



## Maintaining Reedley's Fruit Basket Legacy

The City of Reedley is currently developing a Farmland Preservation Program to ensure that our community's agricultural prominence is maintained into the future, preserving both our economic stability as well as our Fruit Basket Legacy.

We are looking for your help to identify the preferred program details that will best serve our community. Watch our website for additional information about upcoming meetings and other ways to communicate with us.

### Upcoming Activities

- Identifying best practices and researching example programs
- An inventory of local farmland and economic and demographic data
- Developing and implementing a robust public outreach

Funding for the development of the program provided by a Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Grant agreement with the State of California Department of Conservation

**1. What is a Farmland Preservation Program?**

A Farmland Preservation Program is a collaborative effort between farmland owners and local governments to preserve farmland and minimize land use conflicts.

**2. What is the purpose of a Farmland Preservation Program?**

The purpose of a Farmland Preservation Program is to assist in offsetting the loss of farmland resulting from urban development by requiring the permanent protection of farmland. This occurs by requiring anyone proposing to develop agricultural land to acquire agricultural conservation easements, or similar methods, over an equivalent area of comparable farmland prior to development.

**3. How does a Farmland Preservation Program work?**

By participating in the Farmland Preservation Program, farmland owners allow restrictive covenants to be placed on their land, which limit the property's use and development. Through this process the Farmland Preservation Program ensures that farmland properties will be forever protected for agricultural use. Deed restrictions prohibiting non-agricultural development then run with the land.

**4. What type of Farmland Preservation Program is the City of Reedley seeking to implement?**

The City of Reedley is seeking to implement a Farmland Preservation Program that will secure the permanent preservation of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance within Fresno County on a 1 for 1 basis when similar land(s) within the City of Reedley's Sphere of Influence (SOI) are being converted to urban uses.

**5. What type of farmland is eligible for the City of Reedley's Farmland Preservation Program?**

Farmland eligible for the City of Reedley's Farmland Preservation Program Includes:

- ✓ Prime Farmland
- ✓ Unique Farmland
- ✓ Farmland of Statewide Importance

**6. What type of development would be impacted by a Farmland Preservation Program?**

Farmland Preservation Program guidelines would apply to any development project requiring change of land use from 'agriculture use' to an urban use.

The acreage requiring mitigation would need to be equal to the overall size of the legal parcel subject to the land use designation amendment and not the portion of parcel being developed.

**7. How does the City of Reedley's Farmland Preservation Program benefit owners of farmland?**

By having land included in the Farmland Preservation Program, farmland owners are indicating their commitment to protecting farmland in perpetuity, and continued eligibility for ag-related programming.

**8. Does enrollment in the City of Reedley's Farmland Preservation Program make farmland public property?**

No, enrollment in the Farmland Preservation Program does not make farmland public property. The public has no right to access or use a deed-restricted farm without the landowner's consent. For landowners, participation in the Farmland Preservation Program means a stronger land base to support the City of Reedley's agricultural industry, and the knowledge that this land will forever be preserved as farmland.

**9. Why is the City of Reedley creating a Farmland Preservation Program?**

Goal COSP 4.3A of the Reedley General Plan Update 2030 (GPU) identifies the need "to preserve as long as possible the prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance and farmland of local importance within the GPU Sphere of Influence."

In order to meet this goal, the GPU contains policies that calls for the preparation and adoption of a Farmland Preservation Plan.

**10. Where can I learn more?**

For more information, visit our webpage at [www.reedley.com/departments/community\\_development/Major\\_Projects/](http://www.reedley.com/departments/community_development/Major_Projects/) or reach out to Rob Terry, City of Reedley Community Development Director. Mr. Terry can be reached via phone at (559) 637-4200, ext 286 or email at [rob.terry@reedley.ca.gov](mailto:rob.terry@reedley.ca.gov).

