



the Almond
CONFERENCE
2019

Incentive Assistance: Help Applying for Grants That Fund On-Farm Practices

 **california
almonds**[®]
Almond Board of California

Session Speakers

Jesse Roseman, ABC

Toney Tillman, NRCS

Kristen Murphy, CARCD

Shulamit Shroder, UC ANR

Kelli Evans, Evans Farming





United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS Assistance Programs for California Almond Growers

December 11, 2019 – Toney Tillman

NRCS Assistance Types

- Conservation Technical Assistance
 - Free Assessment & Planning Help
- Competitive Agreements
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Partnerships
 - Regional Cooperative Conservation Partnership (RCPP)
- Grants
 - Conservation Innovation Grants



Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Inventory & Evaluate
Resource Concerns

Plan & Design

Decide & Prioritize

Evaluate & Update

Conservation Plan is Basis
for Programs Ranking

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Address agricultural operation, environmental, or legacy impacts on natural resources

Applications ranked based on strength of conservation plan

Compete in fund pools – similar geography, operation types, resource concerns, practices

Financial Assistance paid at completion of scheduled practices

EQIP Air Quality Practice Examples



Use "low-dust" harvester technologies for reducing PM10 emissions



Stabilize unpaved on-farm roads and vehicle traffic areas



Chip vegetative debris from an orchard removal



Apply wood chips or woody mulching materials to the land surface to minimize airborne particulate, promote carbon sequestration, and improve soil health



Precision spray application technologies and integrated pest management strategies to reduce fugitive VOC emissions from pesticide application



Safe handling and disposal of chemically treated wood stakes from orchards and vineyards

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Take conservation achievements to next level

- CSP Activities build on practices installed with EQIP

Five-year contracts include entire operation

- Annual payments for maintaining stewardship condition
- Activity payments for installed enhancement amounts

Higher conservation performance earns
higher incentive payments

Conservation Practices Fix Resource Impacts

Enhancements Extend Benefits

EQIP Practice for Water Quality Degradation treatment	CSP Enhancements to extend Cover Crop water quality benefits (landuse specific applicability varies)
340 Cover Crop	E340118Z Cover crop to reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients-surface water E340119Z Cover crop to reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients-ground water



Compacted Soil



Healthy Soil - Good Structure

Working with NRCS is Easy

www.nrcs.usda.gov



5 Get Started with NRCS



Office Locator: [SERVICE CENTER LOCATOR](#)

5 Steps to Assistance

How to Get Assistance from NRCS for Farms, Ranches and Forests

- 1 PLANNING**
Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.
- 2 APPLICATION**
With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.
- 3 ELIGIBILITY**
As part of applying, we'll file paperwork to ensure you're eligible for assistance.
- 4 RANKING**
NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.
- 5 IMPLEMENTING**
Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.

4 Reasons to Use Conservation Client Gateway

How Conservation Client Gateway can assist your conservation efforts

- 1 REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
- 2 APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**
- 3 REVIEW, SIGN AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS AND CONTRACTS**
- 4 TRACK YOUR PAYMENTS**



Questions?

For More Information

Visit our website at:

www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov

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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

California's Future Depends on All of Us

KRISTEN MURPHY, Project Manager

Resource Conservation Districts

- NON-REGULATORY
- Special districts
- Each RCD is autonomous
- RCD Boards are community members
- Provide expert technical assistance to landowners and managers
- Connect people to technical, financial, and educational resources

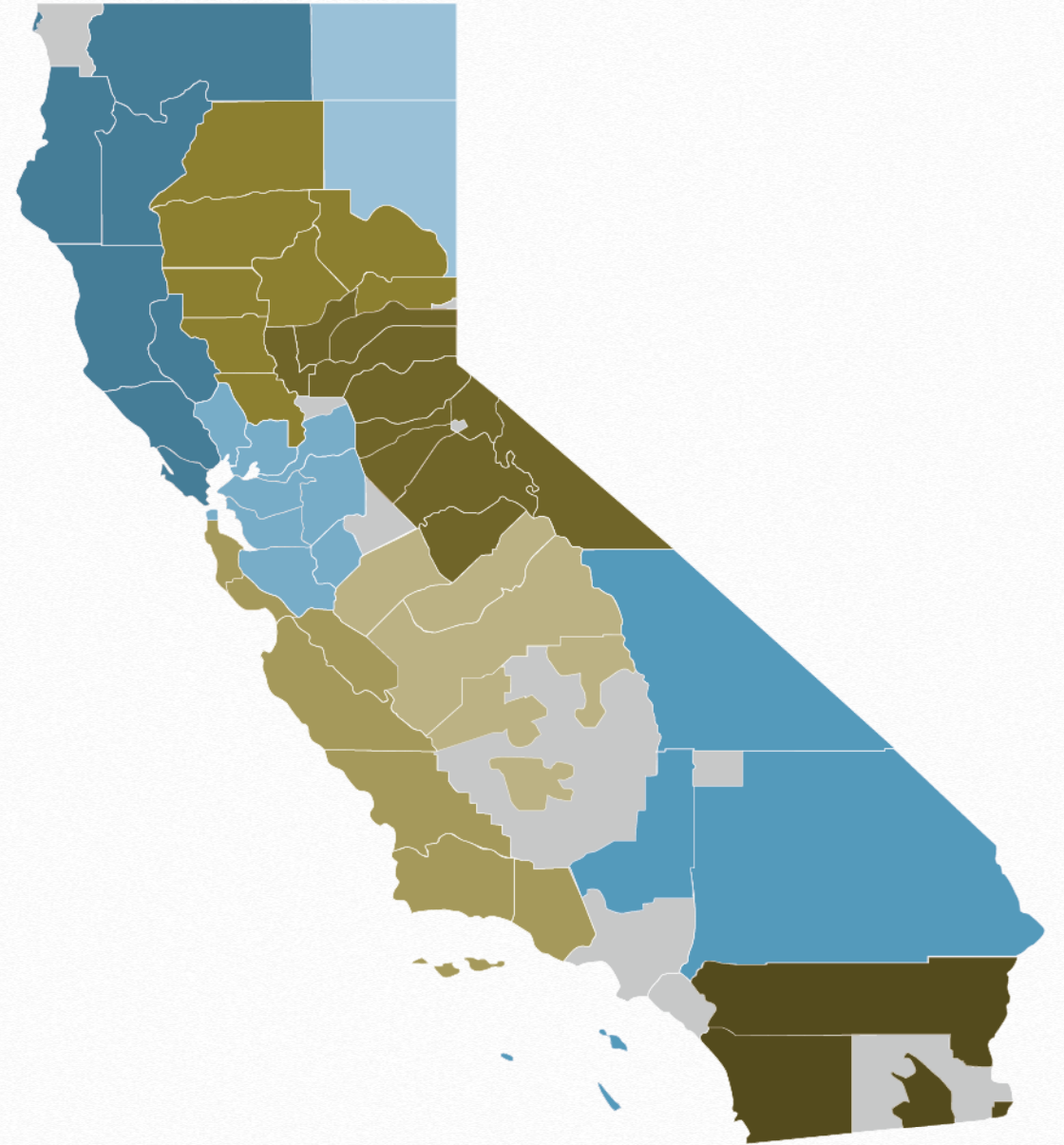




Knowledgeable
Non-regulatory
Publicly Accountable
Trusted

Where We Work

- 96 RCDs serving
- 10 regions
- Statewide



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Comprehensive Technical Assistance

Supporting Agricultural Communities

- **Land management:** RCDs promote land management that supports a sustainable and productive agricultural economy.
- **Trainings:** RCDs provide workshops on a range of topics on demonstration sites, field days, farmer-to-farmer events



Navigating the Permitting and Application Process

- Dedicated funding for CDFA Healthy Soils and SWEEP programs – *this winter!*
- Work directly with NRCS for EQIP and other farm-bill programs
- Water Resource Control Boards
- What program are you interested in?



Application Assistance

- Application assistance
 - One-on-one project design
 - Baseline sampling/evaluation
 - GHG Calculations
 - Narrative support
 - Budget
 - Permitting assistance



Locally Led

Financial
Assistance



Comprehensive Technical Assistance

- Conservation planning
 - Grazing management plans
 - Carbon Farm plans
- Water Conservation
 - Irrigation Evaluations
 - Mobile Irrigation Lab
 - Groundwater recharge
- Fire prevention and planning



Potential Upgrades

- Cover crops
- Whole orchard recycling
- Compost application
- Integrated livestock
- Fuel load reduction
- Chipping to biochar
- Low pressure irrigation systems
- Pump retrofits
- Soil moisture monitoring
- Installation of renewable energy sources
- Filter strips
- Pollinator habitat (IPM)





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RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Thank You & Questions

Kristen Murphy

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facebook.com/californiaRCDs

CDFA Climate-Smart Agriculture

Incentive Programs for On-Farm Improvements

Shulamit Shroder



Photo by Britta Baskerville, used with permission

UCANR/CDFA Climate-Smart Agriculture

- 3 programs
- Joint UCANR/CDFA effort
- Technical assistance
- No cost to grower

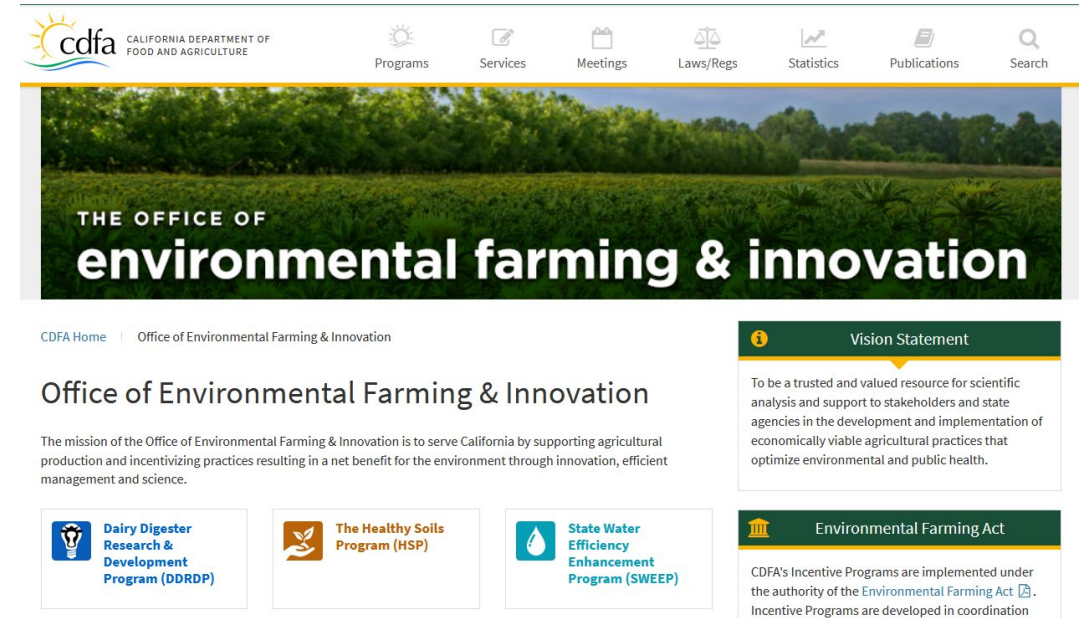


UC Climate Smart Agriculture in the Central Valley

County	Contact	Email	Phone
Glenn	Dana Brady	dnbrady@ucanr.edu	(530) 517-8187
Yolo, Solano & Sacramento	Emily Lovell	ejlovell@ucanr.edu	(530) 405-9777
Merced	Caddie Bergren	cmbergren@ucanr.edu	(209) 385-7403
Fresno	Samikshya Budhathoki	sbudhathoki@ucanr.edu	(559) 974-4332
Kern	Shulamit Shroder	sashroder@ucanr.edu	(661) 868-6218

Web Resources

- **UCANR:** California Institute for Water Resources website:
<http://ciwr.ucanr.edu/Programs/ClimateSmartAg/>
- **CDFA:** Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/>





THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING & INNOVATION



healthy soils program

Incentives Projects

UC
CE

University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources | Cooperative Extension

Healthy Soils Incentives Overview

- Max: \$75,000
- ↑ soil organic carbon
- ↓ greenhouse gas emissions
- 3 years until completion



Photo by Britta Baskerville, used with permission

Healthy Soils Timeline

Activity	Date
Release of Request for Grant Applications	January 2020
Grant Portal Opens	January 2020
Deadline	March 2020
Review Period	Spring 2020
Award Announcement	Spring 2020
Project Start	Late Fall 2020

Incentives Projects

Requirements

- 3 years management data
- Control of land for next 3 years
- Soil organic matter test

Restrictions

- Ongoing projects



Incentives Practices







Funding

- Applications due Dec. 16
- No new funding source yet



SWEEP overview

- Max: \$100,000
-  water use efficiency
-  greenhouse gas emissions



Evans Ag Consulting

Kelli Evans

What is Evans Ag Consulting ?

- We work with growers and dealerships
- Help growers to decided what programs fit their operation best
- Help with growers from start to finish to apply for funding
- Deep understanding of how farming operations work
- Personally a farmer and have applied these programs to our operation

San Joaquin Valley

Air Pollution Control District

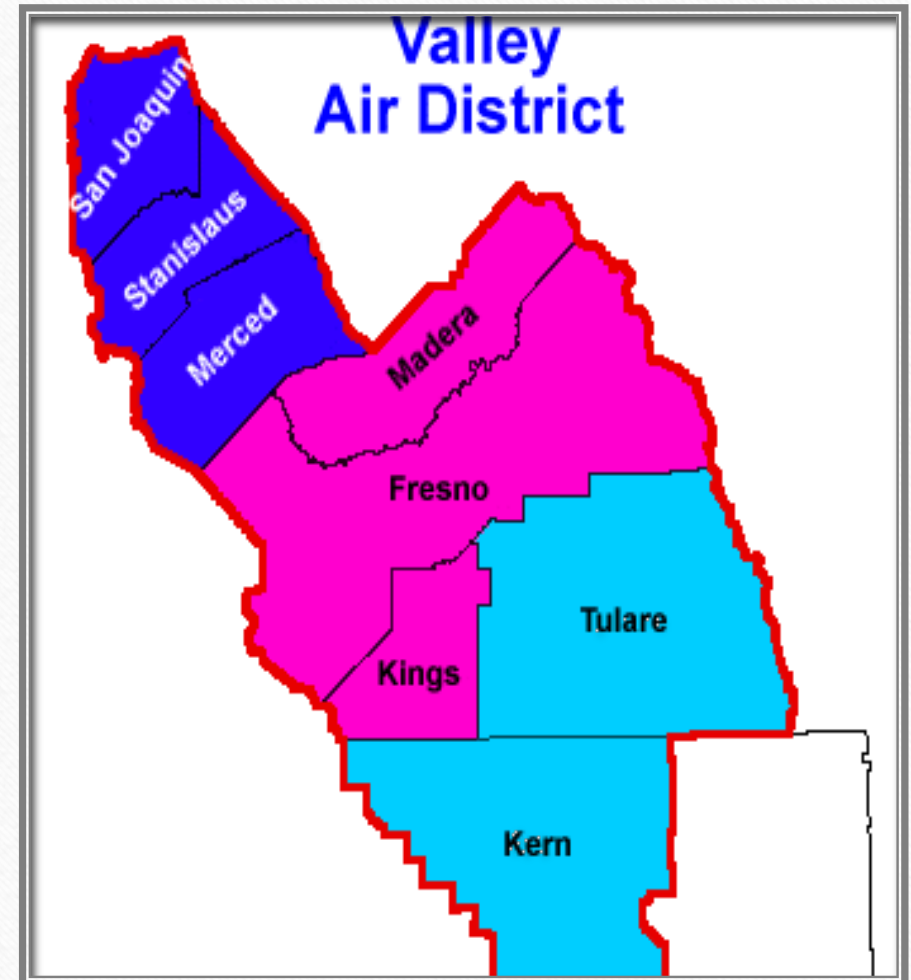
- **Open Burning Incentive Program**
- **FARMER Program**

Open Burning Incentive Program

- Program is for growers only
- Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served till funding runs out
- Whole orchard recycling or Land application of mulch.
- Approved methods is chipping or shedding
- Vouchers are valid for 180 days only

Eligible Locations

- Property must fall within the Valley Air District boundaries



Incentive Amounts

- Amount based on acres
- Max incentive payout limit

Project Type	Maximum Incentive Per Acre*	Maximum Incentive (per applicant per year)
Chipping with soil incorporation	\$600 per acre	\$60,000
Chipping without soil incorporation	\$300 per acre	\$30,000
Total Maximum Incentive Amount		\$60,000

FARMER Program

- Must operate equipment 50% within SJVAPCD
- Old equipment needs to be Tier 2 or older
- Old equipment must be 25 hp or larger
- New equipment must be Tier 4
- New equipment must serve the same function
- New equipment hp can not exceed 125% of old equipment
- New equipment can not have more then 250 hp when purchased
- New equipment must be sold as new from dealer
- Expect applications year round

Incentive Amounts

- Amount based on hp
- Specialty Equipment amount is more per hp
- \$250,000.00 per entity per fiscal year limit

Agricultural Tractors (advertised hp rating)	SJVAPCD Incentive
25-74	\$300/hp
75-149	\$350/hp
150 +	\$500/hp

Specialty Equipment (advertised hp rating)	SJVAPCD Incentive
25-109	\$450/hp
110+	\$500/hp

Outside San Joaquin Valley



- Each county approaches it differently
- Other counties normally pay out by percentage of cost of new
- Normally only expect applications for a short period once a year

**San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Strategies and Incentives Department
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-0244**

You may contact them by phone, email, or visit their website:

**(559) 230-5800
grants@valleyair.org
www.valleyair.org**

Evans Ag Consulting

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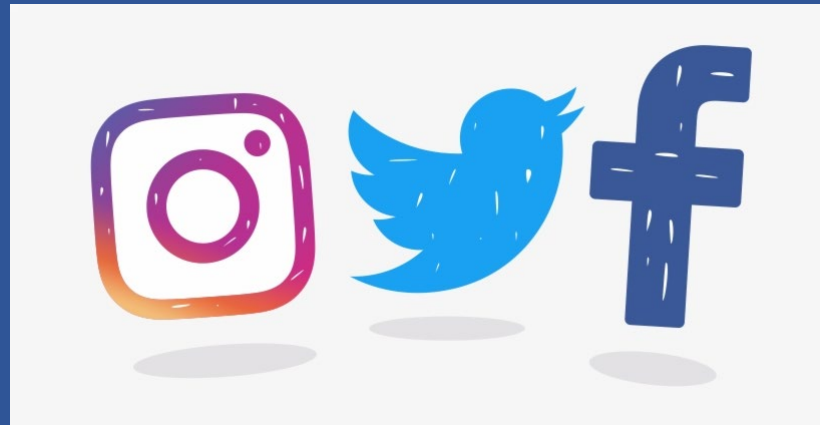


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Thank you!