



CROP YEAR 2024

Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program Guide

This guide contains important information regarding the Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program. Please read it carefully. The guide is for use and reference by Blue Diamond Growers members only. For your convenience, it may be kept as a useful reference. 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 Daniel Dekeyrel (ddekeyrel@bdgrowers.com), your local Regional Manager or call the Member Relations Department in Salida at (209) 545-6225.

Earn a Financial Return on your Stewardship Investment



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WHAT IS THE BLUE DIAMOND ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM?

The core of 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. Growers can earn an optional pollinator wellness certification. The program allows Blue Diamond to document the collective level of performance of our members on these issues and highlight participation to the marketplace, government officials, and other relevant groups.

A financial incentive is provided to encourage participation and 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 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 spent 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. The 2024 “Recipe for Transformation” report by Quantis reported that manufacturing companies increasingly request their suppliers document their sustainable farming practices. The same report showed that consumers are increasingly interested in the story of where and how their food is grown and prefer products which reflect their own concern for the environment.

By demonstrating leadership in this, Blue Diamond:

- Is positioned to be competitive
- Has openings for new sales conversations with potential customers seeking suppliers with sustainability programs
- Is provided the opportunity to negotiate better prices
- Is set up to receive 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 produced in our fields and 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 who 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. 100% of farmed Blue Diamond almond acres 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 2024 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
1. CASP Assessment Completion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Orchard Setup b. Business Management c. Orchard Practices Base Pmt: \$750 plus \$.005/pound	1. CASP Assessment Completion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Orchard Setup b. Business Management c. Orchard Practices 2. Bee Friendly Certification Base Pmt: \$1,000 plus \$.01/pound

FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE TRIPLE DIAMOND STATUS:

Blue Diamond Growers Climate-Smart Grant

Blue Diamond has funding available to cover the costs of implementing pollinator friendly practices to achieve Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) certification through Pollinator Partnership. In addition, in 2023, Blue Diamond was awarded a grant from the USDA for \$45 million over the course of 5 years to support growers choosing to implement qualified climate-smart farming activities. **The grant will provide free seed and/or plant material and an implementation incentive to plant cover crops, conservation cover, and/or or hedgerows to those who voluntarily enroll.** You can use the grant to help cover the costs of planting cover crops, conservation cover (bee pasture), and/or hedgerows to help you meet the requirements for BFF certification. Grant applications will open in early 2025 for planting in the fall of 2025. Please contact jbains@bdgrowers.com for more information.



Water for Bees:

Every year, Blue Diamond also provides growers hydration stations for honeybees during the pollination season at no cost. For more information, contact your Regional Manager or call (209) 545-6225.

Please note that cover crops must have already been planted in fall 2024 to achieve Pollinator Partnership's Bee Friendly Farming Certification for the 2024 OSIP season.

All documents are due by April 30, 2025 for payment.

BLUE DIAMOND ORCHARD STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

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 pages 14 and 15 for more information) with supporting documentation showing completion. The online application is hosted on the FarmRaise tool. If you have already created an account to apply for the Climate-Smart Grant, please log in with the same credentials. If not, you will need to create an account. The online application is available at: [2024 Online OSIP Application](https://app.farmraise.com/bdg) (https://app.farmraise.com/bdg). **Only completed and approved applications will be processed for payment.**
- Must include completed Base Payment Assignment Form(s) if applicable.

Payments Process

- OSIP payments will begin in late January 2025, with subsequent monthly payments through May. Early applications are encouraged to receive prompt payment.
- Each approved application will receive one payment for the season; the earlier the application is submitted and approved, the earlier the payment will be issued.

Key Program deadlines:

- Blue Diamond: All materials must be submitted by April 30, 2025.
- Bee Friendly Farming: All materials must be submitted to Pollinator Partnership by March 12, 2025 to achieve Blue Diamond's final deadline.

Estimated Time Requirements:

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

Returning Applicants: Less than 1 hour

Double Diamond: 2 to 4 hours

Triple Diamond: 4 to 6 hours

Notable Change for 2024 OSIP:

For the 2024 OSIP, we are streamlining our approach to Cool Farm Tool-related questions. Based on feedback and data utility, we are now asking questions specific to orchard practices and the extent of their use. These questions will be integrated into the general Triple Diamond status questions without adding extra steps to the application. You will no longer see a specific section or requirement for a Cool Farm Tool assessment.

For more questions or information about local support contact Daniel Dekeyrel (ddekeyrel@bdgrowers.com) or your Regional Manager

REGIONAL MANAGERS



Vice President, Member Relations

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

Director, Member Relations

Ben Goudie
(209) 225-0413

Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Sutter, & Yuba
Christine Ivory, (530) 518-9109

Colusa, Yolo & Solano
Nicole Jansen, (530) 338-6440

Sacramento County, San Joaquin County, North of Hwy 205 & East of San Joaquin River
KC Clendenin, (209) 596-5375

San Joaquin County, West of San Joaquin River & South of Hwy 205 Stanislaus County, North of Tuolumne River & Hwy 132
Justin Elam, (209) 303-7306

Stanislaus County, East of Hwy 99, South of Tuolumne River
Austin Jackson, (209) 417-2010

Stanislaus County, West of Hwy 99, South of Tuolumne River, South of Grayson & Howard Road's West of San Joaquin River Merced County, North of Merced River & Hills Ferry & Stuhr Roads
Trent Voss, (209) 470-5981

Merced County, South of Merced River & Hills Ferry & Stuhr Roads, North of Hwy 140
Kenny Miyamoto, (209) 323-8454

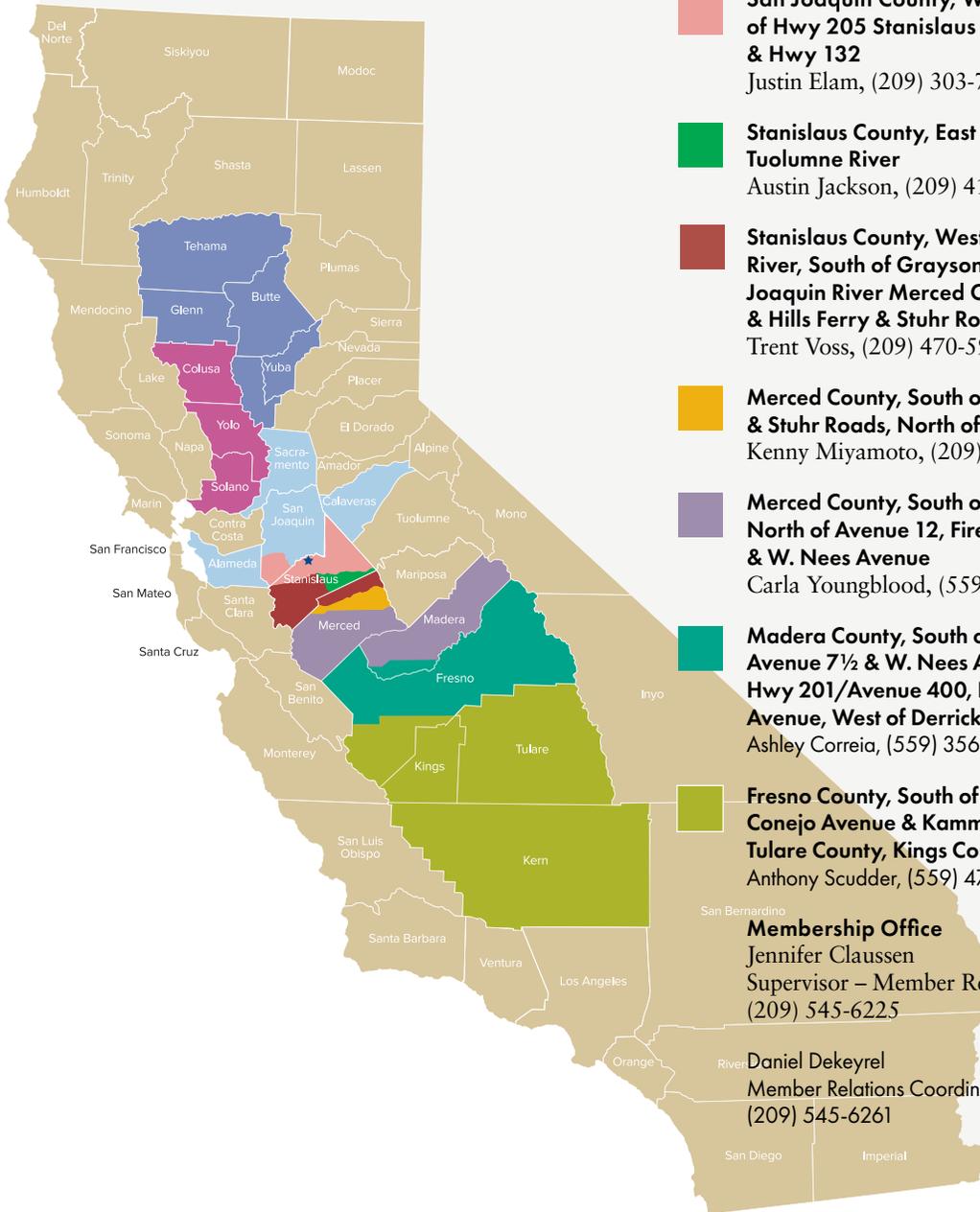
Merced County, South of Hwy 140 Madera County, North of Avenue 12, Firebaugh Blvd, Avenue 7½, & W. Nees Avenue
Carla Youngblood, (559) 240-0906

Madera County, South of Avenue 12, Firebaugh Blvd, Avenue 7½ & W. Nees Avenue, Fresno County, North of Hwy 201/Avenue 400, North of Conejo Avenue & Kamm Avenue, West of Derrick Avenue
Ashley Correia, (559) 356-1584

Fresno County, South of Hwy 201/Avenue 400, South of Conejo Avenue & Kamm Avenue, East of Derrick Avenue, Tulare County, Kings County, & Kern County
Anthony Scudder, (559) 470-9731

Membership Office
Jennifer Claussen
Supervisor – Member Relations Administration
(209) 545-6225

River
Daniel Dekeyrel
Member Relations Coordinator (Delivery Tags)
(209) 545-6261



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 six pages give a detailed overview of how to participate in the OSIP program, namely through taking the CASP assessment and enrolling in Bee-Friendly Farming (BFF) certification. 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 and BFF certification.

As you work through the program and assessments, Daniel Dekeyrel (ddekeyrel@bdgrowers.com) and 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.almondstewardship.org and establish an account in the CASP system. Once setup, you can then begin each module section and complete at your own pace.

Please refer to the Almond Board Quickstart Guide for more information on cloning data from one orchard to another orchard, or visit page 12 for returning users.

Upon completing the assessment, 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." Please note that if you are applying to become Bee Friendly Farming Certified (pages 8 & 9), you will be required to provide this summary.

CASP OVERVIEW

SECTION	SUBSECTION	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>
Business Management	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.
	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 • Number of removed or replanted acres
	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, leaffooted 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

CASP 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 ext. 5
- For questions regarding problems with the CASP program, we suggest you 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 and
Central Valley Region, Lodi to Madera

Michael Roots – Senior 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



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 growers 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 PARTNERSHIP'S BEE FRIENDLY FARMING CERTIFICATION?

1. Offer forage providing good nutrition for bees on at least 3% of cropped acreage. Forage can be temporary and can include cover crops if they are left to bloom.
2. Provide bloom of different flowering plants throughout the growing season, from early spring to late autumn. There is no minimum land coverage for seasonal bloom.
3. Provide permanent habitat for nesting through features such as hedgerows, natural brush, buffer strips, or bare ground. Attempt to have at least 1% perennial habitat.
4. Offer clean water for bees if not inhibited by government mandated water restrictions.
5. Utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in efforts to reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals.
6. Pay the annual certification fee of \$45.
7. Complete the compliance form once every 3 years (audited by the Agriculture and Pollinators Task Force).

Additional considerations:

- Orchard Locations:
 - ♦ If orchards are within a 2-mile radius of the habitat and are under the same management conditions, they will qualify under the same BFF certification. All land/habitat features within this radius must be owned/ managed by the same entity.
 - ♦ 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).
- Pollinator Partnership requires 6 weeks to review BFF applications, so all materials must be submitted by March 12, 2025 for review to receive certification by April 30, 2025 (Blue Diamond submission deadline).
- Monitor contact email. If there are questions regarding your applications, Bee Friendly Farming will reach out for clarification.
- 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 2022 or earlier crop year, you may be due for BFF 3-year Compliance Review. Contact bff@pollinator.org if you are unsure when your compliance review is due.

Certification Period: The date range on the BFF certification provided to BDG must start no later than May 1, 2025, and end no earlier than November 1, 2025.

To ensure eligibility, we advise growers to hold off on renewing their BFF certificates until November 1, 2024, or later. If a grower's BFF certificate expires before November 1, 2025, they should contact P2 to request adjustments.

RESOURCES TO COVER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH BFF CERTIFICATION

“Blue Diamond Growers Climate-Smart Grant”

In 2023, Blue Diamond was awarded a grant from the USDA for \$45 million over the course of 5 years to support growers implementing climate-smart farming activities. The grant will provide free seed and/or plant material and an implementation incentive to plant cover crops, conservation cover, and hedgerows in your orchard. You can use the grant to help cover the costs to plant cover crops, conservation cover, and hedgerows to help you meet the requirements for BFF certification. Grant applications will open in early 2025 for planting in fall of 2025. Please contact jbains@bdgrowers.com for more information.

“Water for Bees”

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



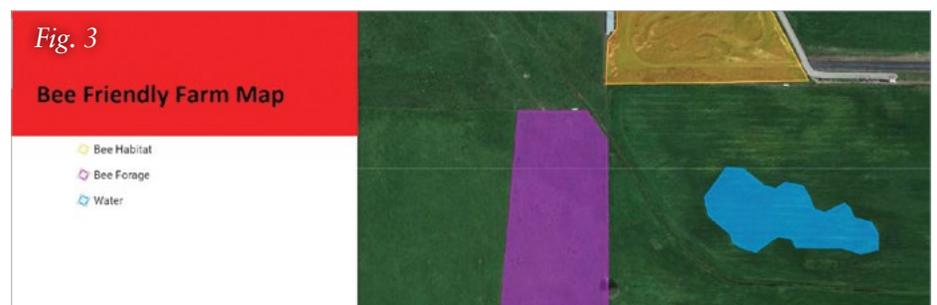
ALREADY SUBMITTED YOUR CASP SELF-ASSESSMENT AND ARE BEE FRIENDLY FARMING ELIGIBLE? FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- 1) Visit www.pollinator.org/bff-cert/apply to apply and create an account to begin. Already have an account. Select “Continue an Existing Application” and log in.
- 2) Once an account has been made, select “Add A Farm” on your BFF Certified Profile for new farm applications.
- 3) Complete the “About Your Farm” section. Please provide the best phone number and email address where you can be reached. The Bee Friendly Farming Team will use this information to gather any additional information required to award certification.
- 4) When asked for “Existing Certifications” select “California Almond Stewardship Platform.” Upload the CASP Assessment Progress Report PDF for your orchard in “Existing Audit Files.”
- 5) Complete all the questions within “Bee Forage and Habitat” regarding your forage, nesting, and water features provided for the bees. Photo uploads will be required for verification. Files can be uploaded by dragging files into the appropriate locations or by selecting multiple photos at one time. No application will be approved without:
 - Uploaded pictures of your Bee Forage
 - Uploaded pictures of your Water Sources
 - Uploaded pictures of your Nesting Habitat
 - Permanent Habitat Acreage (includes habitat features such as nesting locations, hedgerows, and permanent vegetation not including crops. This permanent habitat acreage does not include cover crops).
 - Total Habitat Acreage (includes all habitat features temporary or permanent. This does not include crops).
- 6) Upload your Farm Maps. See best practices for photos and maps to submit for map requirements.
- 7) 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. Fig. 1-3 shows 3 unique properties.)
2. Zoomed in map for each farm or orchard. Please outline and label the following items:
 - Cropped acreage/acreage in production
 - Nesting habitat features on site by unique type, such as hedgerows, bare undisturbed ground, etc.
 - Clean water provided to bees on site
 - Forage/Floral resource features on site by unique type, such as cover crops, hedgerows, weedy edges, etc.

Note: Maps will not be accepted for certification without nesting, water, and forage features clearly labeled. Appropriate Farm Maps are required for certification. The examples presented represent minimum standards for approved Farm Maps.





HABITAT PHOTOGRAPH RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Take photographs of each type of habitat on **EACH** property.
2. Include photographs from different times of the year to represent seasonal bloom. Photos of cover crops are welcomed, however submissions featuring only cover crops will not be accepted.
3. Include photographs of **ALL** water sources.
4. Include photographs of **ALL** nesting features. These features must be permanent nesting features and *do not* include honeybee boxes. Nesting features include hedgerows; bare, undisturbed and unsprayed ground; dead trees/snags; bufferstrips; native bee nesting boxes; set aside habitat locations; woody debris left on-site.
5. Include photographs that demonstrate the approximate location of the habitat. This can include where the habitat is in relation to the crop, etc.

BFF CERTIFICATION SUPPORT

For online support with questions about program requirements, uploading materials, or assistance on how to achieve 3% forage habitat, please email the Bee Friendly Farming Team at bff@pollinator.org. Blue Diamond encourages their members to support honeybee 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 March 12, 2025 to achieve Blue Diamond's April 30, 2025 deadline.

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 carbon footprint assessment questions in the application. Please refer to previous pages for detailed information.

For Double and Triple Diamond status: Complete the CASP Assessment

Please go to CASP: www.almondstewardship.org

- Log in with the credentials used for the previous season
- Clone 2023 crop year answers to current year (2024) – [Reference the ABC Cloning Tips Document](#) https://qrco.de/CASP_cloning
- 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 [2024 Online OSIP Application](#) (<https://app.farmraise.com/bdg>).

For the 2024 Crop Year, we are transitioning the online application to our FarmRaise tool. This will require a one-time account setup, which can be used for future OSIP applications, and the Climate-Smart Grant, should you choose to participate. The transition will create many efficiencies for copying over information from one year to the next.

The online application can be found at: [FarmRaise application](#) (<https://app.farmraise.com/bdg>)

Once you create an account and fill in the required information, click on the “Apply” button under Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP).

For Triple Diamond status:

Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) Certification

For new applicants, or if your orchard(s) were certified in 2021 or earlier, you must apply, or reapply, for BFF Certification. **All applications must be submitted to Pollinator Partnership by March 12, 2025.** *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. Create an account (or use your existing account if you have one), log in and apply for a “New Farm”:
<https://www.pollinator.org/bff-cert/login>

Note: If your orchard(s) were certified during the 2022 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.

Certification Period: The date range on the BFF certification provided to BDG must start no later than May 1, 2025, and end no earlier than November 1, 2025.

To ensure eligibility, we advise growers to hold off on renewing their BFF certificates until November 1, 2024, or later. If a grower's BFF certificate expires before November 1, 2025, they should contact P2 to request adjustments.



YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION STEP TO RECEIVE YOUR INCENTIVE
The CASP system does not automatically provide us a notice of your completion.

ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

For the 2024 Crop Year, we are transitioning the online application to our FarmRaise tool. This will require a one-time account setup, which can be used for future OSIP applications, and the Climate-Smart Grant, should you choose to participate. The transition will create many efficiencies for copying over information from one year to the next.

The online application can be found at:

[Farm Raise application](https://app.farmraise.com/bdg) (<https://app.farmraise.com/bdg>)

Once you create an account and fill in the required information, click on the “Apply” button under Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP).

For Double Diamond, you will be required to:

1. Upload your CASP “Assessment Progress Summary” in PDF format showing full assessment completion and submission (this can be downloaded after you complete your CASP assessment).
 - a. Verify the “opt in” and “data share” selections in CASP.
 - b. Verify a “Yes” selection to “Share Contact Info & Submission Status” in CASP.

These items will allow Blue Diamond to verify your participation in the assessment for incentive payment.

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

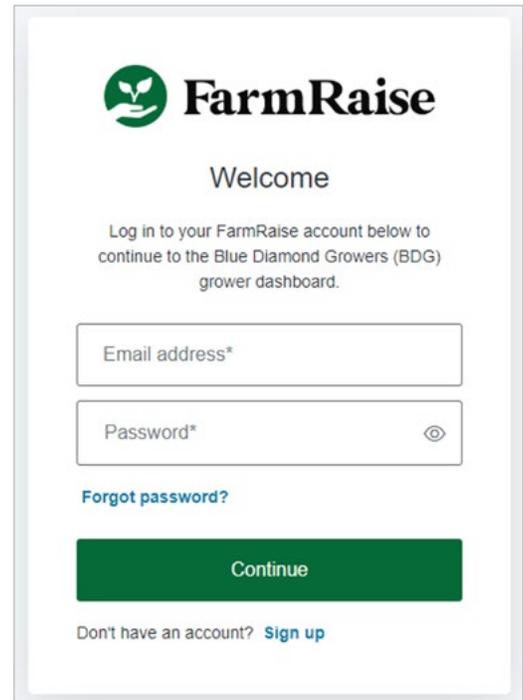
For Triple Diamond, you will be required to:

1. Upload your CASP “Assessment Progress Summary” in PDF format showing full assessment completion and submission (this can be downloaded after you complete your CASP assessment).
 - a. Verify the “opt in” and “data share” selections in CASP.
 - b. Verify a “Yes” selection to “Share Contact Info & Submission Status” in CASP.
2. Upload your Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) certificate.
3. Complete the questions embedded in the application.

These items will allow Blue Diamond to verify your participation in the assessment for incentive payment.

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

Please reach out to Daniel Dekeyrel (ddekeyrel@bdgrowers.com) or your Regional Manager if you have any questions or issues.





Sign out

In partnership with FarmRaise

Welcome

Blue Diamond Growers

Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP)

Program OSIP 2024 Crop Year	Application Period 22024-11-01 - 2025-04-30	Status Not Applied	Apply
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Note: For more information on the 2024 OSIP, including incentive levels, requirements, and support, please visit the [Blue Diamond Growers Documents page](#) or email Daniel Dekeyrel at ddekeyrel@bdgrowers.com

USDA Climate-Smart Grant

Program Farm & Field Information	Fields Submitted None	Add Field
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Note: To adjust your farm & field information, please contact Jasdeep Bains at jbains@bdgrowers.com or (916) 834-5651.

Program Conservation Cover	Application Period 2024-05-01 - 2024-09-30	Status Not Applied	To Apply, complete OSIP and Farm & Fields info
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Program Cover Crop	Application Period 2024-05-01 - 2024-09-30	Status Not Applied	To Apply, complete OSIP and Farm & Fields info
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APPENDIX: PROGRAM FAQs

WHAT CROP YEAR DOES THE INCENTIVE PLAN COVER; DOES THIS ONLY APPLY TO THE 2024 CROP?

The Incentive Plan currently covers the assessment of the **2024 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 2024 up through harvest. All activities from November 1, 2024 through harvest 2025 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 levels. Production from the contract for the 2024 crop year is what is used for the payment. Verification is required. 100% of farmed Blue Diamond acreage under the main contract must qualify for the highest rank in order to be paid out at that level.

WHEN WILL PAYMENTS BE MADE FOR THE 2024 INCENTIVE?

OSIP payments will begin in late January 2025, with subsequent monthly payments through May.

Early applications are encouraged to receive early payment.

All applications must be submitted to Blue Diamond by April 30, 2025 to qualify for the 2024 OSIP incentive.

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

This is the fifth year of our ongoing program. 2024 is the fifth crop year to be assessed and is open through April 30, 2025, to complete assessments and receive an incentive payment from Blue Diamond. You will need to resubmit your assessment results for the 2024 crop year to receive your incentive payment. It is a good opportunity to learn from your 2024 CASP assessment what adjustments you may want to make in order to achieve a higher level of qualification for 2025.

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** assessment 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 individual grower's sustainable farming practices that are happening currently. The aggregate self-assessment results serve as a data-based set of facts that we can then use to tell the cooperative's 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 to decide the level you complete. The Double Diamond level requires the CASP self-assessment, which captures information about orchard practices and business management.

To reach the Triple Diamond Level, you will need to qualify for the Bee Friendly Farming Certification. Please note that Blue Diamond is offering support through the USDA Climate-Smart Grant and Water for Bees to help offset the investment to achieve Triple Diamond status. 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 standalone 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. You may assign 100% of the base payment to another contract using the attached form on page 19. If you achieve Double or Triple Diamond, all pounds from the main contract and any subcontracts produced for the 2024 crop year will be used for the per pound payment which is in addition to the per contract base bonus.

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, e.g. 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.

IF I FARM FOR OTHER GROWERS WHO 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 2024 season, but has since been removed, then, yes, you could assess for the 2024 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 2024 season. If this is your only orchard, only a base payment would be available as there was no production in 2024. If it is one orchard of many that you farm, you are encouraged to include it if it was farmed in 2024.

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.

In 2023, Blue Diamond was awarded a grant from the USDA for \$45 million over the course of 5 years to support growers implementing climate-smart farming activities. The grant will provide free seed and/or plant material and an implementation incentive to plant cover crops or conservation cover in your orchard. Grant applications will open early 2025 for planting in fall of 2025. Please contact csg@bdgrowers.com for more information.

Our goal is to have other partner programs in the future similar to our successful 2023 “Water for Bees.” We distributed over 850 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 is 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 addition of Bee Friendly Farming Certification, 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?

After the first season, it should be easier since the setup of the CASP account is often one of the most time-consuming activities to get on the platform. You will need to clone over your orchards and modules for the 2024 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 assigning the 100% of Crop Year 20_____ OSIP Base Payment from:

Payee #: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

To

Payee #: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Indicate Base Payment Level Below:

Double Diamond \$750.00

Triple Diamond \$1,000.00

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

Witness Date

Member/Renter/Assignee Date
(Assignor)

Witness Date

Recipient of Assignment Date
(Assignee)

Date

Blue Diamond Growers

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







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