



Farmland Assessment Field Guide



A guide to help you examine site conditions and variables that can affect the viability of your farm operation and intended to help compare potential farm properties or leasing opportunities.

- ☐ Before visiting any property, identify particular features that will be vital for your operation and what could be deal breakers.
- ☐ During your site visit, jot down notes about each consideration so that you can easily compare properties later.
- ☐ Trust your instincts and don't be afraid to ask questions!

As a Community Development Financial Institution, California FarmLink invests in the prosperity and well-being of farmers, ranchers, and fishers who have limited access to financial resources. Their programs center communities of color, and promote just and resilient economies and natural resource conservation. They offer fair financing, business education, and support in land access. For more information about California FarmLink, see: cafarmlink.org

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Property address:

Owner contact info:

PROPERTY:

Zoning restrictions:

Available acreage for lease:

Conservation and other easements:

Possibility to live on property/park a trailer:

ACCESS:

Near urban centers, markets, and services:

Near major roads:

Accessible by car and large equipment:

RELATIONSHIPS:

Landholder compatibility:

Landholder lives on-site:

Neighboring property uses and practices:

Existing buyers for permanent crops:

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STORAGE:

Availability:

Shared use:

Additional costs:

EQUIPMENT:

Available:

Included or additional cost:

INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPROVEMENTS:

(What is available as part of a lease or purchase, what will cost extra, and what could be constructed)

Barns/buildings:

Storage/cold storage:

Washing station:

Farmstand:

Fencing:

Greenhouses:

Food processing facilities:

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Existing orchard or perennial crops:

Residence available for rent:

Space/hookups for a trailer:

LAND ORIENTATION:

Slope:

Topography:

Microclimates:

Exposure:

SOIL:

Type/texture:

Quality/degradation:

Available records:

WATER RESOURCES:

Sources:

Quantity:

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Quality:

Irrigation, infrastructure (well, pump):

UTILITIES

(What is available and who is responsible for payment)

Water:

Electricity/power:

Gas/propane:

Sewer:

Garbage/recycling:

Internet/etc.:

MAINTENANCE

Roads:

Infrastructure:

Equipment:

Fencing/gates:

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HISTORY/RECORDS

Known environmental hazards:

Eligible for organic certification:

Species/areas of environmental concern:

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
