KINGS RIVER WATER QUALITY COALITION

NEWSLETTER Spring 2024

Navigating INMP Online Self-Certification



Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Training for Grower Self-Certification



The General Order we are under requires that an Irrigation and Nitrogen Management (INMP) Worksheet be prepared for each management unit or field each year. Certification is required for parcels in a High Vulnerability Area to groundwater, or Low Vulnerability Area parcels identified as an Outlier. Please refer to the "Requirements Checklist" on the Member Portal for your parcel designation and Outlier status or contact the Coalition.

Any INMP Worksheet that requires certification must be either:

- 1. Certified by an Irrigation and Nitrogen Specialist, such as a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) who has completed the CA-Nsp exam (please refer to INMP Worksheet instructions for additional qualifications), (Find a local certified professional at <u>https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/certifications/professional-search</u>) or;
- 2. Self-certified by the member after completing the required training.

How to Self-Certify INMP Worksheets for Your Operation

The California Department of Food and Agriculture offers an Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Training Program. It is online, self-paced, open book, and does not need to be completed all at once. Progress is saved so you can return at any point during the training. To get started, visit <u>http://kingsriverwqc.org/INMPTraining</u> and click on "Join".

After you pass the INMP Training and Exam, you will be notified by email within two weeks that you are eligible to selfcertify. Continuing Education is required: Renew your eligibility by completing 3 hours of continuing education (live online, in-person, or online self-study) within 3 years. Go to <u>http://kingsriverwqc.org/CE</u> to find the option that works best for you.

CropManage: Your Partner in Efficient Farming

CropManage is a free online decision support tool that provides real-time recommendations for efficient and timely irrigation and fertilization applications while maintaining or improving overall yield along with potential water savings.

The software currently supports tree crops, vegetables, berries, and agronomic crops (such as alfalfa & corn). Additional crops are being added. This tool is a product of in-depth research and field studies conducted by the University of California Cooperative Extension.

CropManage automates steps required to calculate crop water needs from weather data, models of crop development, and estimated fertilizer N requirements. This is done through a combination of infield measurements, models of crop N uptake, and soil and crop residue mineralization.

CropManage helps growers maintain records of irrigation schedules and nitrogen fertilizer applications across multiple fields. Records include an "Applied N Summary" that can be used to complete your Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Worksheet and Summary Report.

CropManage is currently free to use on smartphone, laptop, or tablet: <u>https://cropmanage.ucanr.edu</u>. To help growers set up and use CropManage, workshops are regularly held. The Coalition will keep members informed about upcoming workshops this year, and you can check for updates on your own on the UCANR website at: <u>https://ucanr.edu/blogs/CropManage</u>.

and the second		t the total is 100%. Your water
Water Source	N Concentration	% Used for Planting
Ag Well	12 ppm	
Surface	0 ppm	
Average PPM 6 ppm Total % 100%		
+ Add Irrigation Method		
Irrigation Method	Application Rate (in/hr)	Distribution Action Uniformity (%)
Drip	0.15	90 🧷 🗐

Example of CropManage Irrigation Settings for an Almond field.

Staff Member Highlight: Vincent Sambrano, Resource Technician

Background

Vincent spent 31 years in Southern California communities before relocating to Coalinga in 2019 with his fiancée, a dedicated special needs teacher. Driven by a desire to contribute positively to his new community, Vincent joined the Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) shortly after arriving here in the Central Valley.

In his role as a Resource Technician at KRCD, Vincent is integral to the functioning of the Kings River Water Quality Coalition, providing support to over 3,400 members. In addition, he maintains KRCD's fleet vehicles as well as the public drinking water fill stations.

What made you want to work with at KRCD?

When I moved to the Central Valley, it was my desire to find an organization that is making a positive impact in the community. The work we do at KRCD is truly about bringing people together.

What do you enjoy most about working in the KRWQC?

Every day, I learn something new, whether it's from a farmer or another staff member. The knowledge that I've made a difference gives me joy each day. Assisting any of our over 3,400 members daily brings me immense satisfaction.

Is there anything you enjoy doing outside of work?

I'm an avid baseball player and have recently discovered an enjoyment for the outdoors. One thing I've gained as a part of my employment with KRCD is a new appreciation for the outdoors. Our beautiful Kings River truly is a sight to see.

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

Important Coalition member updates enclosed

Quality Control: INMP Summary Reports Submitted March 1, 2024

Our dedicated team at the Coalition is reviewing Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Reports submitted for the March 1, 2024, deadline, to ensure the highest standards of quality assurance and control. Members may receive email or phone calls to confirm or update a reported value on their INMP for the 2023 crop year. Given pressing regulatory deadlines, we kindly request your immediate attention and action on these verification requests. Your prompt response is greatly appreciated and crucial in maintaining the integrity of our collective efforts.







