



*Earn a Financial Return on
your Stewardship Investment*

2021 CROP YEAR ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM GUIDE

This brochure contains important information regarding the Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program. Please read it carefully.

For your convenience, it may be kept as a permanent record. We urge you to do so and refer to it whenever questions arise.

If you have any questions not answered by the information given here, contact your local Regional Manager or call the Member Relations Department in Salida at (209) 545-6225.

WHAT IS THE BLUE DIAMOND ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM?

The Blue Diamond Sustainability Incentive Program is now being called the Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP). The Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program reflects the exact same requirements and incentive levels as last year's Sustainability Incentive Program, including the California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP), Bee Friendly Farming Certification, and the Cool Farm Tool Assessment.

The Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program is a set of best practices around orchard management, environmental issues, occupational health and safety, and community investment. The activities involved are selected by Blue Diamond to document the high level of performance executed by our members on these issues and thereby communicate that standard to the marketplace, government officials, and other relevant parties.

A financial incentive is provided to encourage participation and to acknowledge the investment required by members, which we are calling the "Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program" (OSIP). The core element is the California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP) of the Almond Board of California. This program is a science-based program of best practice information designed to optimize almond orchard management while minimizing risk of negative environmental and social impacts. Extensive grower input went into the program development to ensure it reflects the practical realities of almond farming in California. Likewise, the Blue Diamond program is called the Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program to emphasize that it is grounded in practical, daily orchard management.

WHY IS THIS PROGRAM IMPORTANT TO OUR GROWERS AND THE COOPERATIVE?

The Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program ensures the best access to key markets and customers for Blue Diamond. In that way, the cooperative can continue to generate the leading annual return for Member-growers. Customers increasingly demand their suppliers use verified sustainable farming practices and are committed to sourcing sustainably farmed ingredients. Consumers are increasingly interested in the story of where and how their food is grown and desire to purchase products which reflect their own concern for the environment.

By demonstrating leadership in this Blue Diamond:

- Remains competitive
- Has openings for new sales conversations with potential customers seeking sustainability offerings
- Is in the best position to negotiate higher prices
- Gets the highest return on investment

The Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program enables us to share positive stories, backed by credible information, to communicate to customers and consumers how our almonds are responsibly produced in our fields and our facilities.

IS THIS PROGRAM MANDATORY?

No, the Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program is not mandatory. It is a voluntary program that will help the cooperative remain competitive. We are encouraging as many Member-growers to get involved as possible. The more that enroll in the program, the greater ability Blue Diamond will have to leverage this advantage, ultimately resulting in better returns.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?




All current Member-growers who own or farm on land with a Blue Diamond contract are eligible to participate. At least 75% of total acreage across all subcontracts must qualify to receive the monetary incentive.

WHAT DOES ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP MEAN?

Blue Diamond Growers believes that what the world calls "sustainable agriculture" is rooted in the practical, daily care that farmers invest in stewarding their orchard for the future of their families and their communities. The activities promoted as sustainable should result, in the long term, in orchards that are more efficient, financially profitable, better for regional air and water resources, and with soil which will remain healthy and viable for generations to come. This is reflected in the name "Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program."

WHAT ARE THE LEVELS FOR THE 2021 ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM?

Our program has three levels: **Single Diamond**, **Double Diamond**, and **Triple Diamond**. Complete the requirements for each level to receive your corresponding Blue Diamond Incentive Payment. The diagram below describes the levels of the program:

Orchard Stewardship Incentive Level Requirements and Payments		
		
<p>CASP modules required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pest Management 2. Workplace + Community 3. Nutrient + Soil Management 4. Financial Management <p>Base Pmt: \$500 per harvest year</p>	<p>All modules in Single Diamond, plus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Irrigation Management 6. Ecosystem Management <p>Base Pmt: \$750 plus \$.005/pound</p>	<p>All modules in previous levels, plus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Bee Health + Pollination 8. Air Quality 9. Energy Efficiency <div> <p>Bee Friendly Certification</p> <p>Cool Farm Tool Assessment</p> </div> <p>Base Pmt: \$1,000 plus \$.01/pound</p>
<p><i>*Verification required: At least 75% of the contract's acreage must qualify for the highest rank in order to be paid out at that level.</i></p>		

The Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program may require working with multiple organizations. See pages 6-11 for more information:

- Almond Board of California: CASP Modules
- Pollinator Partnership: Bee Friendly Farming Certification
- Cool Farm Alliance: Cool Farm Tool Assessment

All documents are due by May 27th for payment. See page 2 for more details.

BLUE DIAMOND ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP) is important to remain competitive in an ever-changing landscape. To properly account for participation and make timely incentive payments, we are requiring the following for those wishing to participate:

- A completed application with supporting documentation documenting completion (tear-out application provided in pages 3-4), emailed to your Regional Manager by the dates below. **Only completed applications will be processed for payment.**
- Includes completed Base Payment Assignment Form(s) if applicable
- There will be two payment runs throughout the season. Please note the schedule below:

- **Early submission:** Submit required documentation by Friday, February 4 for early payment
- **Final submission:** Submit required documentation by May 27 for standard payment

* Please note that for triple-diamond, you must achieve Bee Friendly Farming Certification from Pollinator Partnership. Pollinator Partnership requires 6 weeks to review and approve certification. **To achieve the May 27 deadline, all materials must be submitted to Pollinator Partnership by April 15th, 2022.**

CASP Requirements:

All applicants must opt in to “Data Sharing” and share data to “Blue Diamond Growers” for all orchards qualifying for the incentive payment. Applicants also must click “No” on Share Anonymously, so that Blue Diamond can track participation. Applicants must opt in and click “No” on Share Anonymously to receive the payment.

Individual answers and data are not shared with Blue Diamond, even when clicking “No” on Share Anonymously. Blue Diamond only receives contact information and shared acres.

- **NOTE:** Only your contact information will be shared with Blue Diamond, allowing us to verify participation. Blue Diamond receives an aggregated data set with no data broken out by individual grower or orchard. This “Data Sharing” simply confirms participation and eligibility for the incentive payment.

Cool Farm Tool Assessment Requirements:

All applicants must use the “BDG2021” group code before taking an assessment. Upon completing the assessment, email the assessment results in Excel format to your Regional Manager. The results show the amount of carbon sequestration for your operation. This does not grant Blue Diamond any additional access to grower data, outside of what is shared to us by the grower. See page 10 for more information about the Cool Farm Tool Assessment.

Estimated Time Requirements:

Below is the estimated time to complete the desired levels. Time requirements will vary by the complexity of each applicant.

Single Diamond: 4 hours

Double Diamond: 6 hours

Triple Diamond: 8 hours

**For more questions or information about local support
contact your Regional Manager**

BLUE DIAMOND ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM GROWER APPLICATION & CHECKLIST

*Please list each Blue Diamond account you are applying for below &
submit additional accounts as needed on additional pages*

Applicant Name _____ Farm Name Listed in CASP _____

Contact Name _____ Phone Number _____ e-mail _____

BDG Contract # _____ Contract name _____ Assessed Acres* _____

BDG Contract # _____ Contract name _____ Assessed Acres* _____

BDG Contract # _____ Contract name _____ Assessed Acres* _____

BDG Contract # _____ Contract name _____ Assessed Acres* _____

*CASP Progress Assessment Report must be submitted to confirm assessed acres

1. Determine your desired incentive target (see pages 1-2 for detailed information about requirements) ☐

2. Confirm **Base Payment** Assignment structure (check one below):

☐ a. No special assignments: Follow existing contract assignment structure as with all other payments

☐ b. Prorate Base Payment different from existing assignment structure

i. If selected, all existing assignees will need to authorize changes. Please complete an “Orchard Stewardship Incentive Base Payment Fixed Dollar Irrevocable Assignment” for each assignee (one page per assignee)

NOTE: per pound incentive payment must follow existing assignment structure (see page 1)

3. Create a CASP login and profile (see page 6 for more details) ☐

☐ a. One CASP account for *all* farming entities (Best Practice is to use the same payee number and payee name as your Blue Diamond Contract e.g. *Acme Farms 78900*)

i. Designate orchards as subcontracts/individual management units

☐ b. Select “opt-in” & “data share” for each orchard and click “No” on Share Anonymously (mandatory for incentive)

NOTE: this does not replace the need to submit Module completion verification (see requirements below)

4. Complete requirements for corresponding Incentive level (see previous page for Modules & Incentives) ☐

Single Diamond:

- CASP Pest Management Module
- CASP Workplace & Community Module
- CASP Nutrient & Soil Management Module
- CASP Financial Management Module

Double Diamond:

- 4 CASP Modules for Single-Diamond
- CASP Irrigation Management Module
- CASP Ecosystem Management Module

Triple Diamond:

- 6 CASP Modules for Double-Diamond
- CASP Bee Health & Pollination Module
- CASP Air Quality Module
- CASP Energy Efficiency Module
- Apply for “Bee Friendly Farming” certification via Pollinator Partnership (see pages 8-9 for more details)
- Take the Cool Farm Tool Assessment via Cool Farm Alliance (see page 10 for more details)
- Create a “coolfarm.org” account and take assessment

BLUE DIAMOND ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM GROWER APPLICATION & CHECKLIST – CONTINUED

Applicant Name _____

5. Upon completing all required assessments, please **submit the following to your Regional Manager** ☐

- a. Completed Stewardship Grower Application and Checklist (*page 3*)
- b. Generate Reports and forward paperwork
 - i. CASP “Assessment progress report”
 - ii. “Bee Friendly Farming Certification” document (Triple Diamond)
 - iii. Excel file of completed Cool Farm Tool Assessment results (Triple Diamond)

Note: No partial applications will be accepted. We will only accept fully-completed applications.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Stewardship Incentive Level (*check box*):

Single Diamond: ☐ Double Diamond: ☐ Triple Diamond: ☐

Regional Manager Audit Checklist (*check box if completed*)

☐ Completed assignment selection. If they selected the “Prorated” option (different from existing assignment structure), did they submit **Incentive Assignment document for each assignee?**

- a. Review “Prorated” document for signatures and accuracy

☐ Verify that the grower selected “opt in” for the CASP data sharing. It is mandatory that growers “opt in” to qualify for the incentive and has clicked “No” on Share Anonymously.

Verify the grower sent in the following documents. If they are **missing any documents, they are not qualified to receive the incentive.** We must have all documents in-hand and completed before approval.

b. Single Diamond:

☐ i. CASP Modules 1-4 completion verification (*CASP printout*)

c. Double Diamond:

☐ i. CASP Modules 1-6 completion verification (*CASP printout*)

d. Triple Diamond:

☐ i. CASP Modules 1-9 completion verification (*CASP printout*)

☐ ii. Bee Friendly Farming Certification document

☐ iii. Excel file of Cool Farm Tool Assessment results

BLUE DIAMOND ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM



ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA CASP MODULE INFORMATION:

Blue Diamond Growers is partnering with the Almond Board of California by using the California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP) to aggregate grower sustainability information. CASP is a data-generating program that can be used to share aggregated data with our customers and consumers.

Please go to www.sustainablealmondgrowing.org and establish an account in the CASP system. Once setup, you can then begin each module and complete at your own pace.

Please refer to the Almond Board Quickstart Guide for more information on Cloning.

CASP MODULE OVERVIEW

MODULE CONTENT		WHAT YOU'LL NEED
SINGLE DIAMOND	Pest Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchard Establishment General IPM and Pesticide Risk Management Insect and Mite Pests Diseases Nemataodes Weeds Vertebrate Pests Postharvest Pest Management
	Workplace & Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplace – Employee Staffing and Development Workplace – Business Culture and Staff Relations Workplace – Employee Health and Safety Communities – Neighbor and Community Relations Communities – Support and Improvement
	Nutrient and Soil Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metrics Source Amount Timing Placement Nitrogen Management Plan and Budget Fertigation Enhancing Soil Properties and Preventing Water Contamination
	Financial Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profitability and Production Planning Business Risk Management Planning Creating and Maintaining a Budget Financial Accounting, Tracking, Analysis & Optimization

CASP MODULE SUPPORT

The online support options include:

- Chat plus, powered by Intercom. That is the chat icon in lower right.
- Provide feedback in the upper right; sends an email to CASP@sureharvest.com

• Email CASP@sureharvest.com

• Phone support (831) 477-7797

For questions regarding problems with the CASP program, we suggest you either start a conversation through the support function on the website

for immediate needs which is located on the menu bar at the top and gives you this option:



Or, for technical and practice type questions, you can reach out to the Almond Board of California’s Field Outreach Team:

<u>Northern Region, Sacramento Valley</u>	<u>Central Valley Region, Lodi to Madera</u>	<u>South Region, Madera to Bakersfield</u>
Tom Devol – Senior Manager, Field Outreach & Education (530) 570-5558 tdevol@almondboard.com	Michael Roots – Specialist, Field Outreach & Education (209) 985-2986 mroots@almondboard.com	Gary Castillo – Specialist, Field Outreach & Education (209) 402-4650 gcastillo@almondboard.com

MODULE CONTENT		WHAT YOU’LL NEED
DOUBLE DIAMOND	Irrigation Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchard Establishment Irrigation System Type, Metrics and Source Orchard Water Requirements Irrigation System Performance Applied Water Soil Moisture Plant Water Status Water Penetration and Salinity Groundwater Recharge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of how irrigation decisions are made on the farm and the tools used to make those decisions Knowledge about establishment of your orchard as well as practices used on the farm related to water penetration and salinity <p>You should have the following data available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Annual total acre inches of water applied to the orchard for the past season
	Ecosystem Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Landscape Issues Threatened or Endangered Species Promotion of Biodiversity Conservation Easements Upland Habitat Maintenance and Enhancement Riparian and Wetland Habitat Maintenance and Enhancement Ecosystem Management Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of local ecosystem features (e.g., water bodies) as well as activities taken by the farm to promote biodiversity and protect habitat
TRIPLE DIAMOND	Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchard Floor Management Unpaved Surfaces - Reducing Particulates Harvest - Reducing Particulates Reducing Particulates, Ozone Precursors and Greenhouse Gases Fertilization Orchard Removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of the farm’s management practices affecting air quality, plus any specific air quality management practices (e.g., activities to reduce harvest dust) Most questions in Air Quality are also found in other modules because many farm practices affect air quality <p>You should have the following data available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of removed or replanted acres
	Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Flue and Electricity Use Energy Audits and Planning Irrigation Energy Efficiency Vehicle and Equipment Above-Ground Fuel Storage Tanks Lighting Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) Clean-Energy Sourcing Vehicle and Equipment Passes Fertilization Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of general farm practices that relate to energy efficiency, plus any practices used by the farm that are directly related to energy (e.g., monitoring fuel use) <p>You should have the following data available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Annual totals of electricity used per acre ◆ Fuel used per acre for assessment year (diesel, gasoline, propane or another fuel type if used)
	Bee Health & Pollination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Management Practices Guide Agreements with Beekeepers Pollinator Risk Mitigation Alternative forage for Pollinators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of practices implemented on the farm related to bees and pollinators, including arrangements with beekeepers Many questions in Bee Health and Pollination are also found in other modules because many farm practices affect bee health and pollination

Upon completing the modules, click on the “Reports” drop down and select “Assessment Progress Summary.” Select the orchard(s) you are submitting to Blue Diamond and click “Export as PDF.”

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP: BFF CERTIFICATION (TRIPLE DIAMOND)

Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) is a certification program from Pollinator Partnership working with growers to help protect, preserve, and promote pollinator health. BFF provides guidelines for growers to promote pollinator health on their lands through helping grower incorporate affordable, simple, science-based guidelines, like offering nutrition and habitats for bees, and integrated pest management strategies. To learn more, visit: www.pollinator.org/bff/bff-us.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA TO OBTAIN POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIPS BEE FRIENDLY FARMING CERTIFICATION?

1. Offer forage providing good nutrition for bees on at least 3% of land. Forage can be temporary, including cover crops.
2. Provide bloom of different flowering plants throughout the growing season, especially in early spring and late autumn. There is no minimum land coverage for seasonal bloom.
3. Offer clean water for bees if not inhibited by government mandated water restrictions.
4. Provide permanent habitat for nesting through features such as hedgerows, natural brush, buffer strips, or bare ground. Attempt to have 1% permanent habitat.
5. Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM); reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals. To learn more, visit: www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/BeeFriendlyFarming_Handbook_UPDATE_10-1-21.pdf
6. Pay the annual \$45 fee per certification.
7. Complete the compliance form once every 3 years (audited by the BFF Task Force).

Additional considerations:

- 1) Orchard Locations:
 - If orchards are within a 2-mile radius of the forage (3% of land) and are under the same management conditions, they will qualify under the same BFF certification.
 - If the orchards are outside of a 2-mile radius, then one must apply for a separate BFF certification (and pay a separate fee for each certification).
- 2) Pollinator Partnership requires 6 weeks to review BFF applications, so all materials must be submitted by April 15, 2022 for review to receive certification by May 27 (Blue Diamond submission deadline).
- 3) Monitor contact email. If there are questions regarding your applications, Bee Friendly Farming will reach out for clarification.
- 4) If no response is received within 6 weeks of submission, your application may be denied.

If you completed your Bee Friendly Farming Certification in the 2020 crop year, you will only need to pay the annual fee, as certification is good for 3 years.

“Seeds for Bees”

Blue Diamond is working with *Project Apis m* to provide growers with free and subsidized cover crop along with technical advise about planting for success. For more information, contact *Project Apis m* at: www.projectapism.org/ or dial (916) 287-3035.

“Water for Bees”

Blue Diamond also provides growers hydration stations for honey bees during the pollination season. For more information, contact your Regional Manager or dial (209) 545-6225.

ALREADY COMPLETED THE “BEE HEALTH AND POLLINATION” CASP MODULE? FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO ACHIEVE BFF CERTIFICATION:

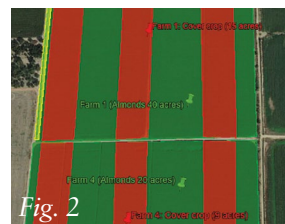
- 1) Visit this webpage: www.jotform.com/form/212176557829163
- 2) Select “California Almond Sustainability Program” under “Existing Certifications” (*see image below*):
- 3) Upload the CASP Assessment Progress Report PDF for your orchard
- 4) Complete “About You” section
- 5) Complete the following questions within “Bee Forage and Habitat”
 - Question 5 – Upload Pictures* of your Bee Forage
 - Question 8 – Upload Pictures* of your Water Sources
 - Question 11 – Upload Pictures* of your Nesting Habitat
 - Question 12 – Permanent Habitat Acreage
 - Question 13 – Total Habitat Acreage
- 5) Complete “Confirmation and Payment” section

* Below are best practices for photos and maps to submit

1. Zoomed out map of all farms, or orchards. The farms/orchards are to be grouped by “Unique Farms”, as defined by Pollinator Partnership. The example below shows 3 unique properties. Farm 1 and 3 can be considered under one certificate IF they are under the same management practices and within 2 miles of each other. (Fig. 1)
2. Zoomed in map for each farm or orchard. Please outline, measure, and label the following items: cropped acreage and habitat by unique type. In the example below, this could be treated as 1 property (combine Farm 1 and Farm 3), since they are within a 2-mile radius AND they are under the same management practices. (Fig. 2)

HABITAT PHOTOGRAPH RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Photographs should be as high resolution as possible
2. Take photographs of each type of habitat on EACH property
3. Include photographs from different times of the year to represent seasonal bloom
4. Include photographs of ALL water sources
5. Include photographs that demonstrate the approximate location of the habitat. This can include showing where the habitat is in relation to the crop, etc.



BFF CERTIFICATION SUPPORT

The online support options include:

- 1) If you have questions about program requirements, please email bff@pollinator.org
- 2) If you have questions about uploading materials, please email isaac@pollinator.org
- 3) If you need assistance on how to achieve 3% forage habitat, please email Pollinator Partnership at bff@pollinator.org

Blue Diamond encourages their members to support honey bee health, including forage and water availability.

Upon receiving Bee Friendly Farming Certification, please send a screenshot or copy of your certification to Blue Diamond with your application form.

All materials must be submitted to Pollinator Partnership by April 15, 2022
to achieve Blue Diamond's May 27 deadline.

COOL FARM ALLIANCE: COOL FARM TOOL (TRIPLE DIAMOND)

The Cool Farm Tool (CFT) is an assessment developed by the Cool Farm Alliance that quantifies on-farm greenhouse gas emissions, soil carbon sequestration, how well farm management supports biodiversity, and blue and green water footprints. To learn more, visit: coolfarmtool.org/coolfarmtool/.

HOW DO I COMPLETE THE COOL FARM TOOL ASSESSMENT?

The CFT assessment allows the user to run all almond orchards (entire operation) as an average or run the tool for an orchard that is easy to characterize, such as one that has a dedicated power supply, or easily definable inputs.

Please go to www.coolfarmtool.org and establish an account. When inputting information into “Farm settings”, enter your Blue Diamond contract number as your “Farm” name. This is so Blue Diamond can verify your completion.

Once your user details and farm settings are setup, the CFT assessment can be completed at your own pace.

Once an account is created, select “My Projects”.

Next, input the Blue Diamond group code: “BDG2021”. Blue Diamond is a Cool Farm Alliance Member. The benefit is that growers can take additional assessments without paying a fee, and Blue Diamond can identify our growers with this code. This does not grant Blue Diamond any additional access to grower data, outside of what is shared to us by the grower.

After entering “BDG2021”, click on “New assessment”.

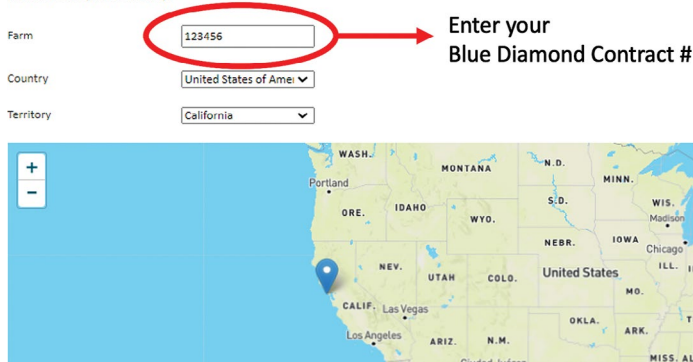
The parameters listed below will help with initial assessment setup:

1. Type = Tree Crop
2. Climate = Temperate
3. Avg Temperature = 60.6 F
4. Specialization = Permanent Crop
5. *Note:* Be sure to list Almond Shell & Hull as “Co-Product” typically 1 lb. kernel to 2.5 lb. hull/shell
6. Be Sure to add “Out of Crop Biomass Changes” (section 6.1)

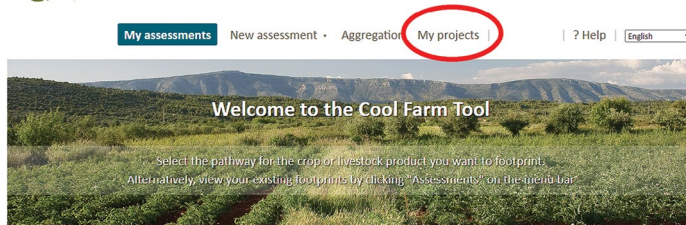
For step by step instructions on the assessment parameter inputs, please visit: bluediamondgrowers.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Cool-Farm-Tool-Instruction-Slides-2021.pptx

Farm settings

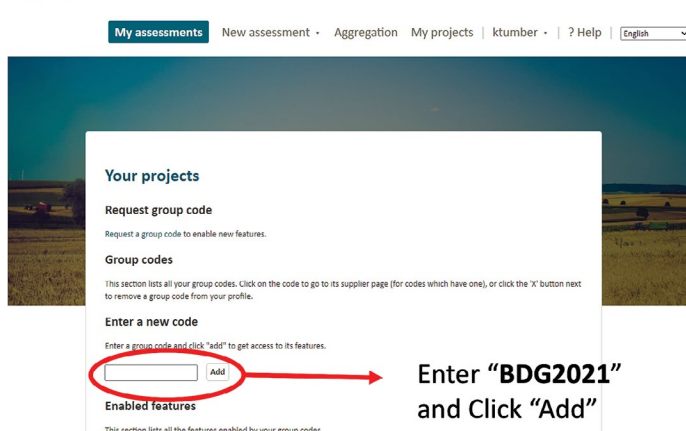
Specify the characteristics of the land where the selected crop is grown. The characteristics of the growing area have direct effects on the carbon footprint of the crop.



CFT

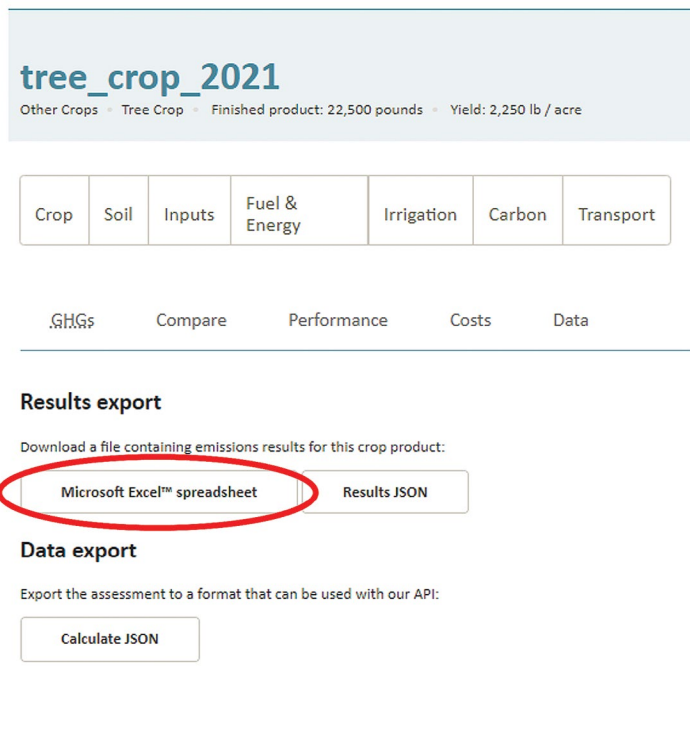


CFT



HOW DO I PROVE THAT I COMPLETED THE CFT ASSESSMENT?

Upon completing the assessment, please export your assessment results to Microsoft Excel and email the file to your Regional Manager. This can be done by clicking “More” in the top right-hand corner of the screen and exporting to Microsoft Excel. The screen should look like this (though your orchard name may be different from this example):



tree_crop_2021
Other Crops • Tree Crop • Finished product: 22,500 pounds • Yield: 2,250 lb / acre

Crop	Soil	Inputs	Fuel & Energy	Irrigation	Carbon	Transport
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GHGs Compare Performance Costs Data

Results export
Download a file containing emissions results for this crop product:

Microsoft Excel™ spreadsheet Results JSON

Data export
Export the assessment to a format that can be used with our API:

Calculate JSON

Blue Diamond must receive this Excel Spreadsheet to verify completion of your Cool Farm Tool Assessment. The data contained in the spreadsheet only presents the output results from the assessment, not any information input by the grower.

CFT ASSESSMENT SUPPORT

There are several support resources available for the CFT assessment:

- 1) To get started, please visit the following link and register for the online course:
coolfarmtool.org/2021/06/free-e-learning-course-on-the-cool-farm-tool/
- 2) For frequently asked questions, please visit:
coolfarmtool.org/coolfarmtool/frequently-asked-questions/
- 3) For support with the CFA assessment, please email: support@coolfarmtool.org.
Email is the fastest and most effective way to receive support.
- 4) Blue Diamond has also created a step-by-step manual to complete the CFT assessment. Please visit this link:
bluediamondgrowers.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Cool-Farm-Tool-Instruction-Slides-2021.pptx

APPENDIX: PROGRAM FAQs

WHAT CROP YEAR DOES THE INCENTIVE PLAN COVER; DOES THIS ONLY APPLY TO THE 2021 CROP?

The Incentive Plan currently covers the assessment of the **2021 crop year (last season)** as that season has been completed and data can be entered into the CASP system in full. All questions should be answered in the context of activities applied to the orchard in 2021 up through harvest. All activities from December 1, 2021 through harvest 2022 will be applied to next year's assessment.

HOW WILL THE PAYMENT PER POUND BE CALCULATED AT THE DOUBLE AND TRIPLE DIAMOND LEVELS?

The payment per pound applies to achievement at the Double and Triple Diamond Level. Only a base payment is offered at the Single Diamond level. Production from the contract for the 2021 crop year is what is used for the payment. Verification is required. At least 75% of the main contract's (all subcontracts) acreage must qualify for the highest rank in order to be paid out at that level. Assuming more than 75% of your acreage qualifies for the highest achieved incentive level, all TGM pounds for 2021 would apply.

WHEN WILL PAYMENTS BE MADE FOR THE 2021 INCENTIVE?

We are offering two options for payment—early and final:

- Early submission: Submit required documentation by Friday February 4 for early payment
- Final submission: Submit required documentation by May 27 for standard payment

IS THIS INCENTIVE PROGRAM ONLY FOR THIS YEAR, OR WILL THIS BE AN ONGOING PROGRAM?

This is the second year of what is to be an ongoing program. 2021 is the second crop year to be assessed and is open through May 27th, 2022, to complete assessments and receive an Incentive payment from Blue Diamond. We anticipate opening up the Incentive program for the 2022 Incentive plan around Mid-November 2022 with a similar deadline of spring 2023. You will need to re-submit your assessment results for the 2022 crop year at that time. It is a good opportunity to learn from your 2021 CASP assessment what adjustments you may want to make in order to achieve a higher level of qualification for 2022.

HOW DOES BLUE DIAMOND GET MY CASP INFORMATION AND WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH IT?

In 2021 Blue Diamond is requiring data opt-in and that Blue Diamond selected as your handler to receive the incentive payment. Blue Diamond only sees **aggregated** survey information with the rest of our opted in growers. This information is very valuable in answering buyer questions regarding growing practices. Since each of our Member-growers farm independently, this helps us to be able to validate the good sustainable practices that are happening currently. The aggregate survey results serve as a data-based set of facts that we can then use to tell our positive sustainability story. For instance, early results have shown that 99% of Member-growers utilize the services of a California Licensed Pest Control Advisor. Although this may seem like a simple fact, this is a very meaningful statistic that helps us put into context that our Member-growers are committed to the practice of Integrated Pest Management by utilizing qualified experts.

WHAT ABOUT SECURITY, IS MY INFORMATION SECURE?

The California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP) is a secure platform that has been in operation for over 10 years. It is administrated by a SureHarvest Inc. a sustainability technology leader that utilizes the latest security protocols on their database. The Almond Board of California and Blue Diamond will not see your individual answers, only aggregated totals that appear in reports as analytical survey results. Furthermore, your information is considered a trade practice and is not subject to governmental Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, which means that outside parties have no rights to CASP data even though the Almond Board of California is a federally sanctioned marketing order.

WHAT LEVEL SHOULD I COMPLETE?

Our goal is to encourage as many Member-growers to enroll in the program. It is your choice what level you want to complete. The Single and Double Diamond levels have no specific sustainability practice requirements that are needed to complete the work. In essence, at these levels all you need to do is complete the assessments.

To reach the Triple Diamond Level, you will need to qualify for the Bee Friendly Farming Certification and take the Cool Farm Tool Assessment. If you do not meet the requirements, you will not be able to achieve gold level status.

As a general rule, it should take about 2-4 hours of work to complete the Single Diamond level, 4-6 hours to complete Double Diamond, and 6-8 hours to complete Triple Diamond.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE BASE PAYMENT PAYS OUT PER CONTRACT?

The base payment pays out on your main “payee” level of the contract, which is the stand-alone business entity, NOT at the subcontract level. So, for instance, “ABC Orchards contract 51234” is the main “payee” contract and one base level payment will apply. That contract may have multiple “subcontracts” typically denoted as -1, -2, -3, etc. Those subcontracts will not receive an individual payment. If you achieve Double or Triple Diamond, all pounds from the main contract and any subcontracts produced for the 2021 crop year will be used for the per pound payment which is in addition to the per contract base bonus. Please note that 75% or your acreage (total of all subcontracts) must be assessed at the highest level in order to receive the respective payout.

WHAT IF I HAVE MULTIPLE BLUE DIAMOND CONTRACTS, CAN I STILL APPLY?

If you hold multiple individual entity contracts (with their own unique payee number) with Blue Diamond each base contract “payee” will be eligible for a unique incentive payment per entity. Many member-growers have different entities, i.e., ABC Farms INC, and another that is ABC Farms Family partnership LP, then those are considered individual and would each qualify for their own base incentive payment, plus production per pound payment at the Double and Triple Diamond levels.

WHAT IF I FARM FOR OTHER GROWERS THAT HAVE A BLUE DIAMOND CONTRACT (AS A RENTER OR LESSEE), CAN I GET PAID FOR ENROLLING THAT ACREAGE?

If you are farm manager or renter of a Blue Diamond contract(s), it is possible for you to perform the Stewardship Incentive work and get compensated for your part. Please contact your Regional Manager for instructions on how to request an assignment of the Stewardship Incentive. For your convenience, an assignment form has been included in this booklet.

DO MEMBER-GROWERS QUALIFY FOR THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM IF THEY HAVE A CONTRACT WITH BLUE DIAMOND, BUT THE ORCHARD HAS BEEN REMOVED OR IS CURRENTLY FALLOWED?

In the case of an orchard that has been removed and currently fallowed, the Stewardship Incentive is not available as there is no orchard to assess. If the orchard was in the ground and farmed for the 2021 season, but has since been removed, then, yes, you could assess for the 2021 crop year.

CAN MY ORCHARD QUALIFY IF IT IS A YOUNG ORCHARD AND NOT YET IN PRODUCTION?

In the case of a young orchard that is less than three years old, and has not delivered production yet, it can be assessed as long as it was farmed during the 2021 season. If this is your only orchard, only a base payment would be available as there was no production in 2021. If it is one orchard of many that you farm, you are encouraged to include it if it was farmed in 2021 as it will count toward your 75% minimum assessed standard.

WHO SHOULD WE TALK TO ABOUT OTHER SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT PROGRAMS SUCH AS SOLAR OR COVER CROP SEED, AND DOES BLUE DIAMOND HAVE RESOURCES TO HELP WITH INCENTIVES?

Blue Diamond is working to bring additional resources to our Member-growers in order to support ongoing and improved sustainability practices. We do not typically get involved in products such as solar, but we will seek to bring best practices information when we can.

We do have an association with the non-profit *Project Apism*, which has an industry supported cover crop program called “Seed for Bees.” Enrollment for cover crop seeds for the 2021-22 season is anticipated to start in October. You can learn more at their website: www.projectapism.org/seeds-for-bees.html

Our goal is to have other partner programs in the future similar to our successful 2021 “Water for Bees.” We distributed over 800 bee watering stations at no cost to our growers to promote the best management practice of providing water for bees during the bloom period. This program was sponsored by a private customer of Blue Diamond to enable the adoption of pollinator friendly practices at no cost to the grower or the cooperative.

IS THIS PROGRAM GOING TO BE LIKE OTHER COMMODITY PROGRAMS THAT ARE PROGRESSIVELY MORE DIFFICULT WITH EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR?

We don’t anticipate this program becoming more difficult in future years. The CASP program is very robust and encompasses all areas of sustainability that we need to assess. Each year, the CASP program gets updated and there may be a few new questions, or questions that have been replaced for greater clarity, but they should not require additional sustainability practices. With the additional Triple Diamond components of Bee Friendly Farming Certification and the Cool Farm Tool Assessment, we feel that we have a top tier program that recognizes the current levels of achievement necessary.

AM I GOING TO NEED TO SPEND THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME NEXT YEAR ON THE PROGRAM AS THIS YEAR?

Actually, next year should be easier since the setup of the CASP account is often one of the most time-consuming activities in order to get on the platform. You will need to clone over your orchards and modules for the 2022 crop year, but you will not need to re-answer the assessment questions again. If there are updates in CASP, you would only need to address those specific areas changed.





4800 Sisk Road, Modesto, CA 95356

Salida: (209) 545-6225 • Sacramento: (916) 446-8368

www.bluediamondgrowers.com