

*Earn a Financial Return on
your Stewardship Investment*

**2022 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.



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WHAT IS THE BLUE DIAMOND ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM?

The Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP) 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 Stewardship Platform (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.

The OSIP is an annual program and participants must submit materials every year they are planning to participate. The time spend is greatest in the first year of participation and is estimated to be approximately one hour after the first year to update and resubmit materials.

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 2022 ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM?

Our program has two levels: **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:

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

Orchard Stewardship Incentive Level Requirements and Payments	
Double Diamond Full completion of the CASP assessment: 	Triple Diamond Full completion of the CASP assessment + Bee Friendly Certification + Cool Farm Tool Assessment: 
CASP Assessment Completion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Orchard Setup 2. Business Management 3. Orchard Practices Base Pmt: \$750 plus \$.005/pound	CASP Assessment Completion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Orchard Setup 2. Business Management 3. Orchard Practices <div> Bee Friendly Certification Cool Farm Tool Assessment </div> Base Pmt: \$1,000 plus \$.01/pound
<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>	

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

**All documents are due by
May 26th for payment.
See page 4 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 online application (see page 14 for more information) with supporting documentation showing completion. The online application is available at: [2022 Online OSIP application](#). **Only completed applications will be processed for payment.**
- Includes completed Base Payment Assignment Form(s) if applicable
- There will be multiple payment runs throughout the season. Please note the schedule and important dates below:

Payments Process

- OSIP payments will begin in late January 2023, with subsequent monthly payments through June. Early applications are encouraged to receive early payment.

Key Program deadlines:

- Blue Diamond: All materials must be submitted by May 26th for payment.
- Bee Friendly Farming: All materials must be submitted to Pollinator Partnership by April 14, 2023 to achieve Blue Diamond's final deadline.

Cool Farm Tool Assessment Requirements:

All applicants must use the "BDG2022" 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.

Returning Applicants: Less than 1 hour

Double Diamond: 6 hours

Triple Diamond: 8 hours

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

REGIONAL MANAGERS



Vice President, Member Relations

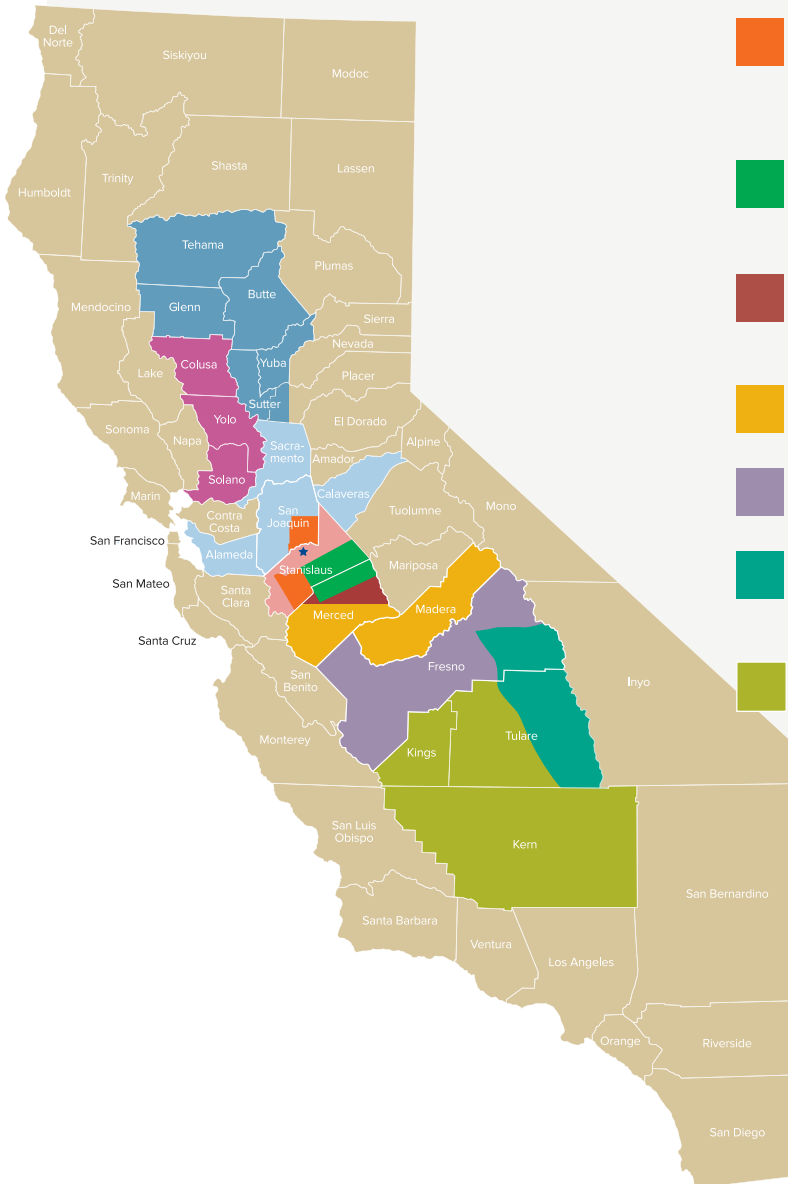
Mel Machado
(209) 545-6222 – Salida
(209) 531-6352 – Cellular

Director, Member Relations (North)

Ben Goudie
(209) 225-0413

Director, Member Relations (South)

Christopher Miller
(559) 310-5085



Glenn, Butte, Tehama, Placer, Yuba & Sutter

Christine Ivory, (530) 518-9109

Colusa, Yolo & Solano

John Aja, (530) 338-6440

Sacramento, Calaveras, Alameda & San Joaquin West of Austin Rd

Ben Goudie, (209) 225-0413

Stanislaus County North of Tuolumne River & West of San Joaquin River

Justin Elam, (209) 303-7306

San Joaquin East of Austin Rd; Stanislaus South of Tuolumne, East of San Joaquin River & West of Hwy 99; Merced North of the Merced River, West of Hwy 99

KC Stone, (209) 596-5375

Stanislaus South of Tuolumne River, East of 99 & Merced North of Merced River, East of 99

Brian Noeller, (209) 417-2010

Merced County, West of 99 & South of Merced River, East of 99, North of Hwy 140

Trent Voss, (209) 470-5981

Merced County, South of Hwy 140 & Madera County

Kenny Miyamoto, (209) 323-8454

Fresno County West of Hwy 99 & North of Hwy 180

Ashley Correia, (559) 356-1584

Tulare County East of Hwy 99 & Fresno County East of Hwy 99, South of Hwy 180

Christopher Miller, (559) 310-5085

Kern, Kings, and Tulare County west of Hwy 99

Anthony Scudder, (559) 470-9731

Membership Office

Jennifer Claussen – Membership Coordinator
(209) 545-6225

Daniel Dekeyrel – Membership Assistant (*Delivery Tags*)
(209) 545-6261

Grower Accounting

Joe Lavagnino – Grower Accounting Manager
(916) 446-8591

Kristie Ezell – Grower Accounting Coordinator
(916) 446-8368

Erika Martin – Grower Accounting Assistant
(916) 446-8385

NEW APPLICANTS

Welcome to the Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP)! Thank you for participating in our voluntary program. The Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program ensures the best access to key markets and customers for Blue Diamond. The next 6 pages give a detailed overview of how to participate in the OSIP program, namely through taking the CASP assessment, enrolling in Bee-Friendly Farming (BFF) certification, and taking a Cool Farm Tool (CFT) carbon assessment. Remember, there are two incentive levels (Double and Triple Diamond). Double Diamond only requires a complete CASP assessment, while Triple Diamond requires the CASP assessment, BFF certification, and the CFT assessment.

As you work through the program and assessments, our Regional Managers are available to support you as questions arise that are not answered in this Guide.

ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA CASP MODULE INFORMATION:

Blue Diamond Growers is partnering with the Almond Board of California by using the California Almond Stewardship Platform (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, or visit page 12 for returning users.

CASP MODULE OVERVIEW

CONTENT		WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Orchard Setup	About the Orchard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge about the orchard: Name, County, size (acres), year planted, varieties Knowledge of pre-planting and planting activities Knowledge of soil type and irrigation systems <p><i>Note: This section captures information that will not change over the life of the orchard and these questions are only asked once during setup.</i></p>
	Operations Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of how the business keeps up to date with legislation and regulations. Used to align CASP to external programs
Business Management	Financial Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of how the business manages finances, no numeric details
	Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of how the business manages energy, no numeric details
	Workplace Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of how employees and contractors are managed, including health and safety
	Communities & Neighbors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of how the farm interacts with the community
Orchard Practices	Irrigation Management	<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
	Nutrient & Soil Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of how decisions are made on the farm related to soil fertility, nutrient requirements, and nutrient management
	Yield, Water Applied, & Fertilizer	<p>This section requires numeric data, have the following data available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average kernel yield across all varieties Annual total acre inches of irrigation water applied Annual totals of applied N-P-K
	Pest Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of general pest management practices on the farm such as IPM, monitoring and strategy, efficacy and safety of control, and pest prevention Familiarity with your farm's management practices for specific pests (e.g., Navel Orangeworm (NOW), peach twig borer (PTB), web-spinning mites, San Jose Scale (SJS), ants, leaf-footed bugs and stinkbugs)
	Ecosystem Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of the ecosystem features (e.g., water bodies) as well as activities taken at the orchard to promote biodiversity and protect habitat
	Bee Health & Pollination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of practices implemented on the farm related to bees and pollinators, including arrangements with beekeepers Knowledge of practices related to requirements for Bee Friendly Farming Certification
	Energy Efficiency & Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of orchard practices that relate to energy efficiency Knowledge of the management practices affecting air quality, including those used to reduce harvest dust You should have the following data available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of removed or replanted acres

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:

Northern Region, Sacramento Valley

Tom Devol – Senior Manager,
Field Outreach & Education
(530) 570-5558
tdevol@almondboard.com

Central Valley Region, Lodi to Madera

Michael Roots – Specialist,
Field Outreach & Education
(209) 985-2986
mroots@almondboard.com

South Region, Madera to Bakersfield

Gary Castillo – Specialist,
Field Outreach & Education
(209) 402-4650
gcastillo@almondboard.com

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/Bee-Friendly-Farming-Handbook.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.

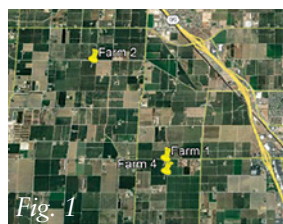


Fig. 1

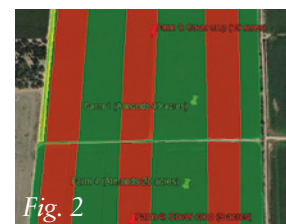


Fig. 2

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 14, 2023
to achieve Blue Diamond’s May 26th 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: “BDGOSIP”. 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 “BDGOSIP”, 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 the Blue Diamond Growers Portal and find the CFT tutorial under “Forms”. For access to the Blue Diamond Growers Portal, please contact Membership at (209) 545-6225.

SHARING

All applicants must opt to “Share” their assessment output data with Blue Diamond Growers to qualify for the incentive payment.

Individual answers and data are not shared with Blue Diamond, only anonymized output results.

Sharing anonymized results with Blue Diamond can be done by clicking “Share” in the top-right hand corner of the screen. Input the Share Code “BDGOSIP” and click “Share.” The screen should look like this:

Share data

You can share this footprint's data with a group, for instance a local producers' organisation or the supplier you sell this product to. Please contact info@coolfarmtool.org for more information about participating organisations or to discuss your data aggregation needs.

Shared with:

These groups currently have access to this footprint for aggregated reports. You can use the 'X' button next to an existing group to remove that group's access to this footprint.

Not yet shared

Enter a new code

Enter a share code and click "share" to make this footprint available for data aggregation

Enter "BDGOSIP" and Click "Share"

HOW DO I PROVE THAT I COMPLETED THE CFT ASSESSMENT?

tree_crop_2022

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

Crop	Soil	Inputs	Fuel & Energy	Irrigation	Carbon	Transport
------	------	--------	---------------	------------	--------	-----------

GHGs Compare Performance Costs Data

Results export

Download a file containing emissions results for this crop product:

Microsoft Excel™ spreadsheet JSON

Upon completing the assessment, please export your assessment results to Microsoft Excel and upload the pdf with the online application. 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):

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) For frequently asked questions, please visit: coolfarmtool.org/coolfarmtool/frequently-asked-questions/
- 2) For support with the CFA assessment, please email: support@coolfarmtool.org. Email is the fastest and most effective way to receive support.
- 3) Please visit the Blue Diamond Growers Portal and find the CFT tutorial under “Forms”. For access to the Blue Diamond Growers Portal, please contact the Membership office at (209) 545-6225.

CFT BEST TIPS & TRICKS:

CFT Question 5 Water Use. Identify all irrigation activities *per acre* into 1 “Event” (i.e. input “1” after “Events”).

CFT Question 5 Water Use. Under “Total water added” indicate the total acre-inches/acre applied throughout the season. For example, if you irrigated 12X at 3 acre-inches/acre/irrigation, you applied 36 acre-inches/acre for the season. You would Input “36” into the box following “event 1”.

CFT Question 6.1 Out of crop biomass changes. Input “temperate US eastern hardwood” under tree species, as well as tree spacing, tree diameter, and tree size for accurate results.

RETURNING APPLICANTS

The time estimated to complete the OSIP application for returning applicants is less than one hour, for the same status. Please see the steps below to complete if you have already participated in the OSIP season. If you achieved the Double Diamond status last season and you are applying for Triple Diamond status this season, you will need to achieve Bee Friendly Farming certification and complete the Cool Farm Tool assessment. Please refer to previous pages for detailed information.

For Double and Triple Diamond status: Complete the CASP Assessment

Please go to CASP: www.sustainablealmondgrowing.org

- Log in with the credentials used for the previous season
- Clone 2021 crop year answers to current year (2022) – *reference ABC visual/quickstart guide, etc.*
- Review and complete all unanswered questions under the “Orchard Profile”, “Business Management”, and “Orchard Practices” sections
- Export a pdf copy of the “Assessment Progress Summary” showing full assessment completion
- Upload the pdf with the online application

For Triple Diamond status:

Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) Certification

For new applicants, or if your orchard(s) were certified in 2018 or earlier, you must apply, or re-apply, for BFF Certification. **All applications must be submitted to Pollinator Partnership by April 14, 2023.** *For first time applicants, please refer to page 8 for more details.*

Two options:

1. Click on the BFF link on page 2 of the CASP “Assessment Progress Summary” report
2. Click on the link to the BFF application: form.jotform.com/212176557829163

Note: If your orchard(s) were certified during the 2019 calendar year or later, you are only required to submit your most recent proof of certification

Upload the proof of certification with the online application

Cool Farm Tool Assessment:

Link to Cool Farm Tool:

app.coolfarmtool.org/account/login/?next=/

For first time users, please refer to page 10.

For returning users, please click on “My projects” and enter the code: “BDGOSIP” and click “Add”

- Open 2021 crop year, click “Save As”, and rename to 2022, save as 2022 for Harvest year
- Review Crop Year 2022 for accuracy (adjust details as needed)
- Once completed, click on “More...” and export as “Microsoft Excel spreadsheet”
- Upload the completed assessment Excel file with the online application
- Share anonymized results with Blue Diamond by clicking “Share” in the top-right hand corner of the screen. Input the Share Code “BDGOSIP” and click “Share”



ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

For the 2022 Crop Year, we are introducing an online application available here: [2022 Online OSIP Application](#).

We are working to reduce paperwork and simplify the process to get you paid faster. In previous seasons, we requested all materials be sent to your Regional Manager. This year, once your application form is completed and the relevant documents are uploaded, we will review your application for completeness. If an application is incomplete, your Regional Manager will reach out to you.

Please complete all the required questions in the application. You will need to upload the documents for the specific incentive level you are applying for. At right is a snapshot of the online application initial screen. Continue scrolling down, answering the questions until completion.

Double Diamond:

1. Upload your CASP "Assessment Progress Summary" in PDF format showing full assessment completion (this can be downloaded after you complete your CASP assessment).

Additionally, you must verify the "opt-in" and "data share" selections in CASP and verify the "No" selection in the "Share Anonymously" prompt in CASP to allow Blue Diamond to verify your participation in the assessment.

Once you click "Submit", your application will be sent directly to our Member Relations team for review.

Please reach out to your Regional Manager if you have any questions or issues.

The screenshot shows the top section of the web application. At the top center is the Blue Diamond Growers logo. Below it is the title "Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP) Web Application" followed by "2022 Crop Year". The first form field is labeled "Farm Name Listed in CASP" with a red asterisk and a prompt "Please type below". Below this is a text input field. The second form field is labeled "How Many Blue Diamond Contract Numbers Are You Applying For?" with a red asterisk. Below this is a dropdown menu with the text "Select your answer" and a downward arrow.

The screenshot shows the continuation of the web application. The first form field is a dropdown menu labeled "Incentive Level" with a red asterisk, showing "Double Diamond" selected. Below this is a section titled "Upload The Completed 'CASP Assessment Progress Report'" with a red asterisk and a blue "Add files" link. The next form field is a dropdown menu labeled "Verify the 'opt-in' & 'data share' selections in CASP" with a red asterisk, showing "Select your answer". Below this is another dropdown menu labeled "Verify the 'No' selection to the 'Share Anonymously' prompt in CASP" with a red asterisk, showing "Select your answer". The final form field is a dropdown menu labeled "I Verify That All Information Provided Is True & Accurate To The Best Of My Knowledge" with a red asterisk, showing "Select your answer". At the bottom right is a blue "Submit" button. At the very bottom, in small text, it says "Never submit passwords or credit card details through forms".

Triple Diamond:

1. Upload your CASP “Assessment Progress Summary” in PDF format showing full assessment completion (this can be downloaded after you complete your CASP assessment).
2. Upload your Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) certificate
3. Upload the Cool Farm Tool (CFT) assessment results in **Excel format**

Additionally, you must verify the “opt-in” and “data share” selections in CASP and verify the “No” selection in the “Share Anonymously” prompt in CASP to allow Blue Diamond to verify your participation in the assessment.

Once you click “Submit”, your application will be sent directly to our Member Relations team for review.

Please reach out to your Regional Manager if you have any questions or issues.

Incentive Level *

Triple Diamond

Upload The Completed "CASP Assessment Progress Report" *

Add files

Upload The Bee Friendly Farming Certificate *

Add files

Upload The "Cool Farm Tool" Excel Assessment Results *

Add files

Verify the "opt-in" & "data share" selections in CASP *

Select your answer

Verify the "No" selection to the "Share Anonymously" prompt in CASP *

Select your answer

I Verify That All Information Provided Is True & Accurate To The Best Of My Knowledge *

Select your answer

Submit

Never submit passwords or credit card details through forms



APPENDIX: PROGRAM FAQS

WHAT CROP YEAR DOES THE INCENTIVE PLAN COVER; DOES THIS ONLY APPLY TO THE 2022 CROP?

The Incentive Plan currently covers the assessment of the **2022 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 2022 up through harvest. All activities from December 1, 2022 through harvest 2023 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. Production from the contract for the 2022 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 2022 would apply.

WHEN WILL PAYMENTS BE MADE FOR THE 2022 INCENTIVE?

OSIP payments will begin in late January 2023, with subsequent monthly payments through June.

Early applications are encouraged to receive early payment.

All applications must be submitted to Blue Diamond by May 26th to qualify for the 2022 OSIP incentive.

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

This is the third year of what is to be an ongoing program. 2022 is the third crop year to be assessed and is open through May 26th, 2023, to complete assessments and receive an Incentive payment from Blue Diamond. We anticipate opening up the Incentive program for the 2023 Incentive plan around Mid-November 2023 with a similar deadline of spring 2024. You will need to re-submit your assessment results for the 2023 crop year at that time. It is a good opportunity to learn from your 2022 CASP assessment what adjustments you may want to make in order to achieve a higher level of qualification for 2023.

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

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 Stewardship Platform (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 Double Diamond level has no specific sustainability practice requirements that are needed to complete the work. In essence, at this level 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 Triple Diamond status.

As a general rule, it should take about 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 2022 crop year will be used for the per pound payment which is in addition to the per contract base bonus. Please note that 75% of 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 2022 season, but has since been removed, then, yes, you could assess for the 2022 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 2022 season. If this is your only orchard, only a base payment would be available as there was no production in 2022. If it is one orchard of many that you farm, you are encouraged to include it if it was farmed in 2022 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 2023-24 season is anticipated to start in July 2023. 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 2022 “Water for Bees.” We distributed over 900 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.





Orchard Stewardship Incentive Base Payment Assignment (CASP)

There is hereby irrevocably assigned to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Indicate Base Payment Level Below:

****If splitting base payment between multiple payees, select other and indicate amount to be paid.****
A separate form will need to be completed for each payee.

☐ Double Diamond \$750.00

☐ Triple Diamond \$1,000.00

Other: \$ _____

out of and from sums as may be due or to become due to me under the terms of my Crop Agency Agreement for account of my 20 crop(s) for such almonds as are delivered to you by me under my contract # _____ or delivered by my Renter /Assignee (RNT/ASG) # _____. It is understood that such payment will be made subject to and in accordance with the Crop Agency Agreement rules, regulations, and Bylaws of Blue Diamond and it is my obligation to see that the almonds are delivered to Blue Diamond for marketing in accordance with the terms of my Crop Agency Agreement with Blue Diamond. If the amount becoming due to me from the said crop(s), or otherwise, shall be less than the amount of this order, you shall, nevertheless, pay such an amount as shall become available.

Note: This assignment ONLY applies to the Orchard Stewardship Incentive Base Payment, which supersedes any other assignment on record.

Witness

Date

**Member/Renter/Assignee
(Assignor)**

Date

Witness

Date

**Recipient of Assignment
(Assignee)**

Date

******* FOR OFFICE USE ONLY *******

ACCEPTANCE OF ASSIGNMENT: Blue Diamond hereby accepts the above assignment subject to whatever sums Blue Diamond may be entitled to withhold under its Crop Agency Agreement with the assignor; and certifies that a notation thereof has been made upon the records of Blue Diamond; and that except as herein stated, as of this date Blue Diamond has no record of the receipt of notice of any prior existing assignment of proceeds which may become payable under the above mentioned Crop Agency Agreement with Blue Diamond, except as herein provided, for crop(s) of the year(s) above-specified.

Date

Blue Diamond Growers

Please Note: A signed copy will be returned to you after our acceptance.



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