

Developments for California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP)

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Objectives:

- Improve Participant Experience and Value to Increase CASP Participation and Practice Adoption
- Improve Supply Chain Value of CASP
- Conduct Outreach and Communications to Deliver Stakeholder Value
- Implement Program Management and Execute Analysis and Enhancements to Measure and Improve CASP Effectiveness

Background and Discussion:

The Almond Board of California launched the California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP) in 2009. CASP has grown in scope and scale and now includes grower and handler printed and online self-assessment and confidential benchmarking of results, online nutrient and irrigation management decision support tools, an online tool to simplify compliance for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), a growing statistically robust data set on the adoption of practices, and the delivery of data-driven targeted education through workshops, field days, written communications, and online content.

CASP's assessment modules include irrigation management, nutrient management, air quality, energy efficiency, pest management, ecosystem management, financial management, and workplace and communities. Growers and Handlers complete assessments at workshops or directly online at sustainablealmondgrowing.org. As of August 2016, more than 900 orchard assessments have been completed. These orchards account for more than 198,000 acres (approx. 20% of industry) and the entities that submitted assessments manage more than 440,000 acres (approx. 49% of industry).

Online assessments accounted for more than 90% of all assessments completed this assessment season.

An online nitrogen budgeting calculator was added to the CASP online software platform in 2015, and an irrigation scheduling calculator in May 2016. As of August 2016, 225 nitrogen budgets and 77 irrigation schedules have been recorded. An accessor parcel number (APN) mapping tool is available to growers and enables them to meet the ILRP mapping requirements.

A series of three workshops were presented at several locations in 2015/16. Workshop topics were: Water & Nitrogen Management, Weed Identification and Management, and Harvest Dust Mitigation. Presentations from these workshops are available online at

Almonds.com/Growers/Sustainability.

ABC is currently supporting: rebranding and mobile-optimizing the CASP online platform; producing a bee focused assessment module, streamlining and updating existing modules, creating online targeted and "lite" e-modules including one for ABC's Accelerated Innovation Management (AIM) Irrigation Continuum, strategic work on how CASP can best contribute to creating supply chain value, designing and implementing grower and handler outreach and communications, and conducting a detailed statistical analysis of CASP practice adoption data to support Production Research & Environment, Technical and Regulatory Affairs, Industry Services, Global Marketing, and ABC's cross-cutting Crop of Choice strategy and implementation.

Project Cooperators and Personnel: Julie Adams, Gabriele Ludwig, Tim Birmingham, Jenny Nicolau, Danielle Veenstra, Bob Curtis, Stacey Humble, Melissa Mautz, Carissa Sauer, Spencer Cooper – ABC; Joe Browde, Franklin Dlott, Cliff Ohmart, Brad Suggs – SureHarvest

For More Details, Visit

- CASP sessions during the 2016 Almond Conference (refer to program); ABC booth;
- Online at – Almonds.com/CASP
- Poster location 51 and 67 Exhibit Hall A and B during the Almond Conference; or on the web (after January 2017) at Almonds.com/ResearchDatabase