

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Priority

A Strong Agriculture Economy/Heritage



Goal Champions:

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Support Team Members:

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Introduction

- Agriculture is the County's number one industry generating approximately \$2.4 billion in farm gate receipts in 2007
- The \$2.4 billion in farm gate receipts has a multiplier of greater than "3" in the local economy
- The agriculture industry needs to be protected and enhanced if it is to continue to support our local economy

Three major goals were identified to positively impact the board priority of –

A Strong Agriculture Economy/Heritage

- Support and promote agricultural products, education, technology and innovation
- Protect agricultural resources
- Manage threats to agriculture

A Strong Agriculture Economy/Heritage

- Significant progress was made in achieving all of the outcomes for the goals and measures of this priority
- Specific outcomes and impacts for one measure will be presented

Goal 1: Support and promote agricultural products, education, technology and innovation

Measure 1) Emphasize economic improvement in applied research and education programs

- Identified current agriculture industry problems
- Designed research and education activities to address those problems
- Collected information on industry adoption of newly introduced practices (BMPs) and technologies



Goal 1: Support and promote agricultural products, education, technology and innovation

Measure 2) Utilize electronic media to communicate information to customers

- Agriculture Commissioner's website redesigned
- Developed a database of C.E. E-newsletter subscribers
- Developed/implemented C.E. customer survey



Goal 1: Support and promote agricultural products, education, technology and innovation

Measure 3) Make environmental quality improvement a major component of research and education programs

- Designed applied research to address environmental quality improvement, IPM and food safety issues
- Conducted educational programs that address environmental quality, IPM and food safety



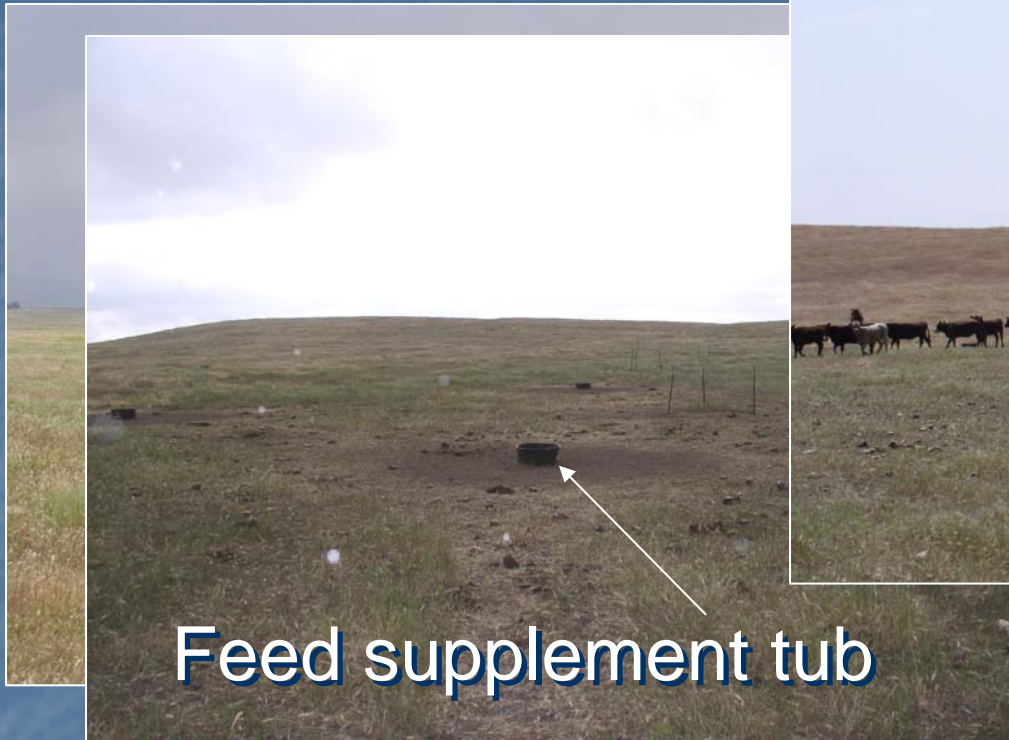
Goal 1, Measure 3 specific outcomes, impacts

- Cooperative Extension applied research project
- Conducted by Livestock/Natural Resources Advisor
- *Controlling medusahead grass with intensive grazing*



- Non native invasive grass species
- Unpalatable to livestock – high silica
- Spread throughout Calif. rangelands
- Eastern Stanislaus County rangeland
- Displaces desirable annual grasses
- Reduces carrying capacity by 75%
- Contributes to fire danger

Controlling medusahead grass on rangelands



Supplement must be moved for best effect
Properly managed, 95 % control possible

Goal 1: Support and promote agricultural products, education, technology and innovation

Measure 4) Support local informal agricultural education opportunities

- Partnered with CSUS and MJC to provide internships
- Utilized survey tool for measuring results of C.E. programs
- Developed baseline data for C.E. educational programs



Goal 2: Protect agricultural resources

Measure - Update the Ag Element

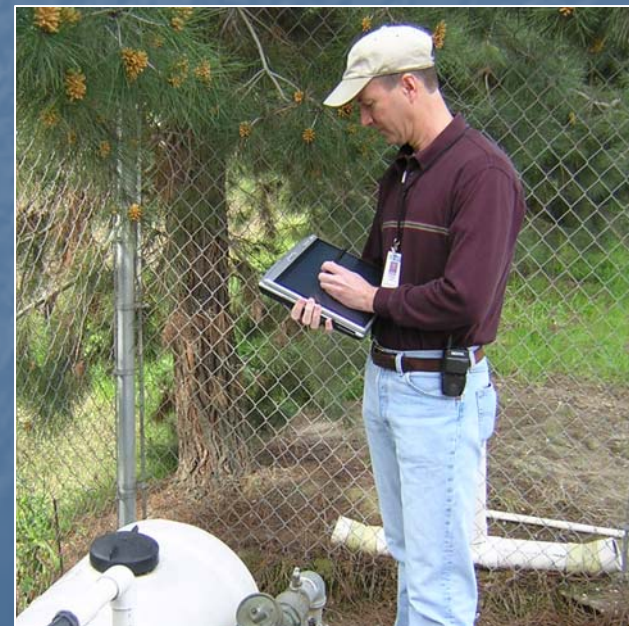
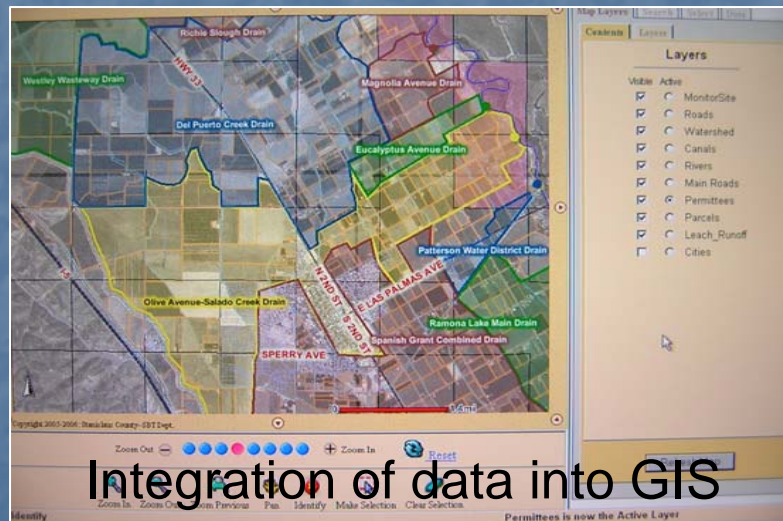
- Developed an agricultural lands mitigation program
- Revised Williamson Act Uniform Rules
- Developed guidelines for agricultural buffers
- Revised A-2 (General Agriculture) zoning district
- Presented Ag Element for adoption



Goal 3: Manage threats to agriculture

Measure 1) Improve the use of technology in agricultural inspection and monitoring programs

- Developed and implemented GPS/GIS integration
- Implemented electronic pesticide use field inspection project



Goal 3: Manage threats to agriculture

Measure 2) Implement and exercise all agricultural hazards emergency response plan

- Exercised plan through a workshop
- Addressed issues/problems encountered



Goal 3, Measure 2 specific outcomes, impacts

All Agricultural Hazards Emergency Response Plan

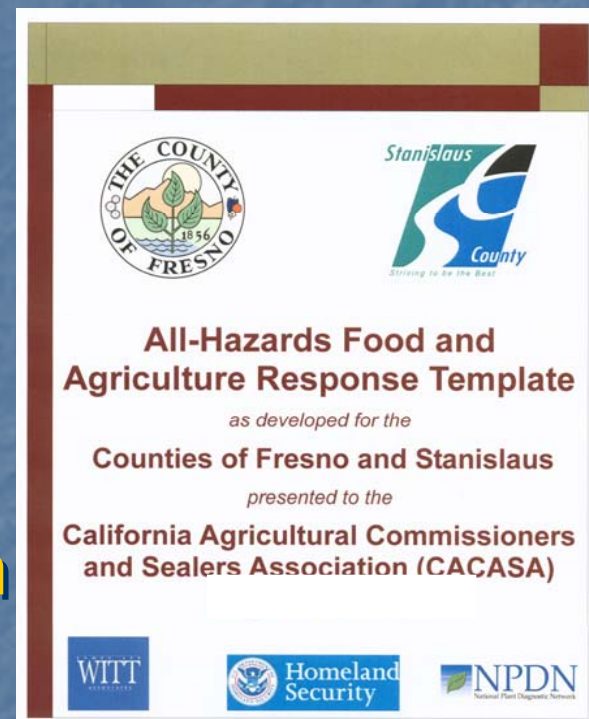
■ Response Plan Template Statewide:

- * County Ag Commissioners
- * Offices of Emergency Services
- * State and Local Health Officers

■ Response Plan Template at National Level:

- * State Departments of Agriculture

■ Working to obtain State & Local endorsements and adoption of Plan to ensure unified approach to managing threats to Agriculture Statewide



Goal 3: Manage threats to agriculture

Measure 3) Establish staff training program to improve understanding of threats to agriculture

- Improved staff knowledge regarding EIR functional equivalency
- Improved investigation process and procedures
- Improved inspection process and procedures



Lessons Learned

- Full assessment and acceptance of new agricultural technologies by the agricultural industry will take more time than anticipated.
- Management and staff changes, and training and budget constraints have affected projects and plan implementation such as website development, the internship program and GIS/GPS mapping.
- If local government is to effectively protect agricultural resources there must be an awareness of the continuous changes in issues and trends impacting agriculture.

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