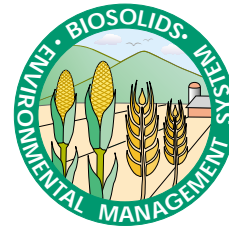


# City of Los Angeles Green Acres Fact Sheet



City of Los Angeles • Department of Public Works • Bureau of Sanitation



## What is Green Acres Farm?

Green Acres Farm is a 4,688-acre land, owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles. The farm was acquired in the year 2000 and has been utilized for land application of nutrient-rich biosolids, which help improve soil structure, crop growth, and quality. It is located near the city of Bakersfield in Kern County.

## What crops are grown in Green Acres Farm?

There are a variety of feed and grain crops grown in the farm. These are wheat, corn, milo, alfalfa, and sudan. The crops are harvested and sold to dairies in the surrounding area for stock feed.



## What kind and how much fertilizer are used to grow crops?

Biosolids are used as a fertilizer which helps in improving the soil structure, crop growth, and quality. Approximately 80,000 dry tons of biosolids are applied annually.



## What are the benefits of applying biosolids in a farmland such as Green Acres?

Land application of biosolids is beneficial to farmers, municipalities, and the community. Land application of biosolids is practiced throughout the United States. Approximately 68% of biosolids produced in California was land applied (based on 2003 reporting data.) Biosolids recycling and reuse add nutrients and positive soil characteristics to agricultural land which, increases crop production. Recycling biosolids saves local and state governments significant amounts of money through lower management costs and sales of biosolids-derived products, keeping biosolids out of landfills and placing them where they can be beneficially used helps preserve valuable landfill space.

## Does using biosolids as a fertilizer increase crop productions?

Yes. Below is a table of different crops grown in Green Acres and the yields for the last two years.



CROPS	Crop yield, average Tons/Acre	
	2003	2004
Wheat	15	14
Milo	16	17
Sudan	5	5
Alfalfa	7	9
Corn	15	19

## What are some of the concerns and risks to land application of biosolids?

When conducted according to regulations, years of research have shown that land application of biosolids is safe. However, concerns still remain regarding soil and groundwater contamination from trace elements, toxic chemicals, and potentially harmful disease-causing organisms. Biosolids are monitored for metals, pathogens, organics, and inorganic constituents. Groundwater monitoring and soil analysis are performed to ensure proper nutrients management for specific crops planted. Thirteen plus years of data exists and shows that groundwater parameters remain consistent, and are well below the regulatory limits since land application of biosolids at Green Acres.

## Is the use of biosolids as fertilizer safe for the environment?

Biosolids are tested monthly, agronomic rates are determined for the crops, site inspections are performed, and setbacks are established from surface waters and wells. We are complying with current regulations, monitoring the groundwater, and have set some management practices in place that we follow. Several agencies, including the Kern Country Water Agency, are monitoring wells at the site. The data shows that on-site operations have not caused degradation to the groundwater under the site.

## Are there any benefits to Kern County from the City's farm?

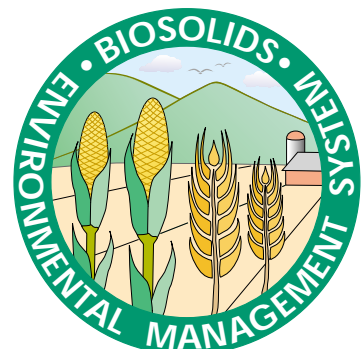
The City pays taxes and biosolids permit fees to Kern County. Local residents are hired to work at the farm. A local citizen from Kern County was hired to manage the farm. We also have a contract with a local farmer who manages our farming operation. We use local companies and vendors to supply farm equipment and other good and services used at the farm and in the conference center.

## Do you provide any oversight to the local farmer who buys the crops?

We provide the local dairies that buy the crops with data related to the metal concentrations in the biosolids. We perform soil and plant tissue analysis. This information is used to make sure we apply the correct amount of biosolids necessary for the crop that is being planted. Beyond that it is the farmers' responsibility to determine if he can use the crops. We track the crops that are harvested and we track biosolids application on each field.



For more information, please visit our website at:  
<http://www.lacity.org/SAN/biosolidsems>  
or call (310) 648-5877.



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