



SPOTLIGHT ON:

# California Almond Sustainability Program

Through the California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP) we can share key milestones and information about how California's 6,800 almond farmers grow their crops.

This helps the public better understand the responsible practices used to put food on their tables, while farmers who participate learn about opportunities for improvement.

Nearly a quarter of California's productive almond acreage has been assessed to date through CASP. The data gathered through farmer self-assessments provides statistically significant information about the use of distinct management techniques and practices across the California Almond growing region.

CASP offers participants a variety of tools to facilitate improvement in the orchard and beyond.



TO DATE, 4,022 MODULES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, ASSESSING 23% OF CALIFORNIA'S PRODUCTIVE ALMOND ACREAGE.

## 9 SELF-ASSESSMENT MODULES

Question-and-answer format modules allow participants to assess their current methods while learning about key best practices across the spectrum of almond farming topics.

- Irrigation management
- Nutrient and soil management
- Pest management
- Air quality
- Energy efficiency
- Bee health and pollination
- Financial management
- Ecosystem management
- Workplace and communities

SINCE LAUNCHING LAST YEAR, 623 SCHEDULES AND BUDGETS HAVE BEEN CREATED WITH THE CALCULATORS.

## 2 CALCULATORS

Based on research, these interactive decision-support tools are designed to streamline decision-making and regulatory reporting requirements while minimizing environmental impacts.

### IRRIGATION SCHEDULING:

Uses farmer-submitted data about their orchard and irrigation system setup, with local weather data and other inputs to generate irrigation schedules, providing farmers with details about the optimal amount and timing of irrigation.

### NITROGEN BUDGETING:

Advises how much and when to apply nitrogen fertilizer based on orchard-specific yield estimates, tissue sampling and nitrogen available from other sources, helping farmers provide their trees with the nutrients they need while protecting water and air quality.

IN 2017, 25 CASP EVENTS WERE OFFERED, REACHING 868 ATTENDEES.

## 25 WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

On-farm demonstrations, expert lectures and peer-to-peer sharing provides participants with opportunities for learning, collaboration and networking.

New this year, Almond Board's expert staff brought CASP directly to the orchard, meeting individually with more than 50 almond farmers. Visits served to familiarize farmers with CASP tools and provide farm-specific guidance, a service available to any California Almond farmer.



*"The biggest benefit for me of participating in CASP is seeing what other farmers are doing in the industry and how we can improve and incorporate new strategies into our operation. It has made me a better farmer."*

— Eric Genzoli, fourth-generation almond farmer  
Turlock, California

FARM PROFILE: almonds  
ACRES OF ALMONDS: 300