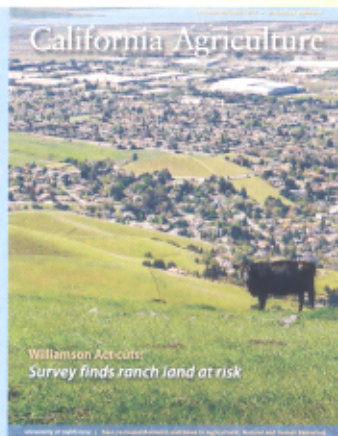


California Agriculture

An aerial photograph of a California agricultural landscape. In the foreground, a black cow stands on a grassy hillside. The middle ground shows rolling green hills interspersed with a residential town. In the background, there are large industrial or agricultural buildings and a body of water under a clear blue sky.

Williamson Act cuts:
Survey finds ranch land at risk



COVER: State budget cuts have dramatically reduced funding for the Williamson Act, the conservation law that provides property tax relief for the owners of 15 million acres of farms and rangeland. In a survey of Central Valley ranchers, researchers found that landowners planned to sell 20% of their total acres if Williamson Act contracts were eliminated (page 131); 76% of those owners predicted buyers would develop the land for nonagricultural uses. Shown is an Angus cow grazing in Mission Peak Regional Preserve, which overlooks the City of Fremont and the San Francisco Bay. *Photo by Sheila Barry*

Williamson Act cuts: Survey finds ranch land at risk

Research and review articles

131 Analysis reveals potential rangeland impacts if Williamson Act eliminated

Wetzel et al.

Three-quarters of surveyed ranchers who would sell land if they lost Williamson Act tax benefits predicted that it would be developed for nonagricultural uses.



137 Clean Development Mechanism agricultural methodologies could help California to achieve AB 32 goals

Dinar, Larson, Frisbie

An international cap-and-trade program — the Clean Development Mechanism — has attracted investments in projects to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, developing methodologies that California could use.



144 Converting oak woodland or savanna to vineyards may stress groundwater supply in summer

Grismer and Asato

A water balance model found similar annual groundwater extraction by oak woodland and vineyards in Sonoma County but critical seasonal differences.



153 Turnover rates are decreasing in California dairies

Billikopf and González

Compared with 60 years ago, the dairy workforce is more stable with fewer layoffs and better relations between workers and managers.



158 4-H boosts youth scientific literacy with ANR water education curriculum

Smith, Heck, Worker

A pilot test of the curriculum *There's No New Water!* shows it is a promising way to meet some state and national education goals.



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