

## Farmers and Neighbors

Lake County's climate is well-suited to production of a variety of crops, and agriculture comprises a major portion of the local economy. At the same time, most Lake County residents are not involved in agriculture and may have little or no understanding of farm operations.

Farmers and their non-farming neighbors have different lifestyle and economic goals. Farmers must perform their field operations in a timely and efficient manner. They are constrained on one hand by natural factors such as pests and weather conditions and, on the other, by the need to survive in a very competitive industry. Neighbors often have moved to the countryside for the peaceful, rural setting.



Inevitably, some conflicts will occur between farmers and nearby residential neighbors. The best way to reduce these conflicts is to keep intensive farming and residential areas as separate as possible. Better understanding of potential conflicts and actions to reduce them also can help farmers and their neighbors to live side by side.

## Potential Conflicts

### For Neighbors

- noise
- dust
- odor, flies
- pesticide drift
- farm equipment on roads
- sediment, chemicals in water
- water consumption
- land values reduced near farms



### For Farmers

- restraints on farm operations due to proximity to residences
- trespassing and liability
- theft and vandalism
- traffic
- damage from dogs
- weed and insect pests
- water consumption
- higher land values near residential areas



## Possible Solutions

- Land use planning and zoning to keep agricultural and residential areas separate
- Local and state regulations to control pesticide use near residential areas
- Notifying neighbors about farming operations such as spraying
- Farmer adoption of new techniques to reduce pesticide, fertilizer, and water use



- Physical barriers such as hedges and buffer zones between agriculture and residences
- Increased knowledge by neighbors about farming practices
- Water conservation by both farmers and neighbors
- Controlling potential agricultural pests in backyard landscapes
- Restraining dogs so they do not harass livestock

## Ideas for Farmer-Neighbor Cooperation

- Field days for farm neighbors
- Direct marketing of local produce, for example subscription farming or farmers' markets
- Community service to mediate disagreements

## LAKE COUNTY FARMER



To learn more refer to leaflets in this series on vineyard and orchard operations, livestock operations, land use issues, and water use issues, and to the additional resources listed on the back.

Compiled and written by Erica Lundquist, Intern, and Rachel Elkins, Farm Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension, Lakeport, California, through a grant from the California Communities Program, University of California, Davis, 1998.  
Additional funding provided by: Bank of Lake County, California Women for Agriculture, Lake County Chapter, Clear Lake Grange #680, Lake Community Bank, Lake County Farm Bureau, Lake County Marketing Program, UC Cooperative Extension, Lake County, and West Lake Resource Conservation District.

## Additional Resources Agencies and Organizations

Lake County Department of Agriculture  
883 Lakeport Blvd.  
Lakeport, CA 95453  
(707) 263-0217

Lake Co. Air Quality Management Dist.  
883 Lakeport Blvd.  
Lakeport, CA 95453  
(707) 263-7000

Lake County Community Development Dept. Planning Division  
255 N Forbes St.  
Lakeport, CA 95453  
(707)263-2221

Lake County Farm Bureau  
65 Soda Bay Road  
Lakeport, CA 95453  
(707) 263-0911

Clearlake Chamber of Commerce  
4700 Golf Ave.  
Clear Lake, CA 95422  
(707) 994-3600

Greater Lakeport Chamber of Comm.  
290 S. Main St.  
Lakeport, CA 95453  
(707) 263-5092

University of California Cooperative Extension  
883 Lakeport Blvd.  
Lakeport, CA 95453  
(707) 263-6838

California Women for Agriculture  
P. O. Box 79  
Finley, CA 95453  
(707) 987-0603

## References

Lake County Factbook, U.C. Cooperative Extension

*Farmers and Neighbors: Land Use, Pesticides, and Other Issues*, U. C. Agricultural Issues Center

*California's Future, Maintaining Viable Agriculture at the Urban Edge*, U. C. Agricultural Issues Center

*Farmers and Neighbors at the Edge* (video), U.C. Agricultural Issues Center

## Agriculture in Lake County, California

### Farmer and Neighbor Land Use Conflicts and Solutions



Produced by the Lake County Farmers and Neighbors Planning Committee, dedicated to ensuring continuation of agriculture as part of Lake County's economic and cultural future.