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 an 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.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carolyn Cook</th>
<th>Jed Webster</th>
<th>Erik Beardsley</th>
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<td>Sr. Environmental Scientist CDFA</td>
<td>Farm Manager Agriland Farming Company</td>
<td>Programs Specialist USDA-NRCS</td>
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State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

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

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invitation to submit Grant Applications</td>
<td>November 20, 2015 5:00 p.m. PST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Workshops &amp; Webinar</td>
<td>December 1 – 10, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Applications Due</td>
<td>January 8, 2016 5:00 p.m. PST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announce and Award Funding</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CDFA 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
  o 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 for webinar details

www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/sweep
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
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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NRCS Code</th>
<th>Enhancement Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIR03</td>
<td>Replace burning of prunings, removals and other crop residues with non-burning alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANM32</td>
<td>Extend existing filter strips or riparian herbaceous cover for water quality protection and wildlife habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENR01</td>
<td>Fuel use reduction for field operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLT06</td>
<td>Renovation of a windbreak, shelter belt or hedgerow for wildlife habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLT15</td>
<td>Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQL11</td>
<td>Cover cropping in orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial horticultural crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WQL30</td>
<td>Integrated pest management for ORGANIC farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WQT05</td>
<td>Remote monitoring and notification of irrigation pumping plant operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WQT07</td>
<td>Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WQT09</td>
<td>High level or advanced irrigation water management</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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.
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
Phone: 530-792-5649
Email: Erik.Beardsley@ca.usda.gov

Thank you