



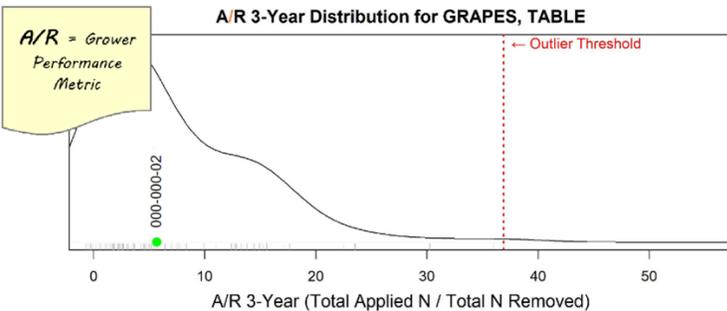
Nitrogen Application Analysis Provides Comparison with Similar Growers

A Nitrogen Evaluation Summary will be in the mail to members within the next month. The summary compares nitrogen applications among Coalition members with the same crop for the previous three years and identifies outliers. Outliers represent those growers whose nitrogen applied divided by nitrogen removed amount is outside the distribution threshold (see graph 1). The Coalition utilizes the data from the Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Summary Report to evaluate nitrogen use efficiency (see graph 2).

In addition to the mailer, a full version of the report will be available in the Nitrogen Evaluation section of your Member Portal. The report will include the INMP Summary Report data submitted over the previous three years (if available), three-year nitrogen evaluation with outlier identification, previous year nitrogen evaluation, and information on how to interpret the provided nitrogen evaluation analysis.

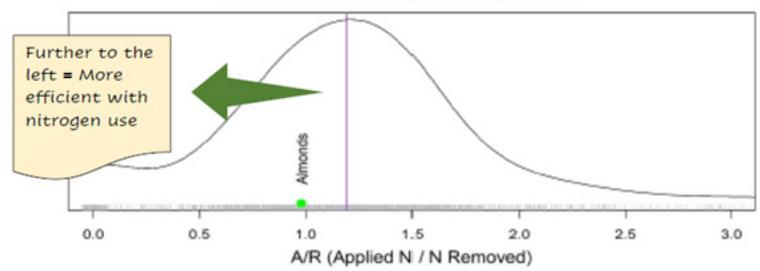
Graph 1

A/R 3-Year Distribution for GRAPES, TABLE



Graph 2

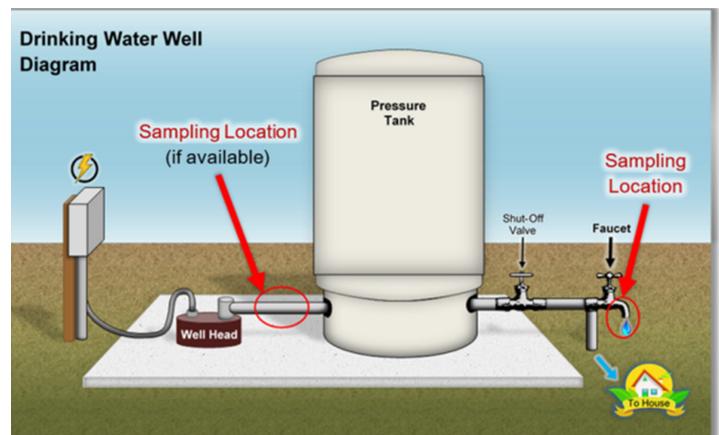
A/R 2020 CY Distribution for ALMONDS



Drinking Water Wells Must Be Sampled Annually For Nitrate Levels

Beginning January 1, 2020, Coalition members were required to monitor for nitrates in their drinking water supply wells on enrolled parcels. The purpose of this monitoring is to identify drinking water wells that have nitrate concentrations exceeding the safe drinking water standard of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) as nitrogen (N). Levels of nitrate above the standard for drinking water are dangerous for one's health, especially for infants, pregnant and nursing woman. Sampling must be completed annually unless:

- Nitrate results are less than 8 mg/L for three consecutive years. If this is the case, sampling is required every 5 years after the 3rd year of sampling.
- Nitrate results are above 10 mg/L, the member does not need to continue to sample. Water users must be notified within 10 days with a signed copy of the notification sent to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board.
- The member has well nitrate results from the last 5 years from an Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program certified laboratory.



Members that do not use their well to provide drinking water or provide bottled water are not required to monitor for nitrate but must keep records (e.g., photos/bottled water receipts) as verification.

Members must continue to sample drinking water wells annually if the nitrate result is equal to or greater than 8 mg/l and is less than or equal to 10 mg/l (≥ 8 and ≤ 10 mg/l). Members with a filter or treatment system must sample their drinking water after the filter to determine if treatment specifications are being met.

Online Self-Certification Training and Exam Now Available

Annually, all members must prepare an Irrigation and Nitrogen Management (INMP) worksheet for each management unit or field and submit an INMP Summary Report. All members with parcels in high vulnerability areas or low vulnerability areas identified as an outlier must have the INMP Worksheet self-certified or certified by an INMP Specialist.

As of September 2022, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has made the Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Training and Exam available online. Training is self-paced, open book, and does not need to be completed all at once. Progress is saved to return at any point during the training. Once training has been successfully completed you will receive an emailed letter within 2 weeks acknowledging your eligibility to self-certify INMP Worksheets for your farming operation. To access the new online training, go to <http://kingsriverwqc.org/INMPTraining> and click on "Join" to get started.

After the INMP Training and Exam has been successfully passed, participants must renew their eligibility to self-certify by completing 3 hours of continuing education within a 3-year period. If the required number of hours is not completed within 3 years, the Self-Certification Training and Exam must be retaken to continue to self-certify INMP Worksheets. Options for Continuing Education include both live and in-person events and online self-study. Go to <http://kingsriverwqc.org/CE> to find the continuing education option that works best for you.

Kings River Water Quality Coalition
P.O. Box 8259
Fresno, CA 93747

Important Coalition member updates enclosed

Coalition Board Profile: Mark McKean, Board Chair



Provide a brief background about yourself

I farm a variety of crops in the Riverdale area with my two sons. Those crops include both permanent and annual crops. As a third-generation farmer, sustainability is not just a word but a way of life. It is involved in every decision to ensure the 4th generation is equipped to handle the ever challenging farming environment.

Why do you choose to serve on the Coalition Board?

I have served on the Water Quality Coalition Board as chairman for several years. Water quality is very important to farming and to the people who live and work in our agricultural intensive environment. We need to have local control to solve problems that impact all of us. Many complain about the problem, the Coalition is implementing programs that help solve the problem.

How do you believe the Coalition can best serve its members?

One of the best methods to help improve water quality is educating growers about their farming methods and how those methods can impact water quality. Improvements will not happen in a short time but implementing better farming practices will result in better water quality.



Email info@kingsriverwqc.org



Call us at **559.365.7958**



Visit our website
kingsriverwqc.org