



Annual Outreach Participation Requirement: Member Portal

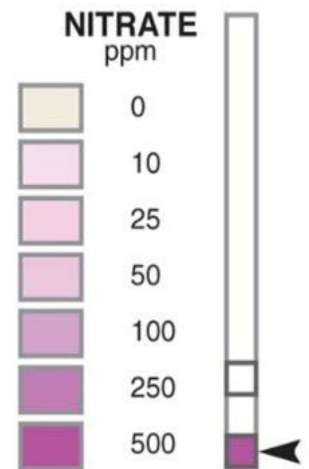
Did you miss participating in the KRWQC's annual in-person or live webinar workshops for outreach credit? You can view the recording March 1 through October 31, 2024, via the Member Portal (kingsriverwqc.org/account) by selecting "Outreach" (see figure). If you represent more than one KRWQC member provide all associated Member IDs at the end of the video for credit. **Outreach participation is an annual requirement for all members.**



Nitrogen Monitoring Made Easy with Test Strips

How much nitrogen is in your irrigation water? Understanding the nitrogen concentration can save you money. Already-present nitrogen can allow you to reduce the amount of commercial fertilizers you use. Knowing your nitrogen concentration can help you minimize nitrogen leaching into groundwater and optimize fertilizer management practices. Nitrogen test strips for water testing change color based on the amount of nitrogen in water samples, and can be found online or locally at stores with pool or aquarium supplies.

- 1. Purchase test strips** that test for NO₃-N (Nitrate-N) in parts per million (ppm) or mg/L.
- 2. Collect water samples** from your irrigation source, near the wellhead.
- 3. Prepare the test:** Test strip instructions may call for dipping the strips into water samples or adding drops of the water onto the strips.
- 4. Test results:** Match the color of the test strip against the color chart for "Nitrate" (not Nitrite) provided to see where your sample's nitrogen concentration falls. Charts typically show nitrogen levels in parts per million (ppm), as shown in the figure.
- 5. How to use your test results:** Once you have the ppm value, you can convert this to pounds-per-acre.
 - a. Skip the Math Below:** If you're not comfortable with formulas, an easy-to-use online Nitrogen Irrigation Calculator is available: agmpep.com/tools/calc-irrn
 - b. OR Do the Math - Calculate Total Nitrogen Load:** Depth of applied water (inches) / 12 x Concentration (ppm or mg/L) x 2.72 (NO₃-N) = Nitrogen applied in irrigation water (lb/acre)
- 6. Monitoring and Adjusting:** Regularly test your irrigation water for nitrogen concentration, especially before you fertilize. Compare your results to recommended nitrogen levels for your crop type. Adjust fertilizer applications accordingly to ensure optimal nitrogen levels for crop growth while minimizing leaching to groundwater. CDFG Crop Fertilization Guidelines: www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/fldrs/frep/FertilizationGuidelines/



Irrigation Pump Test Service

Pump operation can be a large part of your energy expenses, and, age and wear will cause pump performance to decline over time. KRWQC offers first-come, first-served no-cost pump testing to its members in limited numbers. Pump tests:

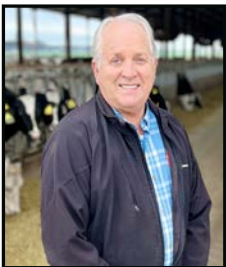
- Estimate water flow rate
- Set a performance baseline
- Gauge pump efficiency
- Help estimate runtime costs
- Help identify problems before a breakdown occurs or energy costs increase
- Help you do an objective economic analysis on a retrofit or repair

Contact your well or irrigation specialist, or contact KRWQC staff at (559) 365-7958 or info@kingsriverwqc.org. The KRWQC provides a limited number of no-cost irrigation pump tests as a service to its members.

Kings River Water Quality Coalition
P.O. Box 8259
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Important Coalition member updates enclosed

Coalition Board Profile, Frank Zonneveld



Provide a brief background about yourself

My brothers and I have dairied and farmed together in the Laton and Hanford areas for over 45 years. I am still involved in farming with my two brothers, and now the partnership includes my son and nephews. We are now in the process of a succession plan and will turn management over to the next generation.

Why do you serve on the Coalition?

I have interacted with the Regional Water Quality Board, initially, by having to get a private discharge permit for our dairies, and also hiring my own water engineer. This entailed a lot of work and reporting. When the Dairy Coalition was formed, we were one of the first dairies to join. We found it is much easier dealing with water quality as a group, with professionals, than going it alone.

How does the Coalition best serve its members?

By getting as many farmers in the coalition, understanding the goals and working toward cleaner water, this will benefit the farmer and provide safer and cleaner water for the public.