

# Grants for Growers

December 9, 2015



# Speakers

Jeff Dlott, SureHarvest (Moderator)

Carolyn Cook, CDFA

Jed Webster, Agriland Farming Company, Inc

Erik Beardsley, USDA - NRCS



# Grants for Growers: Session Outline

- Session Background and Purpose
- Introduction of Speakers
- Presentations
  - State Grant Program
  - Grower Perspective on Applying for State Grant
  - Federal Cost-Share Programs
- Questions and Answers

## Grants for Growers: Session Background and Purpose

- An area of focus for the Almond Board is increasing grower awareness and access to grants and cost-share opportunities supporting water-use efficiency (WUE) improvements
- The Almond Board has sponsored the development of a annotated list of grant and cost-share programs that incentivize WUE technologies and practices
- The purpose of this session is to inspire almond growers to investigate and apply for State and Federal grants and/or cost-share programs that focus on WUE

# Grants for Growers: Annotated List of Grant and Cost-Share Opportunities

- There are more than 20 State and Federal Grant and Cost-Share Programs that include a focus on the implementation of WUE technologies and practices
- On an annual basis, there are \$10s of millions in available funding
- Most programs are focused on multiple benefit areas such as WUE, energy efficiency, etc.

List of Incentive Programs for Agricultural Water Use Efficiency, Water Quality and Energy Stewardship/Air Quality

Program Clickable Link	Ag Area(s) Focus	Equipment/Practices Funded	Eligibility	Incentive	Availability	Due Date
<a href="#">State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)</a> <a href="#">California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)</a>	Water Use Efficiency, Energy Stewardship/Air Quality	Conservation equipment (e.g., flow meters, weather stations, micro-irrigation systems, VFDs, solar power systems)	Private businesses Statewide	Cost share	11/20/2015	01/08/16
<a href="#">Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</a> <a href="#">USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</a>	Water Use Efficiency, Water Quality, Energy Stewardship/Air Quality	Conservation equipment and practices	Private businesses Statewide	Cost share	Open	Year round

# Grants for Growers: Speakers and Topics

## Carolyn Cook

Sr. Environmental Scientist  
CDFA


## Jed Webster

Farm Manager  
Agriland Farming Company

## Erik Beardsley

Programs Specialist  
USDA-NRCS

Program Clickable Link	Ag Area(s) Focus
<a href="#">State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET)</a> <a href="#">California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)</a>	Water Use Efficiency, Energy Stewardship/Air Quality
<a href="#">Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</a> <a href="#">USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</a>	Water Use Efficiency, Water Quality, Energy Stewardship/Air Quality



**Carolyn Cook,  
CDFA**



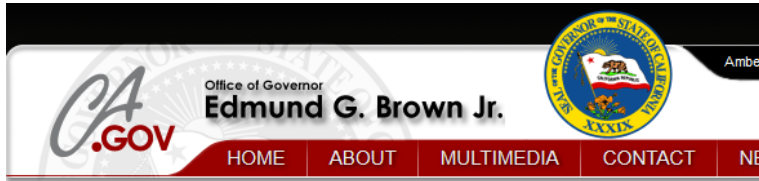
# State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

Carolyn Cook, Sr. Environmental Scientist  
California Department of Food and Agriculture





# BACKGROUND



## GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNS DROUGHT LEGISLATION

3-1-2014

SACRAMENTO – As California grapples with the driest period in its history, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. today signed legislation to assist drought-affected communities and provide funding to better use local water supplies.

"Legislators across the aisle have now voted to help hard-pressed communities that face water shortages," said Governor Brown. "This legislation marks a crucial step – but Californians must continue to take every action possible to conserve water."

The legislation had broad, bipartisan support. SB 103 passed 34-2 in the Senate and 64-3 in the Assembly. SB 104 passed 33-3 in the Senate and 68-1 in the Assembly. The bills provide \$687.4 million to support drought relief, including money for housing and food for workers directly impacted by the drought, bond funds for projects to help local communities more efficiently capture and manage water and funding for securing emergency drinking water supplies for drought-impacted communities.

Emergency drought legislation bill (SB 103) signed by  
Governor Brown on March 1, 2014

- \$10 million from the **Greenhouse Gas Reductions Fund** for the California Department of Food and Agriculture to invest in irrigation and water pumping systems that **reduce water use, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.**



## Highlights from 2014 & 2015

- \$10 million in funding in 2014 resulted in:
  - 134 projects
  - 24,167 acres
  - Various crops: almonds, walnuts, grapes stonefruit, annual vegetables, tomatoes, corn
  - Average funding of \$63,000 per farm
  - Most common project type was the installation of soil moisture sensors. The installation of micro-irrigation systems was also very common.
  - 26% of projects involved fuel conversion or energy efficiency upgrades
- An additional \$10 million in 2015 resulted in another 100 projects receiving an award.

# 2016 SWEEP Application

- The Budget Act of 2015 provided an additional \$40 million for SWEEP for the years 2016 – 2017.
- **2016 SWEEP Round 1** will disperse up to **\$16 million** to California agricultural operations investing in irrigation systems that reduce GHG emissions and save water.
- Project Grant Amount: **\$200,000 maximum grant award** (*no minimum award*)
- Project Duration: Between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017 (*no exceptions*)

# Solicitation Timeline

<b>Invitation to submit Grant Applications</b>	<b>November 20, 2015 5:00 p.m. PST</b>
Application Workshops & Webinar	December 1 – 10, 2015
Grant Applications Due	January 8, 2016 5:00 p.m. PST
Announce and Award Funding	March 2016

*CDEA will advise all applicants as to the outcome of the application review process.*

# Project Types

- **Water Conservation**

- Weather, Soil or Plant-based Sensors for Irrigation Scheduling
- Micro-Irrigation or Drip Systems - including Sub-Surface Systems

**- In Combination With -**

- **Greenhouse Gas Reductions**

- Fuel Conversion - fossil fuel to electric or renewable
- Improved Energy Efficiency - replace or retrofit pumps
- Conversion to a Lower Pressure System
- Variable Frequency Drives
- Reduced Pumping

# Eligibility and Exclusions

- Installation must be on a California agricultural operation
  - A row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production and greenhouse operations
- Projects **must** reduce GHG emissions **and** save water
- Supporting documentation related to on-farm water and energy use must be provided to be eligible for funding
- SWEEP funding cannot be combined with USDA NRCS EQIP



# More Information

## Application Webinar

December 10, 2015 (Thursday)

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Please send an email to [grants@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:grants@cdfa.ca.gov) for webinar details

[www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/sweep](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/sweep)



A close-up photograph of several green almonds on a branch, with vibrant green leaves. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the orchard. The lighting is bright and natural, highlighting the texture of the almonds and the sheen on the leaves.

**Jed Webster,  
Agriland Farming Company, Inc.**



# Grower Perspective on SWEEP



## My Story

- Grew up on a small dairy farm in Idaho
- Starting from scratch here in California
- Now own 75 acres
- Employed by Agriland Farming Co. Inc.



## SWEEP Information

- How I found out
- Workshop
- Website
- Call



## Reasons to Apply

- The Money \$\$\$
- Upgrade Irrigation Systems/Knowledge
- Efficiency
  - Water
  - Power
  - Time





## My Project

- Purchase and Install VFD on new well
- Purchase and Install two soil moisture probes
- Will save Money, Water, Power



# Suggestions

- Be Specific
- Know your numbers
  - Acre Feet, Kwh, Diesel
- Look for Opportunities on Your Ranch
  - Upgrade pipe, irrigation systems, pumps, filters, etc.
- Avoid Broad or Complicated Projects
  - Multiple owners/pumps/properties



## Timing is Important

- 1 month to apply, Start Now!!
- Quotes
- Application Process
- Water and Electrical Use





# SWEEP is a Great Opportunity!

1. Look for ways to upgrade your ranches
2. Make it as simple as possible
3. Get it done



# Erik Beardsley, USDA - NRCS





# USDA - NRCS

Programs for Water Conservation & More



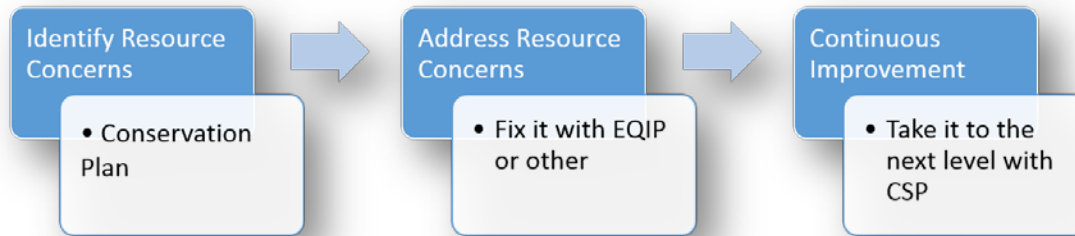


## NRCS programs for addressing water use efficiency & more

- NRCS technical and financial assistance programs can provide almond growers with scalable approaches to water conservation and more
- Successful competition for financial assistance begins with a conservation plan
- Many California almond growers presently use NRCS technical and financial resources
- Stewardship incentives are available to California almond growers already using micro-irrigation systems and practicing IWM

## Plan, design, install & enhance with NRCS support

- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



## Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

- Inventory & Evaluate Resource Concerns
- Plan & Design Alternatives
- Decide & Prioritize
- Evaluate & Update
- Apply for EQIP
- View CA NRCS Conservation Planning Videos at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jY7x3QRK5p0&feature=youtu.be>

## CA FY16 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Eligibility = Agricultural producer within AGI limit and land control
- Apply for financial assistance through focused initiatives
- Applications accepted continuously & multiple funding opportunities
- Start work in 45 days or less after selection for funding
- Single or multi-year contracts on single field or whole operation

## Selected FY16 EQIP Payment Rate Examples

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario Name	Units	Regular Rate	HU Rate
114	Integrated Pest Management Plan - Written	IPM Management CAP Medium 51 - 250 Acres	Number	\$ 1,857.06	\$ 2,228.47
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan - Written	IWM Conservation Activity Plan CAP	Number	\$ 2,464.00	\$ 2,956.80
146	Pollinator Habitat Plan - Written	Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan CAP	Number	\$ 2,510.43	\$ 3,012.51
340	Cover Crop	Legume-N Fixation, Organic	Ac	\$ 145.31	\$ 174.38
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Pollinator Cover	Ac	\$ 1,971.84	\$ 2,366.21
393	Filter Strip	Native Species	Ac	\$ 258.48	\$ 310.18
422	Hedgerow Planting	Three Rows for Pollinators, Two Herbaceous	Ft	\$ 2.67	\$ 3.20
449	Irrigation Water Management	Basic IWM >= 30 acres	Ac	\$ 24.20	\$ 29.04
449	Irrigation Water Management	Intermediate IWM >= 30 acres	Ac	\$ 36.29	\$ 43.54
449	Irrigation Water Management	Advanced IWM >= 30 acres	Ac	\$ 50.03	\$ 60.03
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	Orchard-vineyard, >10ac	Ac	\$ 732.70	\$ 1,099.05
372	Combustion System Improvement	Mobile IC, 50-149 bhp	BHP	\$ 268.23	\$ 321.88

## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Take conservation achievements to next level
- Five-year contracts with annual incentive payments
- The higher the conservation performance, the higher the payment
- Eligibility = Ag operation meets stewardship threshold, Operator of Record within AGI limit



## Selected CSP Enhancement Examples

NRCS Code	Enhancement Name
AIR03	Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives
ANM32	Extend existing filter strips or riparian herbaceous cover for water quality protection and wildlife habitat
ENR01	Fuel use reduction for field operations
PLT06	Renovation of a windbreak, shelter belt or hedgerow for wildlife habitat
PLT15	Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat
SQL11	Cover cropping in orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial horticultural crops
WQL30	Integrated pest management for ORGANIC farming
WQT05	Remote monitoring and notification of irrigation pumping plant operation
WQT07	Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling
WQT09	High level or advanced irrigation water management

## Conservation Innovation Grant opportunities for almond growers & industry professionals

- Contribute expertise that advises NRCS conservation practices standards updates
- National awards up to \$1 million for watershed-based, regional, multi-State, or nationwide scope projects
- State awards up to \$75,000 for farm-based, multi-county, small watershed, or Statewide scope projects
- Single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years
- 50 % of total project cost non-federal match (cash and in-kind)
- Once funds for CIG become available, a funding notice is posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

## More Information

CA NRCS Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ca/home/>

Locate nearest NRCS Service Center: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ca>



## Questions?

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Erik Beardsley, Programs Specialist

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Thank you