



FISH FRIENDLY FARMING FOR THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

The Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) program is a new option for farms in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has approved the FFF program as an alternative compliance program. FFF is a voluntary certification program that will help you complete a farm plan (which will count for all three of the ILRP templates), effectively reducing time spent on paperwork while giving growers recognition for their good stewardship.

FFF began in 1997 as a partnership between scientists and farmers in Mendocino and Sonoma counties. Since that time, over 200,000 acres on over 1800 individual farms have enrolled in the program across ten counties in California.

How does the program work?

Interested farmers enroll in the program and work with FFF staff to schedule a site visit. On the site visit FFF staff will map features of the farm (fields, ditches etc.) and fill out a farm plan template. The farm plan documents the good land stewardship practices that warrant certification. The farmer assists with the site visit and completion of the farm plan, but FFF staff do most of the work. The farmer reviews the plan for accuracy and then the site is ready for certification. Certifiers including County Agricultural Commissioners, NRCS or possibly RCDs visit the site with the grower and FFF staff to review the plan. Everyone is working in a collaborative, rather than regulatory, mode. All FFF farm plans remain private protecting the grower. The FFF program works with the Water Quality coalitions to provide the reporting data they need while simplifying compliance.

What are the benefits?

The FFF certification can be used by the farmer in marketing and is widely recognized as an exceptional sustainability program. FFF worked with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Water Quality Coalitions to find ways to reduce the regulatory burden for farmers. The FFF Farm Conservation Plan Template is approved as an alternative for the required farm evaluation, irrigation and nitrogen management plan, sediment and erosion control plan templates.



Why should Delta farmers be interested?

Delta farmers who are good stewards of their land deserve to be recognized for their efforts. The FFF program is a private conservation program focused on supporting farmers and improving water quality. Growers enrolled in the FFF program also benefit from reduced regulatory burdens.

What does it cost?

The FFF certification program is available at no cost to farmers in the Delta. Some funding is also available to implement projects to improve water quality including: return irrigation flow and drainage water settling basins; reduced irrigation water use improvements; sediment filtration improvements such as filter strips and vegetated field borders; native vegetation restoration; lining of canals and drainage ditches, streambank revegetation, berms to manage runoff or discharge water; culvert and energy dissipater installation or replacement; road storm proofing and others.

How much time does it take?

The FFF program is designed to minimize the time it takes for farmers to become certified. FFF staff complete all maps and forms. The farmer participates in one 2-hour workshop, the site visit, review of the plan and the certification visit - total estimated time is about 6-8 hours.

How do I get started or get more information?

Watch this informational video to learn more: <https://youtu.be/2JESbJ8VDAI>

Join one of our 30-minute zoom meetings to hear more and get your questions answered:

March 11, 2021 12:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83623717946?pwd=STE5amwzay9nZ2JhSVp0L1h3ekkwUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 2371 7946

Passcode: 778728

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,83623717946#,,,,*778728# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,83623717946#,,,,*778728# US (Tacoma)

March 25, 2021 12:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82736756337?pwd=enISUFQ2OXJ1eUZLWTBPZXRTTVJhUT09>

Meeting ID: 827 3675 6337

Passcode: 194610

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,82736756337#,,,,*194610# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,82736756337#,,,,*194610# US (Houston)

Enrollment

Go to www.fishfriendlyfarming.org where you can read about the program and sign up!

Fill out an enrollment form and email or fax to us at 707 253 1708 or laurelm@fishfriendlyfarming.org.

Call or email Laurel Marcus 707 869 2760 laurelm@fishfriendlyfarming.org or Danielle D'Amour danielled@fishfriendlyfarming.org