

Fresno Irrigation District:
USDA/NRCS –
EQIP Program Webinar
February 2, 2024



AGENDA

1. Welcome/Introduction
2. NRCS – EQIP Program Overview – Wendy Rash – NRCS
3. Water Conditions Update – Use of SW for Irrigation – Adam Claes – FID
4. Questions



USDA WaterSmart - NRCS – EQIP Program Overview – Wendy Rash



EQIP - WaterSMART Initiative

Opportunities available in Madera and Fresno Counties



What is EQIP-WaterSMART?

WaterSMART stands for Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow, and is a program of the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

Through this program, USBR supports water conservation planning and improvement projects by states, tribes, local governments, irrigation or water companies, and other organizations.

In partnership, NRCS offers Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding to improve water conservation and irrigation water use efficiency on eligible farms within the boundaries of a District that has received WaterSMART funding. These farm-scale projects complement the District-wide water conservation projects funded through the USBR.

EQIP WaterSMART projects in Madera and Fresno Counties prioritize reducing groundwater withdrawals and improving irrigation efficiency.

Am I eligible?

Farms across Madera and Fresno Counties are eligible for regular EQIP funding. Farmers in WaterSMART boundaries, identified on this map, can compete for the additional funds provided through the WaterSMART Initiative.



What can I do?

Conservation practices that are eligible for EQIP WaterSMART in California include:

Irrigation Efficiency

- Microirrigation system
- Irrigation ditch lining
- Irrigation pipeline
- Irrigation reservoir
- Irrigation water management

Water Conservation

- Mulching
- Cover crop
- Reduced tillage or No-till
- Well decommissioning
- Windbreaks and Hedgerows
- On-Farm recharge (Madera only)



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How do I apply?

- Winter 2024
Submit an application form (Form 1200) to your NRCS Service Center.

Application Deadline
February 16, 2024

- Spring 2024
Develop a plan with the NRCS Conservationist.
- June 2024
Funding decisions announced.
- August 2024
Contracts awarded.

Contact

Fresno Service Center
559-276-7494

Madera Service Center
559-874-4828



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EQIP - WaterSMART Initiative

- Collaboration between USBR and USDA
- System-level projects funded by USBR
- Farm-level projects funded by USDA through EQIP initiative



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EQIP - WaterSMART Initiative

Purpose: to **assist producers and landowners** in implementing **voluntary conservation** that is **complementary** to the water conservation assistance provided through the Bureau of Reclamation's Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow (WaterSMART) program.



EQIP WaterSMART Initiative

Priorities are:

- Improving irrigation water use efficiency
- Preventing groundwater depletion
- Preventing surface water depletion
- Optimal use of naturally available moisture and prevention of drought stress

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EQIP - WaterSMART Initiative

11 ongoing projects

- \$10.45 Million
- Fresno, Kern, Kings,
Riverside, Tulare Counties

Practices:

- Efficient irrigation systems
- Irrigation management
- Nutrient management
- Cover crops



Fresno ID Projects

- Canal Flow Meters
- Gould Canal to Friant-Kern Canal Intertie
- Groundwater Recharge Basin



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EQIP WaterSMART Initiative New FY 24

Fresno Irrigation District

- One of three awarded
- \$1.3 Million

Priorities:

- Irrigation water use efficiency
- Surface water depletion
- Groundwater depletion

Fresno EQIP-WaterSMART

Practices include:

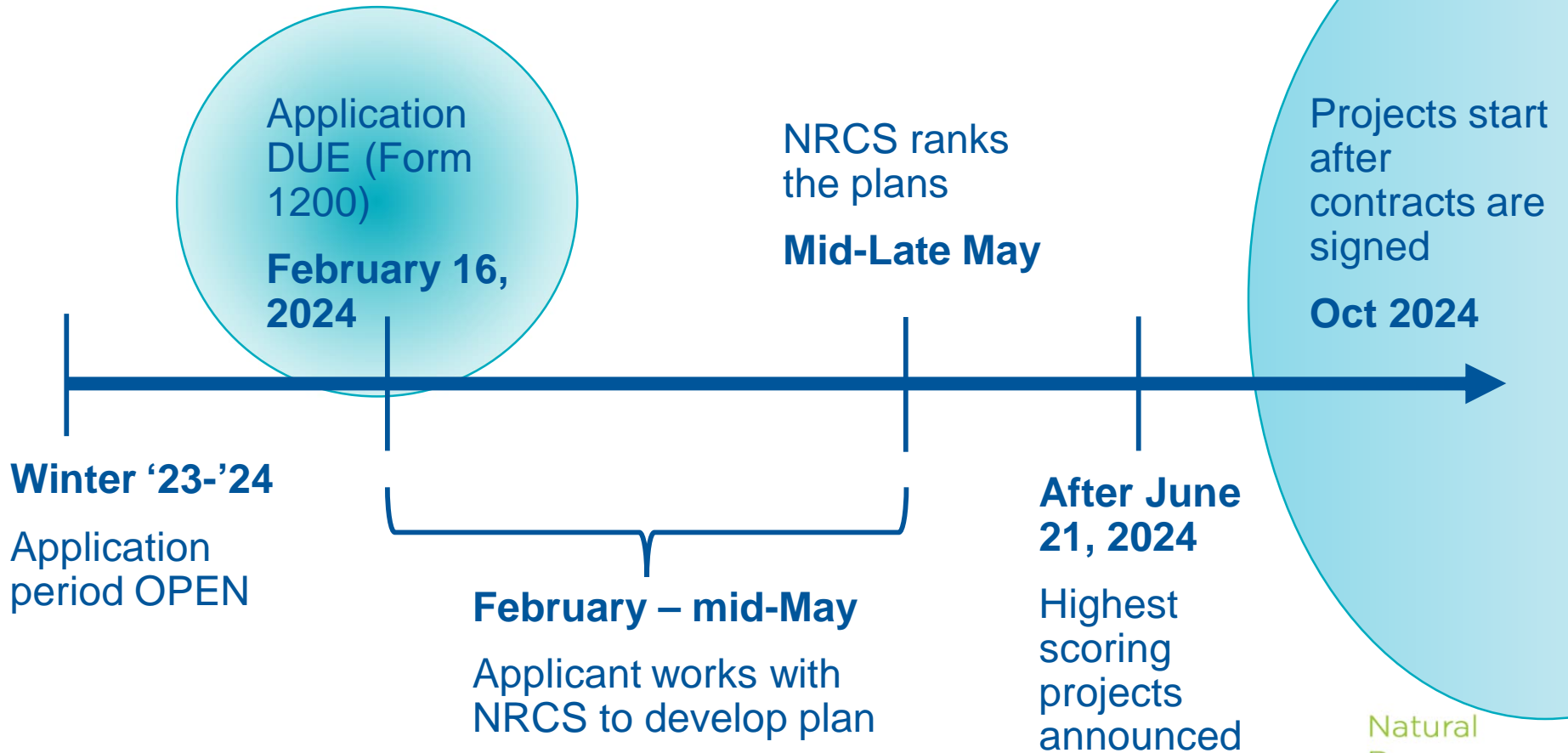
- Irrigation Water Management
- Micro-irrigation
- Pipelines
- ~~Groundwater Recharge~~
- Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)
- Flow meters



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Deadlines and Timelines



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How to apply

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION Clear Form

Applicant (Decision Maker):		Application Date:	
Address:		Location where assistance is requested:	
Email:			
Telephone:		Receive text messages (optional):	
Assistance Requested:			

Click here for [instructions](#) to complete this form or contact the local office for assistance.

- Do you have a customer record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA)?
 Yes No
- Interested in participating in the following (select all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	

a) Program enrollment type, activity type, and/or project name, as applicable:
- Applicant Information:**
 Select the business structure and enter the legal name, and tax identification number for all applicants who will be participants on the contract or agreement including the decision maker.

Business Structure (Mark with an X)		Applicant Legal Name	Tax Number (last four digits)
Individual	Entity		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

To add more applicants, complete [NRCS-CPA-1200 Continuation Page](#), Applicant Information and attach to this form.

a) If applicant is a legal entity or joint operation, do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity or joint operation?
 Yes No N/A

- Application form CPA-1200
- Conservation Plan- System quote and design
- AGI form 941 (Adjusted Gross Income)
- SF-1199 (Direct deposit)
- LTP-5 (Irrigation History & type)
- AD-1026 (HEL or wetland determination)
- CCC-902I or 902-E (Operating plan, entity or individual)

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How to apply

USDA-NRCS Service
Center, Fresno

Erwin Dueñas, District
Conservationist

Erwin.Duenas@usda.gov

559-490-8039



4625 West Jennifer Ave,
Suite 125

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Fresno NRCS Team

*Helping People Help the Land
(and Water!)*



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Irrigation Practices: When modifying irrigation system – maintain flood lines.



Growers in the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency:
Using surface water makes all of us more sustainable.

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency is working in cooperation with Fresno Irrigation District (FID) to encourage growers to retain their flood irrigation systems to be able to use surface water when available. Strategies to help improve groundwater conditions include:

- Using flood irrigation systems in wetter years instead of drip.
- When FID has excess water available, take delivery and spread for on-farm recharge or storage in a local, private pond.
- Contact FID to explore options for using drip or micro irrigation systems directly off an FID canal.

These conscious water management decisions benefit our groundwater supply and the overall regional water supply. To make it through future droughts, we need to store available water supplies in our underground aquifers.



Grower benefits from having both drip/micro and surface water flood irrigation systems:

- Improves local groundwater levels
- Increases water supply reliability
- Proactive approach for drought preparedness
- Improves groundwater quality



Stop Before You Convert

Growers in the Fresno Irrigation District service area are making decisions now to transition their irrigation system from flood to drip/micro. The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency promotes keeping your irrigation methods flexible by maintaining flood irrigation systems when installing a drip/micro system. Funding assistance may be available through State and Federal grants and existing programs.



Contact Us Today

Contact North Kings GSA Executive Director Kassy Chauhan at (559) 233-7161 or kchauhan@fresnoirrigation.com to discuss the benefits of maintaining both flood and drip/micro systems on your farm.



Q & A Session



Thank you for joining us for the
webinar.

