HomeGrown: Tools for Local Farmers and Ranchers
64% of our 3.6 million acre greenbelt is farms & ranches, that's 2.3 million acres.

$2.7 billion
Annual gross production value of farms & ranches.

$6.1 billion
Total economic value.

217,000
Acres of farms & ranches lost to sprawl since 1984. That's an area of land more than 7x the size of San Francisco.

The threat of working lands being converted to urban development continues, threatening the region's food industry and the social, economic, and natural values it provides.
Six Barriers to Farming and Ranching

Regulatory Challenges
Six Barriers to Farming and Ranching

Regulatory Challenges

- Dedicated county personnel
- County regulatory improvement initiatives
- Resource conservation permit coordination
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Land Conversion
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Conflicts between landowners
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New farmers and ranchers
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Accessing regional markets
Six Barriers to Farming and Ranching

Funding
In Every County...
In Every County…

Adopt policy that supports farmers’ rights, avoids converting working lands to urban uses, and mitigates for unavoidable loss of working lands
In Every County…

Dedicate county personnel to assist and advocate for farmers and ranchers on local regulatory and planning issues.
In Every County…

Demonstrate and publicize the social, economic, and environmental values of the county’s farms and ranches
In Every County...

Promote and market local farm direct sales efforts such as u-picks, farmers’ markets, and community-supported agriculture programs to residents and visitors.

Photo: Taylor Hanigosky
In Every County…

Identify long-term funding mechanisms
What’s Next?

Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Agricultural and Open Space Policy