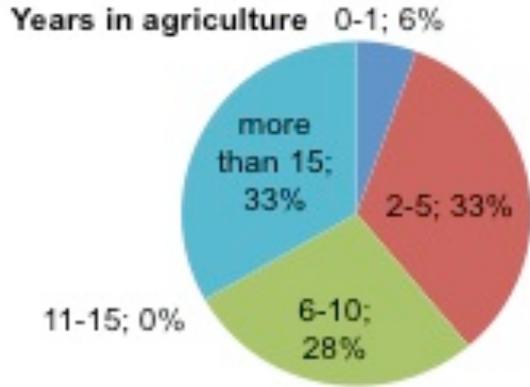
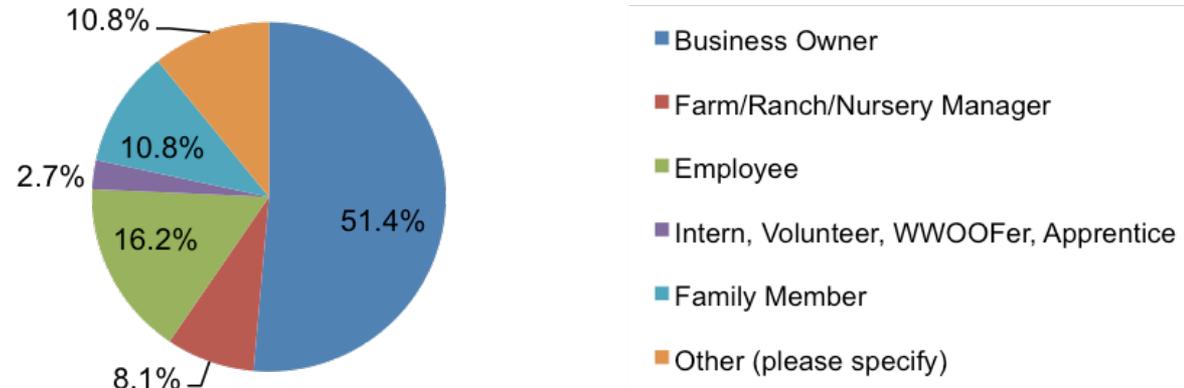
- Identify opportunities to help grow our local economy by combining and sharing resources
- Identify needs of members of the agriculture community for social services

Survey Design

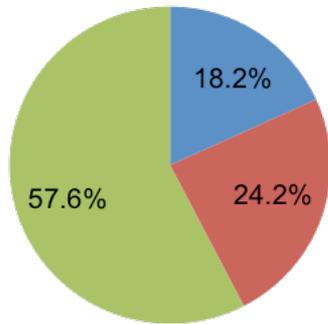
- Sent to 120 members of the South Coast agriculture community
- Members of the San Mateo County Farm Bureau
- E mails collected via an extensive farm and ranch inventory conducted by Puente in 2011

Participants

Which of the following categories best describes your involvement in agriculture?

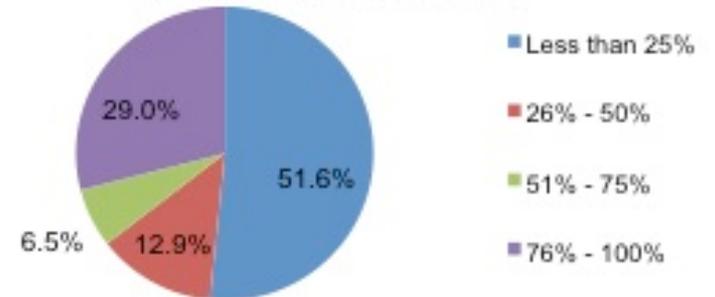


Agricultre Background



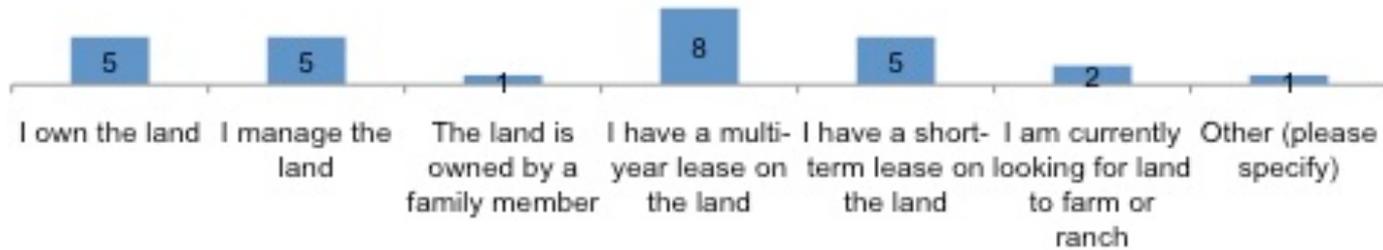
- I grew up in a farming or ranching family where my parents were actively involved in the farm
- I have multi consecutive generations of farming or ranching in my family
- I am a 1st generation Farmer, I do not come from a farming family

In the past year how much of your household income was generated from agriculture?

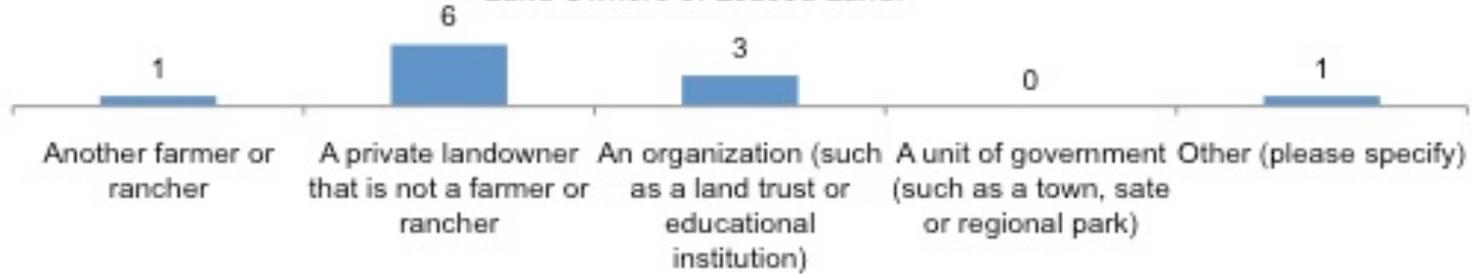


Relationship to Land

Describe your association with the land



Land Owners of Leased Land:



Top 3 Challenges with Leased Land and Rental Housing

- 1. Rental of Housing is too expensive for the salary of a farmer or rancher (83.3%)*
- 2. Leased land for agriculture is not long-term enough to create a viable sustainable business (75%)*
- 3. There is a risk of the leased land being sold (60%)*

Top 3 Goals for Lease Agreements

- 1. A lease agreement for more than 20 years (50%)*
- 2. A lease agreement with the option to build equity by owning improvements (50%)*
- 3. A lease agreement that gives the opportunity to purchase the land (50%)*

Barriers

Top 3 Challenges Facing the South Coast Agriculture Community

Land Access

Land in the South Coast is nearly impossible for the agriculture community to purchase and there are very few landowners willing to make long-term lease agreements.

Housing

Housing available for rent or purchase is difficult to find on the South Coast. The cost of both purchase and rental are not suitable for agrarian incomes.

Regulations/Cost

The cost of doing business on the South Coast teamed with the onerous one-size-fits-all regulations are barriers for the agriculture community in particular the small farms and ranches.

Existing Resources

Top 3 Existing Resources Successfully Utilized by the South Coast

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Through offerings such as EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) and others the South Coast Agriculture Community has received cost-share grants towards conservation practices in agriculture.

Resource Conservation District

The San Mateo County Resource Conservation District provides resources through programs including conservation and watershed planning, project implementation, education and permitting.

College and University Farm and Ranch Programs

With the location of the South Coast there is several opportunities for cutting edge education from Colleges and Universities. There are a large number of farmers and ranchers who now reside on the South Coast that have come from programs such as the ones offered through The Center For Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems out of UCSC.

Puente and the Agriculture Community

Top 3 Existing Puente Programs

Spanish Class for English Speakers (70%)

Pescadero Grown Farmers Market (50%)

Zumba Dance (30%)

Pescadero Grown Farmers Market 2012 Season!

Puente Youth Partnership

For vendors participating in the Pescadero Grown Markets you will have an option to be teamed up with a bi-lingual Puente Youth at your booth. The youth will assist with Spanish speaking customers and assist English speakers with Spanish communication

Areas to Provide a Resource

Top 3 Opportunities for the South Coast Agriculture Community

Incentives for Landowners to Keep Land in Agriculture

Certain policies are in place such as the Williamson Act, however there is opportunity for further education and outreach regarding the benefits of keeping land in agriculture as well as the potential for landowners to provide lease opportunities for the agriculture community.

Affordable Health Care

Health Care is absolutely necessary for the agriculture community, yet is out of reach for many, in particular beginning farmers and ranchers and farm workers.

Legal Assistance and Representation

The high cost of legal assistance and representation is out of reach for many in the agriculture community. There is potential for an organization to provide legal assistance to the agriculture community at a pro-bono or reduced rate when legal circumstances arise around apprentices, regulations and more.

Other Ideas for Assistance

Top 3 Policy, Project or Idea for Assistance

Policies

Encouraging Policies that foster agriculture, direct sales, agritourism, agriculture housing, and support for young and beginning farmers and ranchers

Working with Large Landowners

Encouraging Peninsula Open Space Trust and Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District to actively encourage agriculture by providing long-term leases, affordable housing, and agriculture infrastructure improvements on all lands suitable for farming or ranching.

Farmer Cooperative

Create an association that would foster the collaboration and dissemination of resources, information, distribution and equipment share.

Recommendations

Countywide Recommendations

1. Identify specific barriers facing agriculture at the County level
2. Identify the common ground between San Mateo County policy and local agriculture
3. Identify the next steps to encourage a thriving agriculture economy

Local Food Summit Topics

1. Farm Labor Housing
2. Scalable commercial kitchens and commissaries for value-adding food, central refrigeration and opportunity for direct marketing
3. Temporary housing on PAD and scenic corridor zones for agritourism and apprenticeship housing.
4. Present and future status of the Williamson Act and ways for the agriculture community to be involved with Williamson Act parcels.
5. Permitting process and associated costs for agricultural structures and farm labor housing.

Community Recommendations

1. Identify specific benefits for landowners to utilize their land for agriculture either by having their own agriculture business or leasing to the agriculture community.
2. Link land owners with the agriculture community to form mutually beneficial relationships
3. Encourage landowners to contribute to local food security by utilizing their land to grow diverse crops and livestock
4. Identify specific barriers preventing private and public lands to be leased for agriculture.

Land Owners and the Agriculture Community

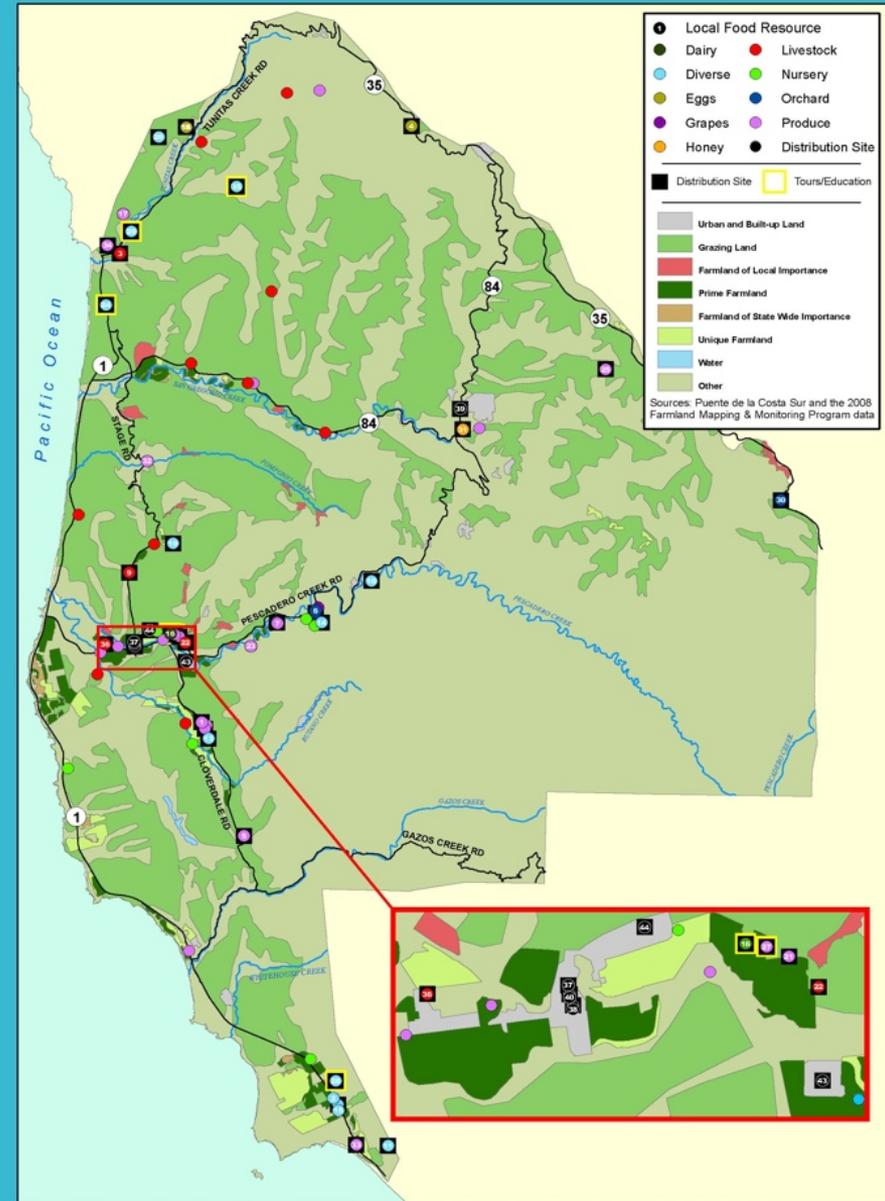
1. Partner with CA Farmlink to host a land-linking mixer on the South Coast.
2. Work with the Land Access Committee of the San Mateo County Food Systems Alliance to assist in implementing strategic plans for the South Coast.
3. Create outreach events for landowners that feature land-linking success stories, agriculture case studies and education.
4. Create opportunities for landowners to participate in current agriculture outreach activities through assisting with marketing existing events.

Pescadero Grown Farmer's Market



- Providing direct market opportunities to our South Coast agriculture producers and food artisans.
- Getting Local Food in the hands of the local people
- The only place in Pescadero to accept WIC and CalFresh (food stamps)
- Market Match and Pescadero Grown Tokens Programs will match dollar for dollar purchases at the market for those who qualify.

South Coast Foodshed Farms, Ranches, and Distribution



0 0.5 1 2 3 4
Miles

Map produced by San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
Created on August 19, 2011

Where do we go from here?

Draft



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