



**Southern San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties
Agricultural Watershed Coalition**

Central Coast Wine Growers' Association • Grower Shipper Vegetable Association of San Luis Obispo & Santa Barbara Counties
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau • Santa Barbara County Flower & Nursery Growers Association • Santa Barbara County Cattleman's Association

**Four Year (2004-07)
Grower Survey of Ag Watershed Coalition's
Outreach Effectiveness**

Financial support provided by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and
administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Item No. 20 Attachment 2
September 4-5, 2008 Meeting
Watershed Coordinator Funding

Survey conducted by Julie Fallon

Sampling - Methodology

A list was provided by the Coalition of four hundred eight of the Coalition clientele. Eighty clients were to be randomly selected¹ and asked to complete the survey. Eighty-three clients were successfully contacted. Two could not participate in the survey because they could not speak English well enough to answer the questions. One could not participate because he is a current Coalition board member.

Of the eighty who participated, eight had special circumstances. Five respondents were not growers, two do not sell their product and so do not participate in the Ag waiver program (1 federal prison; 1 quit selling citing Ag waiver as reason), and one is no longer farming for reasons unrelated to the Ag waiver. Some of the aforementioned were able to complete a portion of the survey. Their responses were reported separately

Of the remaining seventy-two growers contacted, twelve had no recollection of having contacted the Coalition, after being provided with an explanation of the Coalition and the Ag waiver program. Some of these growers may have contacted the Coalition years prior to this follow-up. Two of these growers were willing to participate in the survey despite not having recalled contacting the Coalition. These growers were able to answer all but questions 1-3 of the survey.

Sixty respondents were growers who did remember contacting the Coalition. The responses of the two plus sixty growers were compiled to become the focus of this survey. The sample population of sixty-two growers in this survey represents 15% of the entire list².

¹Method of randomization: an online randomization tool was used to randomize and reorder the complete grower list. Three hundred twenty-one clients on the list had contact information that included a name and phone number.

²Note: the figure for the total number of eligible survey respondents (target population) is inflated. Phone interviews indicate that some clients are not growers who are enrolled in the Ag waiver, some phone numbers have changed, and some growers no longer work for the same company. The amount this figure is inflated is unknown as not all clientele were attempted to be contacted. While the sample population represents 15% of the list, it likely represents a considerably larger percentage of the target population.

Sampling - Reporting

Percents reported reflect the total number of answers to that specific question rather than the total of 62. Where a respondent did not answer, the respondent was not included in the total. For instance, if only 58 of the 62 respondents answered question 8a, then 100% was considered to be 58.

Reasons for not answering a questions included N/A (for instance Grower A may not have had any difficulty receiving information so would not have answered 3B). In some cases, the respondents asked to not answer some of question 8a-h if they did not feel informed enough to give qualified opinions on specific topics.

In the case of Yes/No answers, 'Unknown' is reported in a separate category.

Report of Survey Results

Question

1. As best as you can remember, on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the best, how helpful was the Coalition in providing you with the assistance you needed?

Rating

8.4

Interviewers Comments on Question

This appeared to be a straightforward question for most respondents.

A large number of respondents took a moment here to express appreciation to the Coalition or to Kay specifically. Comments were generally not recorded since the survey question did not ask for comments.

A few respondents seemed to have unrealistic expectations of the Coalition helpfulness. They appeared to answer this question with consideration of their relative satisfaction of the Ag waiver. One respondent commented, "Kay's willingness to help was tremendous. Kay is wonderful..." but rate 2.5 because "I just think the whole approach is wrong." Other respondents had less extreme, but similar ratings vs. comments. Likely there is also some bias from some respondents on the side of answering favorably towards the Coalition. I had just indicated that I was calling on behalf of the Coalition in the introduction. However, I suspect from comments recorded later in the survey that frustration with the Ag waiver has lowered the rating somewhat. Were I to redo the survey, I would have included a previous question asking about satisfaction with the Ag waiver so that respondents could express their frustrations and distinguish more clearly between the two questions.

Although this question may have been meant in terms of phone correspondence, some respondents also responded based on site visits, mailings and/or educational programs.

A few of the respondents don't remember having interacted with Kay Mercer and were unable to answer this question. (5%)

Representative Responses

N/A for this question.

Summary

Responses

- Kay's willingness to help was tremendous. Kay is wonderful. I just think the whole approach is wrong. Kay is lovely. She came out to walk the property with me. [Recorded due to the comments discrepancy with the 2.5 rating. See interviewer's comments above].

Unique Situation Responses (not included in total)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>	<u>Average Rating</u>
Not a grower	2	7.8
No longer farming	1	10
Federal prison	1	10

Question

2. Was Kay Mercer able to answer all of your questions?

Rating

Yes = 92%

No = 3%

Unknown = 5%

Interviewers Comments on Question

Unknown response: A few of the respondents don't remember having interacted with Kay Mercer and were unable to answer this question. (6%)

Representative Responses

N/A for this question.

Summary

Responses

- Kay was very accessible and returned calls. She got back to me with answers. [This was a typical response. Comments were generally not recorded since the survey question did not ask for comments].

Question

3. Did Kay direct you to contact additional people?

Rating

Yes = 58%

No = 26%

Unknown = 16%

Interviewers Comments on Question

This appeared to be a straightforward question for most respondents.

Representative Responses

N/A for this question.

Summary

Responses

- I wasn't directed to anyone, but there were quite a few people available.
[Many respondents that answered "no" were aware of Coalition cooperators, but did not feel the need to contact them at that time].

Question

3A. who did you call?

3B. Using the same scale, how helpful was the organization on a 1-10 scale?

Rating

<u>Entity Rated</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>	<u>Average Rating</u>
AG SLO	1	10
Another Nurseryman	1	8.5
CCVT	1	8
Coastal Commission	1	5
NRCS SB	3	8
NRCS SB – Matthew Pollock	1	8
NRCS SLO	1	9
RB	5	7
RB – Alison Jones	1	10
RCD CAC	2	7.8
RCD CAC - Tom Lockhart & Kevin Peterson	1	8
RCD CAC – Tom Lockhart and Dale Gropp	1	10
RCD CAC – Tom Lockhart and Jerry Czarnecki	1	10
UC – Julie Fallon	2	9
UC – Mary Bianchi	2	8
UC Ventura	2	9
UC	2	8
WQ Scientists	1	9
Unknown	10	N/A
TOTAL	38	8.5

Acronyms key

AG SLO or SB = Ag Commissioner

NRCS SLO or SB

RB = Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

RCD CAC or SLO or UT = Cachuma, SLO Coastal, US-LT

SB = Santa Barbara

SLO = San Luis Obispo

UC = University of California Cooperative Extension

Interviewers Comments on Question

Many growers had contact with Coalition cooperators and/or the RWQCB that was not initiated by Kay Mercer. Responses were only recorded in cases where Kay directed them to contact additional people.

Although the RB averaged to 7, responses ranged from 1-10, specifically: 1, 5, 9, and 10. Issues that some respondents had with the RB are described in the next question.

With the exception of the Coastal Commission at 5. Coalition cooperators, and regulatory agencies have all received scores of 8-10. However, respondent sample size rating per entity is a very small percentage.

Representative Responses

N/A for this question.

Question

3C. if you had difficulty in receiving the information you needed, why do you think that was?

Rating

N/A

Interviewers Comments on Question

This appeared to be a straightforward question for all respondents.

Representative Responses

The focus of this question was mainly the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RB).

Summary

Responses

- The RB didn't return any of my calls. They told me I had 12 hours. I actually had more than 15 hours. I sent them copies three times, plus the paperwork. Thanks to advice from the short course, I knew to keep copies.
- The RB was really easy to deal with; no problems at all.
- I left several messages [with the RB] and have still received no response. I'm a grower and a PCA. They charged me for a grower whose farm plan I helped fill out. The grower also called and didn't hear back. I think what the RB is doing is correct. Maybe they're understaffed. Their follow-up is poor.
- The RB has trouble making timely decisions.
- There's no black & white answer. We want someone to say do exactly this, but it's more complicated. We're also looking for peace of mind - someone to tell us that we're doing it right.

Question

4. Are you currently in Tier 1 or Tier II of the Regional Board's Conditional Waiver? (2 sec pause to see if need more info.) ...Tier 1 – you have all education, are enrolled in the monitoring program and your paperwork is in?

Rating

Tier 1 = 84%

Tier 2 = 3%

Unknown = 10%

N/A = 3%

Interviewers Comments on Question

Most respondents required an explanation of the Tier system.

Most 'Unknown' responses appear to be due to having not received or not remembering having received paperwork from the RB indicating the Tier that they are in.

There are two N/As. One N/A is no longer farming. The other N/A has tenants who are enrolled in the Ag waiver.

Representative Responses

As far as I know, I'm in Tier 1. I've never been told otherwise...

Summary

Responses

- Tier 1 I think. I did the education and everything.
- As far as I know, I'm in Tier 1. I've never been told otherwise.
- We'd better be in Tier 1. The paperwork was a nightmare. I feel like I learned that there are lazy people working for the Regional Board. They wanted me to resubmit paperwork so they wouldn't have to find it. Also, they'd wait until close to a deadline to ask. I had a couple of operations in Tier 2 but didn't know for two years. I have several farm plans. When I asked what they wanted, I'd get different answers on a different day. They have not provided me with a level of confidence that I did it right.
- I'm assuming I'm in T1 because I sent in the paperwork.
- I assume [Tier 1], I never heard from the RB
- [Tier 2] I need to do the education and the farm plan.
- [Tier 2] I still need a couple of education hours
- [Unknown] I turned everything in.
- I need to update the plan for 2008.
- I myself am not in the program. All of my tenants are enrolled.

Unique Situation Responses

- We're exempt. We're a Federal prison in Lompoc. We're permitted by the county, but we don't sell our product. We send it out to several prisons. We grow on 1400 ac, with 26,000 ac for grazing and 400 dairy cows.

Question

5. Have you made any changes to your farming practices to respond to water quality issues?

If YES

5a. what changes have you made?

Rating

Yes = 81%

No = 15%

Unknown = 2% (in the middle of the enrollment process)

N/A = 2% (quit selling product)

Interviewers Comments on Question

5. Some respondents appeared to view this question as general changes; some appeared to view it in terms of changes made strictly as a response to the Ag waiver. The interviewer attempted to clarify that this was meant in general terms, but not all respondents seemed to grasp the concept.

5a. many respondents indicated that this question was difficult to answer without consulting their farm plan. A few indicated that it was difficult to answer because another person was in charge of farming practices. Again, some respondents appeared to respond with examples of changes strictly as a response to the Ag waiver.

This answer often required prompting for an explanation. For instance, if the respondent indicated that they are "controlling erosion", the interviewer would ask for examples of how this is being accomplished.

This question is highly misleading because it cannot be answered succinctly enough for the interview. It is not at all comprehensive. I believe that respondents often listed examples of the practices they thought were most important to the RB. In many cases, the longer we focused on this question, the more practices were offered. Later in the interview, more practices were sometimes casually offered in response to another question. For instance, a respondent would say that he would rate 'assistance obtaining funding' with a number because he worked with NRCS on a large-scale project that was not mentioned during this question.

Also, respondents who indicated 'no' often cited the reason that they are doing enough already, which would imply that practices are in place, perhaps for a reason other than in response to water quality.

The thing that struck me was the level of awareness. Had this question been asked even five years ago, I don't know that many respondents would have been able to understand even what was being asked. The usefulness of this question might be to indicate a level of awareness about water quality, the diversity of approaches taken to respond to water quality, and perhaps the perception of what the RB considers to be good practices to protect water quality.

Two extreme examples are included below. One respondent decided to not sell her product anymore rather than enroll in the Ag waiver. Another is listed as a 'unique situation' because she decided to not farm again in response to water quality legislation.

Representative Responses Category:

Have made changes – sited some examples

Don't need to make changes – there is no problem

Other

Summary

Have made changes

- I'm already probably pretty green. I try not to waste water. I always have used micrometers. I walk my land to see it. I've been doing this 21 years. I don't have runoff. I watch the water. I use mini-sprinklers.
- We recur two grassed ditches for erosion control. We have some grassed ditches. We have one bank that we put cover on. We level the land and grade the roads with a scraper. WE tried to switch to drip but our yield decreased so now we're back on sprinkler lines.
- I'm using shorter irrigation cycles.
- We were already in a tree removal program due to root rot. We took the 16-hour class in November. In May we culled the trees and replanted the avocados. I did a complete irrigation inspection. We removed all unneeded sprinklers and added them as needed. We had a couple of box rows (rows used for equipment) down to bare dirt. I hauled in 30-40 lbs of mulch to keep the sediment from washing away. We have an old non-used well. We're currently getting a concrete barrier around it in case of pesticide spills. It's not finished yet.
- I have an orchard and row crops and a greenhouse. We put grass everywhere. We put in a grassed waterway. We're mowing now instead of tilling and we have micro-sprinklers rather than sprinklers.
- We're trying to get our watering to an intelligent level. We sat with the crew to discuss irrigation and we watch the irrigations. We found a few bad habits. We're always looking to be more efficient. We're topdressing with fertilizer. We're really cut back on spraying. We spoke with another nursery grower who'd had success with that for ideas.
- Not necessarily since the waiver though. We were way to ahead of the curve. We level the ground, we're now almost 100% on drip, we watch runoff, we watch when we fertilize, we monitor the wells at least annually. The Cachuma mobile lab did a performance measure of our drip. We've shortened the looping runs and adjusted tape size. We're on the edge to gain 1% more than we're already doing.
- I put in gullies and rock lined them. I put in holding areas so water off the orchard wouldn't go into the creek. I did a lot of drainage practices.
- I hauled in a lot of mulch and seeded some grassed areas in the avocado orchard.
- We're already being careful. We've put in more culverts and drainages.
- Instead of one big irrigation on the alfalfa/month, I'm doing two irrigations now. There isn't runoff either way, but the alfalfa does better. I now do only two passes for land prep rather than three to four. It's rougher so there's less runoff in rain events. I'm not using pesticides unless i have to. We have natural predators. I got dinged a bit doing this last year, but i did it anyway.
- We did a lot of little things. I'm in the field now and I'd need the binder to answer this. Reduction of Category 1 OP pesticides was a big one. We've been more forward thinking. We're trying to farm sustainably and we have some organic acres.

- We're working on dialing in evapotranspiration rates.
- Most of the stuff we were already doing. We've always done annual well water testing, cover crops in middles, control runoff, we don't disk our blocks until the threat of rain is over, we don't load around wells.
- We're looking at sprinkler vs. drip and different growing media, and we're recycling water. We're improving capturing runoff.
- The only chemical we use is glyphosate. We're using less of this herbicide and doing more mowing.
- We were good already, we irrigate with microsprinklers so there wasn't much runoff. We put in a tailpond.
- We've increased drip irrigation and reduced erosion by planting cover crops. We've also installed pipelines to transport stormwater. We've been working with the NRCS.
- We use a closed system.
- We're controlling our tailwater better. We're using irrigation monitoring devices to adjust our watering.
- I'm currently not farming while I'm trying to get certified as organic.
- I converted to organic.
- We've stopped erosion by regarding in our orchard that had begun to silt in.
- Absolutely. We have been mulching and putting in much more groundcover. We graveled dirt roads and are using watermark irrigation monitors to minimize irrigation use.
- We started this a long time ago. As a response to the waiver, we had to add a sediment basin at one of the ranches. We also moved a fertilizer injection site away from a wellhead.
- I'm organic and don't use pesticides. I make sure to cover crop each year. Success depends on rainfall.
- We put in more cover crops and we're watching for tailwater when we irrigate.
- We've been constantly adapting for 150 years to make sure we're not causing erosion. The Ag waiver has had no impact.
- Mostly, we were made aware of the circumstances. I'm a strawberry grower. We only have tailwater 6 weeks out of the year when we irrigate with sprinklers. We've been controlling erosion.
- We have plans in place now. We put in grassed ditches, retention basins, we've changed row directions and done water quality testing.
- We're greatly watching our fertilizer inputs. We're using IPM. We have no scheduled spraying; we look at the pest populations. We also use no Category 1 materials. We're using more BMPs. We've moved to sprinklers from furrows. We were going to move to drip, but the crops are doing better on sprinklers. On the remaining furrows, we use surge with a person watching and controlling them manually.
- We test the water monthly for E. coli, we're using more drip and pulling sprinklers earlier. We do petiole sampling.
- I've been using weed whackers for weeds since 1975 and have been on drip. I've been under the guidance of UC Extension. Ben Faber, the Farm Advisor, does site visits and puts on seminars. I put in some berms around the field tanks. I only use roundup on the roads. I'm as ecologically-friendly as possible.
- We're doing more IPM and utilizing more computers for irrigation.
- We've installed more drip, we use minimum tillage, cover cropping and we're doing a big project at one of the ranches through the NRCS EQIP program to help with drainage and erosion.
- We're on a self-contained hydroponics system and use our irrigation water on our orchard.

- We're working with CCVT. We were already pretty green to begin with but I made some changes that first year to comply. We use drip irrigation and monitor our vines so we irrigate based on vine demands. I have a lot of cover crops.
- I've updated the hesitation system to prevent the possibility of contamination.
- I've lined some runoff areas with rocks to minimize erosion.
- We're an avocado orchard on a steep ground. The contour is good, but we had a landslide during the floods a few years ago. We did a big creek restoration project with the State Board, Army Corps and DFG. We did bank stabilization and plantings. In addition to the project, we also put in rocks, cover crops and drainage pipes on steep, exposed areas to prevent headcutting.
- We're not using herbicides. Also, we're not hoeing or mowing under the vines, so there's vegetation as cover.
- We got rid of preemergents - we don't use those at all anymore. We put in ditches for drainage.
- I'm restricting runoff with mulch.
- I'm more observant. I pay attention to runoff. I'm doing erosion control with cover, ditches, and mulches.
- The fertilizer company recommends the amount to inject based on soil and tissue samples. They recommend too much. We have cut back quite a bit on P, CA, and N to reduce leaching. We use Humega - a humus organic nutrient. We only spray Agromec once/year for mites, even when the PCA recommends twice. I let the beekeeper know to get the bees out before we spray. The water district checks our two wells. My Dad spread out some beneficial insects.
- We changed to drip irrigation. We worked with NRCS to put in a big underground pipe across the property to a basin with a filter of native grasses and plants to the creek. We directed the water so it's not going down the hill. On another property, we used NRCS EQIP funds to replace irrigation line for more efficiency.
- We didn't have any runoff and we never have.
- I'm using cover cropping and more erosion control with clover and some mulch and on the hills. I put hay on some roads. I release beneficial and do IPM. I'm on mini-sprinklers, so runoff only happens with storm water. I fertigate, rather than broadcast.
- We're working on irrigation uniformity.
- I planted more cover crops and did more seeding. The property is on microsprinklers and the layout was designed with drainage in mind.
- I have a wholesale nursery on 10-ac. When it rains on the clay soil, water sheets so I channeled it into culverts under the roads. I also leave vegetation on roads. I put in swales, but one blew out and I lost some road. The others are working, along with cattail plantings, to capture the sediment.
- I have a small vineyard and runoff isn't an issue. I do cover cropping, drip irrigation, composting and spray the minimum amount for mildew.
- We grow in greenhouses and don't use overhead sprinklers. It's 90% drip and 10% hand watering. We fertigate. There is no runoff from the irrigation water. We're in the process of installing proper emitters for the soil infiltration rate for better efficiency. The RB did an inspection. The main issue was erosion from rain water. They had recommendations for us that we were planning on doing anyway. We planted some cover.

Don't need to make changes

- I didn't need to make changes. I have 1.5 acres that will not be producing for 3 years. I'm a conscientious organic farmer and land steward. I wouldn't dream of using chemicals and we have no runoff.
- I'm not doing anything out of hand.
- We do it right. There's no runoff.

Other

- I quit selling my fruit at farmers markets. I learned from Kay that commercial harvesting of the fruit would necessitate that I participate. The rules push you away from trying to make a go of it selling fruit. I'm just a hobbies farmer with <200 citrus and avocado trees. Frankly, I think this is where most of the careless pesticide practices take place. Not here though. The man who manages my farm also manages 120 ac of avocado organically. He manages mine the same way. We're not wasting water when we irrigate, so we didn't need to make changes.
- We're currently in the middle of the enrollment process. We're trying to get into classes but none are being offered in this area.
- I say 'yes and no' because there is a lot of fuss about food safety. There's a big hullabaloo right now. We threw it into neutral. One of the big food safety issues is keeping different varmints out of the field. Filter strips and grass strips that grab contaminants harbor varmints. They are a good idea but we can't let varmints into the field or we can't sell our crops. We are using more drip.
- I'm not qualified to answer this. I'm not the grower. I do permitting.

Unique Situation Responses

- When I realized what was happening, I decided never to farm again. I've been farming for 30 years. I only have 10 acres. I wasn't informed of the waiver until a month after it took effect. This was January. The first classes offered in English were in April. This was ridiculous. I called the Santa Ynez River Conservation District. They didn't know anything about it. I called the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau. They didn't know anything. Finally I called Kay. She answered my questions. One thing no one could answer. My property is located 3 miles from a dump. They have monitoring wells around the dump. They could not be used for the groundwater monitoring. This doesn't make sense to me. I'm afraid to farm. I don't want to be held responsible for the groundwater. This looked like an enormous potential liability for a very small operation. I'll never farm again. I understand the position the RB is in. I know we all voted for this. But I don't think people understood the ramifications of it.
- We're not required to make any changes. We've had sound cultural practices in place for decades. [Federal prison]

Question

6. Are you doing any additional practices that benefit water quality that were not reported in your farm plan or on Regional Board management practice checklist?

6a. if YES - What practices?

Rating

Yes = 27%

No = 63%

Unknown = 7% (all indicated that they'd need to refer to their farm plan to answer)

N/A = 3% (both are in the enrollment process - no farm plan yet)

Representative Responses Category:

No problem listing all practices

The scope of the large project is too vast to be conveyed

The practice is in process

The practice is very specific

Need to review farm plan to answer this question

Other (food safety preventing practices, offsite project)

Summary

No problem listing all practices

- The lists are pretty comprehensive

The scope of the large project is too vast to be conveyed

- I installed an 8" drain pipe to bypass my property. It goes from concrete to concrete. Otherwise it would carry a lot of sediment to the creek.
- We're working with the NRCS on a nutrient management plan. We're also using trans- evaporation pans.
- I converted to organic
- There is one huge project on a steep slope where we've minimized erosion by channeling the water to a catch basin. I'm not sure how to describe the project well.
- I can't explain the full extent of my mulching program - we're mulching everything.

The practice is very specific

- We've had a leaf analysis sampling company test our leaves 1-2 times/year since 1944. About 3 years ago, due to a computer error, we got dropped from their system. I had us reinstated. It's a good indicator to use the minimum nitrates. They also check for root rot.
- I'm using less fertilizer on the dryland crop. I cut back from 100 to 60lbs./ac. I'm able to do this because of more accurate placement - from broadcast to drilled.
- We're trying to reduce tree size to reduce water usage and make it easier to foliar spray. We're practicing responsible farming. We're making sure the products in our injection system are equally distributed. We're adding more organic nutrients to the soil.
- We're using more mulches and trying to improve soil quality. We're mowing weeds rather than using chemical controls.
- Our avocados are on pressure-compensating minisprinkler heads now to reduce water waste.

- We hand water each plant individually and frequently the right amount so there isn't runoff. We also let air circulate underneath the flats to prevent fungus. We fertigate twice a week with no runoff.
- I have a vineyard management company mix and load the spray materials offsite.

The practice is in process

- The owner is in the ongoing process of planting oak trees and other native, appropriate species near the riparian area.

Need to review farm plan to answer this question

- I'd have to see the farm plan.
- I put the plan together 3 to 4 years ago
- I'd have to take a look at the farm plan
- This is tough to answer on the spot. I'd need to consult my production manager and he's say, 'yes we did this and that' because many practices that are good for water quality are good for production.

Other

- I and two neighbors lobbied the county to ban ATVs in our watershed to help control erosion and protect critical habitat. We also petitioned the sheriff for enforcement. It goes into effect in two weeks.
- We're leery about putting vegetation around our leafy green fields because of the marketing agreement. So we're having to wait to see how that shakes out.

Question

7. Do you plan to make any future changes?

7a. if YES - What changes?

Rating

Yes = 63%

No = 23%

Unknown = 13%

N/A = 2% (in the enrollment process - no farm plan yet)

Interviewers Comments on Question

This appeared to be a straightforward question for most respondents. Many responded 'yes', but only some of these respondents cited specific examples of future changes.

Respondents who didn't see a need for changes, indicated an openness to changes if warranted.

Representative Responses Category:

Yes - sighting specific practices

Not unless needed

Other

Summary

Yes - sighting specific practices

- We have a developmental plan, if approved, to incorporate bioswails as drainage for the greenhouses. They're pretty cool. We'd plant aquatic grasses on swales to catch chemicals and nutrients. I don't see it being approved though.
- Eventually I'll do more mulching and seeding.
- I'm irrigating more acres but farming less total. It's too expensive to farm and depend on the rains. On my family farm, I'm working with the NRCS. We tore out the irrigation and are redoing the wells. We're going to put grassed waterways in and protect the slopes. My Father worked with them years ago. They are really good to work with.
- It's an ongoing process. We're looking at reducing runoff and using more biological pesticides and thinking about fertilizer entering the groundwater.
- We're currently in the middle of the enrollment process. We're trying to get into classes but none are being offered in this area.
- Proprietary. Don't wish to state.
- We always strive to make improvements. We are going to try not to till.
- We're going to continue to cover the ground until we have 100% covered where we can. We're also continuing to fine-tune our irrigation water distribution.
- This Summer I'm installing a smaller sediment basin. There was one other thing, but I'd need to see the farm plan.
- There is a culvert from the HWY that drains into my sediment basin. I've been cleaning it out. I'll continue to maintain it and am interested in the chemical Landguard that contains an enzyme to break down the chemicals from my neighbors who do use pesticides.
- I'm at the bottom of a hill and runoff smashes through my fields. There is a low lying section that floods. It doesn't go into proper drainage channels. I plan to call Matthew [Pollock].

- I'm currently working with DFG [the Department of Fish and Game] to put willows and rock tiers in a couple of the creeks for the fish.
- We're going to reduce herbicides and we're going to try organic fish on the lettuce rather than the regular fertilizer. We're going to be more sustainable.
- We plan to plant the sloping ditches with grasses.
- The main one is better documentation. We haven't updated the farm plan. We want to do more nitrogen quick tests. We're not using those regularly right now. I'd like to also install more grassed waterways but we're waiting to find out about the marketing agreement.
- I'm looking into constructing artificial wetlands. I'm always looking for ways to improve.
- We'll continue to change over to the more efficient emitters. We're adding more all of the time.
- One main road needs maintenance but we're waiting about 8 month to rebuild it because we have to wait until it's not used so much.
- Minor ones; nothing drastic. I have a small piece of property with a slope. I would like to reduce erosion. I'm also looking for economical ways to more soil back onto the property. And some places need more vegetative cover.
- I'd like to use less water. Instead of hosing down the greenhouse benches, I'm going to use a broom.
- I'd like to contain the storm water on site.
- I'm going to plant grasses to keep the water clean.
- I'm going to clean out the culvers with a backhoe.

Not unless needed

- Some, but nothing we're grossly neglecting. I've started on the worst ones. A lot of the Farm Plan is N/A to us because we're so small.
- Yes, if we get better ideas. We have a flat property so runoff isn't an issue. We are a container nursery. For us, the education could have been more focused. We read the emailed Central Coast Water Quality Preservation Inc. newsletter.
- We're still implementing our farm plan. Also, there's always room for change as things come up.
- To get a better crop. It's like a kitchen knife. You have to keep sharpening it.
- We strive to continually improve. We keep tabs and find new things to do each year.
- Not right now. We manage but don't own the property. If money comes in, we might.
- If I see glaring errors.
- I'm open to new ideas and will adjust our program as they come in.
- When it rains again, we'll assess the need for techniques to minimize sliding.
- I'm open to changes, but not sure what more I can do.
- We are wanting to balance our economic viability with compliance. We want to follow the rules. We'll do what we have to
- Possibly, if it's best for the property. It's probable.
- Depends - now we're more observant so if we see a need, we'll change.
- If I notice something.
- If we do something stupid, we make sure not to do it again. We continue to adapt or we'd go extinct.
- As things become apparent that needs to be changed.
- If something better comes along.
- Whatever is required and is in the best interest of the land.
- If needed - I don't see the need for it now.
- Not at this time.
- I'm all dialed in. I've made improvements. I'll fine tune at best.
- I don't think we need to.

- As I said, I'm a small operation. I'm not sure what else I can do
- Everything is pretty much unchanging.
- We're as far along as we can be without spending a huge chunk of money.
- Unless needed.
- Unless they come up with something new, we just monitor very closely what we're doing. We like to be on the cutting edge. We like to be economical, but we spend a lot of money on this.
- If need be. I don't have anything in mind.
- Not unless I find that I should.

Other

- I'm not qualified to answer this. I'm not the grower. I do permitting.
- I believe the deadlines have past to enroll [in the Ag waiver]. I'm not sure how much of a hassle it would be to sell at a Farmer's Market. [this grower no longer sells her product]
- My hopeful change: to have a crop. The frost got my trees so I'm out of production for a couple of years

Question

8. What information or actions can the Ag Coalition provide that would be more helpful to you in the future - on a Scale from 1-10 with 10 being the most helpful?

a. Management Practice Education?

Rating

8.0

IN PROGRESS

Interviewers Comments on Question

Some respondents had caveats to this question.

Representative Responses Category:

(Common themes - % for each of this type of response)

Summary

Responses

- IF the education is developed in collaboration and cooperation with the growing community, I'd say 9. If not, I'd say -2. People in Sacramento behind desks don't know how to grow vegetables. Some of these management practices we can't implement.
- They did a pretty good job with the education. I learned a lot.
- Education is key. That's how we get ideas.
- I can't give this a numerical rating. Some growers were sent by supervisors and didn't care to make changes. They weren't philosophically committed. Also, growers often know more than the people providing the training.
- Provided as needed; when updated information. As PCAs and land managers, we're always looking for research information.
- I'm always happy to listen to new ideas. Mary Bianchi at Cooperative Extension keeps us updated on erosion and the Ag waiver.
- Take growers to visit demonstration projects.
- Since I'm in constant contact with the Farm Advisor, I don't need more education, but education is how I learned how to farm.
- A '0' unless the education is on a CD. Then I could sit with and go over it with my growers, more than once if necessary.
- This would depend on if you could schedule them nearby at a convenient time. Evenings are best for me
- We need education that's less theoretical; more practical.
- The 15-hour course helped us out quite a bit actually, though some recommendations we've been practicing for quite some time. I would attend if there was new information.