

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (Department)  
FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB)  
2399 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE, SACRAMENTO / HYBRID**

**September 27, 2023  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

David McEuen  
Gary Silveria (Vice-Chair)  
Gus Owens  
Gus Owens  
Melissa McQueen (Chair)  
Timothy Howard  
William Oglesby

**ABSENT**

Christopher Gallo

**CDFA STAFF**

Angelia Johnson  
Barzin Moradi  
Brandi Alston  
Dale Rice  
Elizabeth Moseby  
Emad Jahanzad  
Karen Adler  
Kris Gulliver  
Maria Tenorio Alfred  
Mark Cady  
Martin Burger  
Minal Patel  
Nicole Smith  
Teresa Bowers  
Zach Edmonds

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

J. Harrison  
Justin Comages  
Mike Menes  
Rachel Shellabarger

**INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Melissa McQueen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and self-introductions were made. Chair McQueen thanked the attendees for reorganizing so quickly and attending this meeting since the September 12, 2023, meeting had to be rescheduled due to a lack of a quorum.

Dr. Amadou Ba stated that this is the last cohort whose term will be expiring on October 14, 2023, this will complete the transition for board appointment terms that previously began on October 15 and ended three years later on October 14. All terms of office will now begin on January 1 and end three years later on December 31. The intention was to align board member terms with legislative practices and bills that were being reviewed by the governor and allow for sufficient time for the board to review the budget and make recommendation to the secretary for board membership.

**ROLL CALL – ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

### **APPROVE MAY 31, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Chair McQueen requested the board review the minutes from the May 31, 2023, FIAB meeting.

**MOTION:** Greg Cunningham moved to approve the minutes as presented; Tim Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 7 to 0.

### **DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATES**

Dr. Ba provided Department, Division, and Branch updates. Dr. Ba noted Senate Bill (SB) 544 was signed into law which allows for remote meetings through the Bagley-Keene Act. The Department's Legal Office will be reviewing the new law and providing guidance on the new requirements for remote meetings.

The Department had a few programs in this budget cycle, which will be receiving General Fund dollars. Healthy Soils will be receiving \$50 million; Flood and Drought Relief will receive \$5 million; Organic Transition will receive \$5 million; Farm to Community Food hubs will receive \$15 million, Healthy Refrigeration grants will receive \$10 million, Urban Agriculture will receive \$6 million, and beginning farmer and farm workers will receive \$5 million. There is also \$25 million budgeted to address enteric methane issues.

Another issue being monitored is the Federal Government shut down and the potential of loss of federal funds. The Branch uses federal funds as supplemental revenue but does not depend on them.

The Tau fruit fly infestation traced to Asia has been detected in the Los Angeles/Southern California area. This is the first time the Tau fruit fly was found in the western hemisphere. Quarantine was established for 79 square miles. Surveys are activated and the Department is highly engaged in addressing the eradication. The Department's Citrus Program is working to get this issue under control. The organic Sporidia pheromone spray has been authorized as an agent to be used in the infested areas.

Proposition 12 regulations to outlaw cages for farm animals are being implemented and industry concerns were addressed. There were virtual meetings held for this outreach that had approximately 4,500 attendees to date.

### **PROGRAM UPDATES**

Nick Young, Environmental Program Manager, reviewed program fund conditions, mill assessments, and proposed budgets with the FIAB.

On July 1, 2022, the beginning balance for Commercial Fertilizer was \$10,287,207 and the beginning balance for Organic Input Material (OIM) was \$3,873,120, for a combined total of \$14,160,327. Combined revenue for Commercial Fertilizer and OIM was \$6,190,370. The combined expenditures totaled \$8,328,336 and encumbrances totaled

\$295,796. The ending adjusted fund balance on June 30, 2023, for Commercial Fertilizer was \$8,478,523 and for OIM was \$3,248,042. The combined balance totaled \$11,726,565. Young commented that the mill reduction shows about a \$2.5 million-dollar reduction for the FY 2022/23 and is projected to be the same during the 2023/24 FY. The fund will continue to decrease gradually as it was intended.

The Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) had a beginning balance of \$7,937,382. Revenue was \$3,564,197; expenditures were \$3,159,681; and encumbrances for grants through June 30, 2024, totaled \$4,213,484. As of June 30, 2023, FREP's ending adjusted balance was \$4,128,414.

The mill assessment for FY 2022/23 FY was set at 2.5 mills totaling \$8,144,819. This was consistent with projections based on the fertilizer market and pricing.

Greg Cunningham noted that some fertilizer sales volume went up because of the lower pricing. Chair McQueen said it also depends on timing and mentioned the increased rains. Cunningham added that this year's water availability helped with crop production which resulted in the increased purchasing of fertilizer products.

China's production of fertilizer is not currently impacting California fertilizer sale trends, but that could change. Nut tree volumes were suffering but they are beginning to change with levels becoming more even.

Jake Evans arrived at the meeting at 9:26 AM.

Young reviewed the proposed Commercial Fertilizer and OIM budgets for FY 2024/225 . The proposed Commercial Fertilizer budget is \$7,228,645. The proposed OIM budget is \$2,232,337. The total combined Fertilizer budget is proposed at \$9,460,982, which is a 4.4% increase from the prior years approved budget. The majority of the increase is from salary and benefits. Young stated that the other large line item for the OIM program is the notice of penalty for a firm, and the expenses being incurred for an investigation that is being conducted by the Attorney General's office. Dr. Ba commented on an increase that is associated to contractual negotiations and salaries being revised for Environmental Scientist (ES) series. The ES job classification has been without a contract since 2020 and the dialogue is ongoing for now. To-date, there is no agreed figure to provide for the Board. Jake Evans asked if OIM is paying for itself. Dr. Ba confirmed it is.

The proposed FREP budget was also presented and discussed. The proposed FY 2024/25 budget is \$4,218,094. The budget included staff salaries, including potential increases for ES positions, benefits, operating expenses, and research grants.

**MOTION:** Gus Olson moved to approve the proposed Commercial Fertilizer and OIM budget for FY 2024/25. Gary Silveria seconded; the motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 8 to 0.

**MOTION:** Jake Evans moved to approve the proposed FREP budget for FY 2024/25. Gus Olson seconded; the motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 8 to 0.

Young, presented information about the success and positive effects of the two limited-term ES positions that were approved two years ago by the FIAB. Dr. Ba elaborated that having the two extra positions have led to a more streamlined and efficient processing time of licenses and registration. The Program is asking to have the limited-term positions converted to permanent positions.

Olson asked if they would be full-time permanent. Dr. Ba affirmed that they would be. Evans said it makes sense to have these ES positions especially from the OIM perspective because the processing of OIM licenses and registration is very detailed and time-consuming. As OIM products continue to increase, it is a good idea to keep efficiency. The extra staff is a good investment and protects industry.

Young shared that the Program is also looking to streamline efforts in other ways, not just in hiring new staff. Dr. Martin Burger added that if one looks at the data for queues and turn-around times for processing registrations and licenses, the additional two ES have helped reduce the volume. Olson suggested looking into artificial intelligence (AI) as a tool for helping with increasing the speed of processing applications. Olson has personal knowledge of its use and said it has been helpful in private sectors.

**MOTION:** Gus Olson moved for the two full-time limited-term ES positions to become permanent. Gary Silveria seconded; the motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 8-0.

Young, presented information on the upcoming Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) workshop that will be held at the Best Western Plus Island Palms Hotel & Marina in San Diego on November 14-15, 2023. On November 14, the program will host an appointment-based clinic with companies. This clinic will provide industry members with the opportunity to meet with the registration staff to answer questions and/or resolve any issues they may have with their license or product registration label(s). On November 15, workshops will be held to address licensing and registration, inspection and sampling, database, mill assessments, and tonnage reporting. The registration fee is \$175.00 through October 30. From October 31 – November 15, registration will be \$225.00. There are a lot of interested parties, but the limit is 150 people. The registration opened in late August.

Young provided the FIAB with rulemaking updates for the regulation packet that were presented at the February 2023 FIAB meeting. The 45-day comment period was opened on August 18, 2023, and will close on October 3, 2023.

Young shared the updates on proposed legislation for defining beneficial substances and biostimulant details that were presented at the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) Summer Annual Conference. The Biostimulant Committee

voted unanimously to make the Beneficial Substances Uniform Bill official. It does not affect industry but is an attempt to align definitions throughout the United States (US). The term “auxiliary soil and plant substance” will be eliminated and replaced with the term “beneficial substance”. Young clarified that not all beneficial substances are plant biostimulants, but all plant biostimulants are beneficial substances.

Young stated that the proposed legislation to go from a two-year to a four-year registration cycle is a significant change for registration and improving turnaround times. Together with the ongoing measures Dr. Burger and his team are putting in place will improve efficiency. Firms would pay for four years registration at once. For example, OIM registration is currently set at \$500 for two years. The change would be \$1,000 for four years. Young pointed out that the Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI) is also using a four-year registration cycle. These procedures will still include the requirements for reporting label and formula changes that must be approved by the program before products can be marketed. Doing this will not affect the integrity of addressing adulteration issues because ongoing inspections would catch significant situations. Furthermore, through outreach and education, industry will know to update registrations and licenses as needed.

There was clarification that firms that produce liquid OIMs over 3% Nitrogen are inspected twice a year. Abroad and in other than neighboring states, EcoCert can flag for any issues and notify the Department. Every five years heavy metals, arsenic, cadmium, and lead must be analyzed for in fertilizers containing phosphate, zinc, iron, and manganese. The firms are required to submit their laboratory results to the Department.

Another proposed legislative change is to provide the Secretary the authority to adjust the mill assessment rate at the recommendation of the FIAB; this will ensure that rate adjustments can be implemented quicker without going through the regulatory process.

The final legislative proposal includes allowing the Secretary to have the authority to deny the renewal or issuance of a license or registration to firms who owe outstanding administrative penalties. Dr. Ba said the entire legislative proposal document is large and it may be necessary to break the document into smaller and more manageable pieces. The current document is twenty-one pages, but legislative proposals are usually four to five pages.

Dr. Ba asked for updates at the federal level, Young said at the federal level, the Fertilizer Institute in Washington D.C. shared that the plant biostimulant definition is being recognized in the Farm Bill and the Plant Biostimulant Act is going through the House and Senate. AAPFCO and the Department are working with US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure nothing changes. However, the Farm Bill will probably not be passed until 2024.

The Plant Biostimulant Act may not have the word defined. The concern is that there will be contradicting definitions. Some members of the Senate prefer that the EPA define

biostimulant. Young said Billy Smith, Director of the Biological and Economic Analysis Division of the EPA, was working on this; however, Smith was transferred to another division within the EPA. There is a new Director, Anne Overstreet, who has recently taken over.

A representative from Virginia is introducing legislation for enhanced efficiency for biostimulants and biological fertilizers. Right now, there is no definition of “biological fertilizer”. California is watching this bill closely.

Justin Comages asked about standardizing testing for products. Young said some are already established, for example, humic acid. Through the Lab Services Committee there is a desire for formalizing standards. They are looking to the European Union for methods because they have established procedures. James Bartos of Indiana said there are about 30 different lab testing methods for various substances that are being evaluated. Any novel ingredient that is new can fit within the definition and will be included.

Young addressed the Board and requested approval to attend the World Biostimulant Congress in Milan, Italy. Young has been asked to speak about the California regulatory landscape, as well as the possible future regulatory standards within the US through AAPFCO, USDA, and EPA. Young requested the FIAB approve travel expenses that will be between \$3,250 and \$4,500. This will include travel, lodging, and meals.

Chair McQueen said it would be very beneficial to have California represented.

**MOTION:** Gary Silveria moved to approve travel funds for Nick Young to attend the World Biostimulant Congress in Milan, Italy. Jake Evans seconded; the motion was passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 8 to 0.

Young informed the FIAB that the AAPFCO conference is being held February 12-13, 2024 in Mobile, Alabama. Because the governor signed a bill that eliminated banning travel to various states previously noted for civil rights violations, it will be easier to apply for funds and for Departmental employees to attend these types of conferences.

Dr. Burger shared statistics on Commercial and OIM licensing and registration. Out of 9,461 Fertilizer registrations, 6,962 were approved; 549 were provisional; 733 were pending review; and 825 require data revisions. Out of 3,244 OIM registrations, 1,811 were approved; 353 were provisional; 183 were pending review; and 440 require data revisions.

There was concern that those registration labels that had data revisions and needed to be resubmitted for review would end up at the end of the database queue and not receive timely consideration. Dr. Burger said at this time the documents do go to the end of the queue and it is up to the ES to go through their allotted portion as the revised information and labels are reviewed. Dr. Burger also noted that even if a label is modified as directed, the staff member still has to go through the entire label again to

make sure no other changes were made during the revision. Olson pointed out that there was a company that was going out of business, but a different company took on the products. Even though there was a very simple label change noting the companies' name switch, it took six months before the new owner of the product could market a product that was already approved with the prior firm. Dr. Burger affirmed that resubmittals and addressing changes are not categorized into 'simple' and 'complicated' revisions to speed up approvals of 'simple' revisions.

Nicole Smith provided field staff updates. Zach Edmonds is the new northern California ES filling a position that was left vacant by a retiring ES. Edmonds was already with the Department's Integrated Pest Control Program and was a good fit for the position. It was good timing because other state inspectors are in California for training and so Edmonds is able to meet with these out of state inspectors.

Smith shared that as of September 12, 2023, there were five OIM and 12 Conventional fertilizer complaints for a total of 17 complaints. Seven of those are resolved, 10 are under investigation.

As of September 12, 2023, there were 1,015 samples taken. Of those, 976 were regular samples, 194 were pathogen samples. Out of 194 samples, 113 were packaged off the shelf, 45 were at a manufacturer or distributor location. As of Monday, there were 202 samples and 12 tested positive for *Salmonella*. 11 of the 12 samples were off the shelf retail products; one was a dairy manure compost. 10 of the 12 positive samples have a bone meal ingredient, and the program may be able to better determine the source of *Salmonella* with additional testing. Each manufacturer receives an investigative lab analysis report. The National Organic Program (NOP) has no standard for products that contain bone meal. The only standard is for processed animal manures. Evans expressed concern stating that conducting the surveys is good, but there are health issues that need to be addressed.

Mark Cady provided the FIAB with updates on FREP and the Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC).

The TASC had four vacancies and there is an upcoming resignation. The TASC and FREP staff evaluated the thirteen applicants. The TASC recommended the reappointment of Dan Rodrigues of Cal Poly, Sebastian Saa, Ph.D. and at University of California (UC) Davis and current member of the Almond Board. The additional recommendations are Franklin Gaudi who is an irrigation specialist at Cal Poly and is in private irrigation as a designer and has spoken at the FREP Conference twice. Dan Cook also had a strong application; he is a certified crop advisor (CCA) and pest control advisor (PCA) in private industry in San Joaquin Valley and has a background in research and field applications. Ehsan Toosi is an agronomist and experienced in organics. Toosi has been involved in the field of California agriculture for a long time. The preferred alternate is Patricia Lazicki. Lazicki has a Ph.D., with a research background in nitrogen availability for organic sources; she is the new farm advisor in

Yolo County. All three-year terms for TASC begin on January 1, 2024. Upon the FIAB's recommendation, the applicants' names will be submitted to Secretary Ross for appointment.

**MOTION:** Gus Olson moved to approve forwarding the recommendations of Dan Rodrigues, Sebastian Saa, Franklin Gaudi and Dan Cook for appointment to TASC and Patricia Lazicki as an alternate to Secretary Ross. Timothy Howard seconded; the motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 8 to 0.

Cady also presented on the Nitrogen and Irrigation Initiative (NII) that was in part approved two years ago by the FIAB. Funding includes \$3,004,859 from Fertilizer Assessment funds, \$1,999,719 from a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) and \$751,864 from a Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG).

The project began because drinking water samples had nitrates that were above the standard. Eighty-five percent of the nitrate is attributed to fertilizer use, and it includes nitrogen in water used for washing down stalls in animal housings. Understanding the link between irrigation and nitrogen leaching into the water was not clear in Jay Lund's 2012 report. The NII project was created to help provide support and assistance in decision making processes. Twelve counties would be included in the focused initiative.

There was a need for more staff which included five staff research associates (SRA) and one project scientist. The five positions are now filled, and the scientist position will be filled in October 2023. The challenge was some of those who were hired left to work for permanent industry positions. For example, one of the earlier coordinators moved to a different position. Khalid Bali is the statewide irrigation specialist and number one point person for working with the Cooperative Extension. Rachel Shellabarger is the academic coordinator and makes connections, ensures reporting is up to date, and helps organize meetings. Other critical parties to the NII are Karen Adler and Emad Jahanzad, which are FREP staff.

Mark Lubell and Zandar Shulkosa are working with the Kings River Water Quality Coalitions. These consultants for coalitions reach out to targeted growers to report and to provide data to both the water boards and to UC Davis which helps for evaluating the program. There are scientists with Ph.Ds. in Social Science who are working with data analysis to understand the impact of the NII.

FREP has been present at crop consulting conferences and outreach to connect consultants with this initiative. The farm advisors' outreach includes field days on the farms, webinars, participating in coalition events, and one-on-one consultations. Lubell's group is tracking these efforts.

The Central Coast is having on-farm trial demonstrations, putting procedures in place, and then reviewing results. Michael Cahn has been working on the NII as well. In the Central Valley, Mohamed Yagmar is involved with on farm trials, especially with tree crops and nitrogen.



To date, the FIAB \$3,004,859 fund allocation has used \$366,318.92. The SCBG grant was \$751,864 and \$155,006.85 has been spent. The CIG was \$1,999,719 and \$114,552.32 has been spent. Total expenditures for the past two FYs from the combined fertilizer assessment money allocation, SCBG, and CIG totals \$635,878.11. Cady said this needs to be spent down, but also said that the desire is to make these NII a long-term project. Cady said agriculture is not just a three-year funding cycle but that agriculture changes with generational cycles.

The Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Program (WETA) is helping socially disadvantaged farmers in the Central Valley and Central Coast with irrigation and nutrient management practices.

Discussion ensued regarding the NII. Chair McQueen asked about the urgency that was so paramount two years ago and if it is still urgent. Cady clarified and said these studies are still urgent because water boards are now creating penalty assessments toward farms who did not report correctly. Having this initiative will help preclude penalizing agriculture practitioners by having the growers use techniques that are developed and sustainable.

Jahanzad said there have been over 50 consultations with over 100 growers. More than 12,000 growers attended outreach in 2022. Santa Clara and Monterey Counties are involved. Stanislaus County is coming on board. There will be more in 2023/24 and the momentum has picked up in the past nine months. The farm advisors are not in the budget but have been doing a lot of the work of outreach and workshops. They are paid for by the UC.

Timothy Howard asked what happens with the money if it is not spent. Cady said it is encumbered and will not go toward other expenditures. There is no sunset on FIAB grants and if funds are still available, FREP would like to extend its use. Chair McQueen said the expectation was \$3 million dollars for three years. There needs to be a discussion of what has been spent and what has been accomplished. The FIAB asked FREP to provide a report with the work being done with the current budget and how it will be spent in the next couple of years. Cady said a report will be provided at the next FIAB meeting.

### **CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY (CAC) LAB UPDATE**

Barzin Moradi gave the Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) report. Former Environmental Program Manager I, Maryam Khosravifard, transferred to Cal Recycle in May 2023, as there was a need to fill the position of Program Manager position. Teresa Bowers, formerly of the UC Davis Equine program, stepped in to fill the position. Bowers has been a lead on many projects, has led the creation of cross-training technicians for sampling, storage, and extractions. The cross-training has been beneficial because there is now a group of techs who can do any assignment in the laboratory. Bowers addressed the Board and shared her optimism about being in this position and the ability to share consulting and analysis.

Information on assays was presented. The average turnaround time for 2,823 assays received from January 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023, was twelve days. The average turnaround time for 1,182 assays received from May 1, 2023, was 16 days. The CAC is running at full capacity again.

From January 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023, out of the total number of 769 samples received, 690 were routine; 79 were priority; and there were no rush samples. From May 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023, out of a total number of 385 samples, 347 were routine; 38 were priority; and there were no rush samples.

The completed number of assays from January 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023, was 2,828. Out of these, 2,519 were routine; 309 were priority; and there were no rush samples. The total number of these that were rerun was 285. The total numbers of completed assays was 3,113; this reflected 5.1 assays per sample.

From May 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023, there was a total of 1,290 assays. 1,085 were routine; 97 were priority; there were no rush samples; and there were 108 that were rerun. The average number of assays completed for sample in this period was 3.6.

CAC had a second ion chromatography (IC) instrument installed and this will be used as a backup for the first IC. This will have a positive impact on turnaround times.

The CAC's proposed budget for FY 2024/25 is \$1,892,239. Personnel salaries and benefits makes up \$1,135,741 of this. Other expenses are equipment and supplies.

### **FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD VACANCIES**

Three board terms are set to expire on October 14, 2023. The board members with expiring terms were Timothy Howard, Chair McQueen, and Gary Silveria. Five applicants submitted documents seeking to fill these board positions. They were Timothy Howard of Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC, Jay Irvine of Component Ag. Chemicals LLC, Andrew Larson of Compass Minerals, Chair McQueen of Nutrien, and Gary Silveria of Grow West.

Discussion ensued regarding the merit of each of the applicants and how each could contribute to the FIAB.

**MOTION:** Jake Evans moved to recommend Timothy Howard, Chair McQueen, and Gary Silveria to Secretary Ross for appointment to the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board. William Oglesby seconded; the motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 8 to 0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Cady will present a quarterly report for NII project.

Young will debrief on the World Biostimulant Conference.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, in Fresno, California.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 PM.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY NICK YOUNG**

Nick Young  
Environmental Program Manager I  
Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program

09/27/2023  
**Date**



## **Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB) meeting**

February 8, 2024

Hampton Inn & Suites Fresno  
327 E Fir Ave  
Fresno, CA

## **Program Updates**

Agenda Item 5

Presented By: Nick Young, Environmental Program Manager I  
Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP)



## FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY Commercial Fertilizing Inspection Program & Organic Input Materials Program

#### FUND CONDITION REPORT As of December 31, 2023

	COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER	OIM	COMBINED TOTAL
<b>Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2023:</b>			
CDFA Account	\$ 2,291,612	\$ 3,454,277	\$ 5,745,889
Bank of America Account	\$ 6,276,471	-	\$ 6,276,471
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 8,568,083</b>	<b>\$ 3,454,277</b>	<b>\$ 12,022,360</b>
<b>Revenue*</b>	\$ 2,485,997	\$ 776,781	\$ 3,262,778
<b>Expenditures and Encumbrances</b>			
Expenditures**	\$ 3,680,738	\$ 836,433	\$ 4,517,171
Encumbrances	\$ 132,185	\$ 136,059	\$ 268,244
<b>Ending Balance as of 12/31/23:</b>			
CDFA Account	\$ 886,112	\$ 3,394,625	\$ 4,280,737
Bank of America Account	\$ 6,487,230	-	\$ 6,487,230
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 7,373,342</b>	<b>\$ 3,394,625</b>	<b>\$ 10,767,967</b>
<b>Adjusted Balance***</b>	<b>\$ 7,241,157</b>	<b>\$ 3,258,566</b>	<b>\$ 10,499,723</b>

\* Revenue includes fertilizing material licenses, fertilizer product registration, fertilizing materials mill assessments, and interest accrued.

\*\* Expenditure total per CDFA Financial Services Budget Report June 30, 2024. Amount does not reflect outstanding lag expenditures.

\*\*\* Adjusted balance accounts for all program encumbrances through June 30, 2024.

# FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Fertilizer Research and Education Program

#### FUND CONDITION REPORT

As of December 31, 2023

		<u>FY 2023/24</u>
<b>Beginning Balance as of 07/01/23:</b>		
CDFA Account		\$6,744,065
Bank of America Account		<u>\$1,597,833</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>\$8,341,898</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Revenue *</b>		\$1,483,771
<b>Expenditures and Encumbrances</b>		
Expenditures**		\$1,361,452
YTD Research Contract Encumbrances		
FY 20/21	\$51,977	
FY 21/22	\$371,588	
FY 22/23	\$1,618,372	
FY 23/24	\$1,838,334	
FREP Encumbrances Through June 30, 2024		\$3,880,271
FY 24/25	\$955,454	
FY 25/26	\$103,344	
		<u>\$4,939,069</u>
<hr/>		
<b>Ending Balance as of 12/31/23</b>		
CDFA Account		\$6,803,633
Bank of America Account		<u>\$1,660,583</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>\$8,464,216</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Adjusted Balance***</b>		<b>\$4,583,945</b>

\* Revenue fertilizer materials mill assessments, and interest accrued in the CDFA Fund Account and Bank of America Corporate Account.

\*\* Expenditure total per CDFA Financial Services Budget Report June 30, 2024. Amount does not reflect outstanding lag expenditures.

\*\*\* Adjusted balance accounts for all program encumbrances through June 30, 2024.

## Mill Assessment Trends

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	2 mill	2 mill*/ 3 mill**	3 mill	3 mill	3 mill	3 mill	3 mill	3 mill*/ 2.5 mill	2.5 mill	2.5 mill	2.5 mill
July	\$ 571,280	\$ 1,416,290	\$ 2,310,808	\$ 573,004	\$ 577,420	\$ 716,378	\$ 1,384,145	\$ 345,309	\$ 1,278,709	\$ 609,184	\$ 805,663
August	\$ 1,091,065	\$ 541,175	\$ 1,260,241	\$ 1,891,179	\$ 2,275,200	\$ 2,271,772	\$ 1,475,346	\$ 2,463,502	\$ 1,937,504	\$ 2,452,232	\$ 2,452,550
September	\$ 16,276	\$ 11,159	\$ 175,100	\$ 602,868	\$ 159,061	\$ 257,066	\$ 483,583	\$ 3,414	\$ 17,007	\$ 151,104	\$ 168,277
October	\$ 510,158	\$ 889,464	\$ 751,077	\$ 589,860	\$ 810,846	\$ 803,026	\$ 398,737	\$ 714,389	\$ 920,951	\$ 209,048	\$ 389,567
November	\$ 533,733	\$ 234,832	\$ 941,636	\$ 1,209,884	\$ 959,552	\$ 352,408	\$ 1,377,509	\$ 859,172	\$ 412,093	\$ 1,535,731	\$ 1,269,267
December	\$ 620,250	\$ 36,795	\$ 123,351	\$ 69,729	\$ 177,362	\$ 584,571	\$ 22,600	\$ 607,947	\$ 679,814	\$ 3,232	\$ 109,503
January	\$ 601,502	\$ 584,271	\$ 613,056	\$ 387,075	\$ 543,828	\$ 442,285	\$ 538,052	\$ 311,668	\$ 43,086	\$ 555,663	
February	\$ 375,509	\$ 862,155	\$ 887,738	\$ 932,779	\$ 578,718	\$ 941,475	\$ 1,190,045	\$ 673,073	\$ 864,235	\$ 903,660	
March	\$ 14,158	\$ 24,547	\$ 72,343	\$ 165,554	\$ 155,650	\$ 177,938	\$ 11,880	\$ 745,526	\$ 505,601	\$ 20,927	
April	\$ 932,019	\$ 1,391,088	\$ 697,696	\$ 749,468	\$ 1,005,450	\$ 615,314	\$ 376,896	\$ 642,111	\$ 584,053	\$ 180,450	
May	\$ 301,170	\$ 568,729	\$ 1,191,681	\$ 915,768	\$ 870,822	\$ 967,546	\$ 1,611,920	\$ 411,398	\$ 558,807	\$ 711,896	
June	\$ 45,695	\$ 149,268	\$ 148,672	\$ 280,984	\$ 334,591	\$ 183,944	\$ 187,717	\$ 854,375	\$ 1,247,170	\$ 811,692	
	<b>\$ 5,612,815</b>	<b>\$ 6,709,773</b>	<b>\$ 9,173,398</b>	<b>\$ 8,368,152</b>	<b>\$ 8,448,500</b>	<b>\$ 8,313,722</b>	<b>\$ 9,058,430</b>	<b>\$ 8,631,884</b>	<b>\$ 9,049,030</b>	<b>\$ 8,144,819</b>	<b>\$ 5,194,827</b>

## Agenda Item 5

# Commercial Fertilizer and Organic Input Materials (OIM)

## Fund Condition

### FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD

#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY Commercial Fertilizing Inspection Program & Organic Input Materials Program

#### FUND CONDITION REPORT As of December 31, 2023

	COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER	OIM	COMBINED TOTAL
Beginning Balance as of 7/1/2023:			
CDFA Account	\$ 2,291,612	\$ 3,454,277	\$ 5,745,889
Bank of America Account	\$ 6,276,471	-	\$ 6,276,471
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 8,568,083</b>	<b>\$ 3,454,277</b>	<b>\$ 12,022,360</b>
<b>Revenue*</b>	<b>\$ 2,485,997</b>	<b>\$ 776,781</b>	<b>\$ 3,262,778</b>
Expenditures and Encumbrances			
Expenditures**	\$ 3,680,738	\$ 836,433	\$ 4,517,171
Encumbrances	\$ 132,185	\$ 136,059	\$ 268,244
Ending Balance as of 12/31/23:			
CDFA Account	\$ 886,112	\$ 3,394,625	\$ 4,280,737
Bank of America Account	\$ 6,487,230	-	\$ 6,487,230
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 7,373,342</b>	<b>\$ 3,394,625</b>	<b>\$ 10,767,967</b>
<b>Adjusted Balance***</b>	<b>\$ 7,241,157</b>	<b>\$ 3,258,566</b>	<b>\$ 10,499,723</b>

\* Revenue includes fertilizing material licenses, fertilizer product registration, fertilizing materials mill assessments, and interest accrued.

\*\* Expenditure total per CDFA Financial Services Budget Report June 30, 2024. Amount does not reflect outstanding lag expenditures.

\*\*\* Adjusted balance accounts for all program encumbrances through June 30, 2024.

## Fertilizer Mill Assessment Trends

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Fertilizing Materials Registration and Inspection Program

### Mill Assessment Trends

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	2 mill	1 mill/ 3 mill**	3 mill	3 mill	3 mill	3 mill	3 mill	3 mill/ 2.5 mill	2.5 mill	2.5 mill	2.5 mill
July	\$ 571,280	\$ 1,416,290	\$ 2,310,808	\$ 573,004	\$ 577,420	\$ 716,378	\$ 1,384,145	\$ 345,309	\$ 1,278,709	\$ 609,184	\$ 805,663
August	\$ 1,091,065	\$ 541,175	\$ 1,260,241	\$ 1,891,179	\$ 2,275,200	\$ 2,271,772	\$ 1,475,346	\$ 2,463,502	\$ 1,937,504	\$ 2,452,232	\$ 2,452,550
September	\$ 16,276	\$ 11,159	\$ 175,100	\$ 602,868	\$ 159,061	\$ 257,066	\$ 483,583	\$ 3,414	\$ 17,007	\$ 151,104	\$ 168,277
October	\$ 510,158	\$ 889,464	\$ 751,077	\$ 589,860	\$ 810,846	\$ 803,026	\$ 398,737	\$ 714,389	\$ 920,951	\$ 209,048	\$ 389,567
November	\$ 533,733	\$ 234,832	\$ 941,636	\$ 1,209,884	\$ 959,552	\$ 352,408	\$ 1,377,509	\$ 859,172	\$ 412,093	\$ 1,535,731	\$ 1,269,267
December	\$ 620,250	\$ 36,795	\$ 123,351	\$ 69,729	\$ 177,362	\$ 584,571	\$ 22,600	\$ 607,947	\$ 679,814	\$ 3,232	\$ 109,503
January	\$ 601,502	\$ 584,271	\$ 613,056	\$ 387,075	\$ 543,828	\$ 442,285	\$ 538,052	\$ 311,668	\$ 43,086	\$ 555,663	
February	\$ 375,509	\$ 862,155	\$ 887,738	\$ 932,779	\$ 578,718	\$ 941,475	\$ 1,190,045	\$ 673,073	\$ 864,235	\$ 903,660	
March	\$ 14,158	\$ 24,547	\$ 72,343	\$ 165,554	\$ 155,650	\$ 177,938	\$ 11,880	\$ 745,526	\$ 505,601	\$ 20,927	
April	\$ 932,019	\$ 1,391,088	\$ 697,696	\$ 749,468	\$ 1,005,450	\$ 615,314	\$ 376,896	\$ 642,111	\$ 584,053	\$ 180,450	
May	\$ 301,170	\$ 568,729	\$ 1,191,681	\$ 915,768	\$ 870,822	\$ 967,546	\$ 1,611,920	\$ 411,398	\$ 558,807	\$ 711,896	
June	\$ 45,695	\$ 149,268	\$ 148,672	\$ 280,984	\$ 334,591	\$ 183,944	\$ 187,717	\$ 854,375	\$ 1,247,170	\$ 811,692	
	\$ 5,612,815	\$ 6,709,773	\$ 9,173,398	\$ 8,368,152	\$ 8,448,500	\$ 8,313,722	\$ 9,058,430	\$ 8,631,884	\$ 9,049,030	\$ 8,144,819	\$ 5,194,827



# Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)

## Fund Condition

### FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD

#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY Fertilizer Research and Education Program

#### FUND CONDITION REPORT As of December 31, 2023

	FY 2023/24
Beginning Balance as of 07/01/23:	
CDFA Account	\$6,744,065
Bank of America Account	<u>\$1,597,833</u>
Total Funds	<u>\$8,341,898</u>
Revenue *	\$1,483,771
Expenditures and Encumbrances	
Expenditures**	\$1,361,452
YTD Research Contract Encumbrances	
FY 20/21	\$51,977
FY 21/22	\$371,588
FY 22/23	\$1,618,372
FY 23/24	\$1,838,334
FREP Encumbrances Through June 30, 2024	\$3,880,271
FY 24/25	\$955,454
FY 25/26	\$103,344
	<u>\$4,939,069</u>
Ending Balance as of 12/31/23	
CDFA Account	\$6,803,633
Bank of America Account	<u>\$1,660,583</u>
Total Funds	<u>\$8,464,216</u>
Adjusted Balance***	\$4,583,945

\* Revenue fertilizer materials mill assessments, and interest accrued in the CDFA Fund Account and Bank of America Corporate Account.

\*\* Expenditure total per CDFA Financial Services Budget Report June 30, 2024. Amount does not reflect outstanding lag expenditures.

\*\*\* Adjusted balance accounts for all program encumbrances through June 30, 2024.

# Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program 2023 Industry Workshop

❖ November 14-15, 2023

❖ 100 Industry Attendees



*Fertilizing Materials Workshop  
San Diego - November 2023*

## FMIP Industry Workshop



- ❖ Appointment-based open registration clinic
- ❖ Presentations for:
  - Conventional Licensing & Registration
  - Inspection & Sampling
  - OIM Registration & Inspection
  - CDFA Database, Mill Assessments & Tonnage Report
  - Efficacy Data Submission
- ❖ “Game Show” Industry Icebreaker

## OIM Adulteration Investigation



- Civil hearing with CDFA (FMIP & State Organic Program) v. Agro Research International
  - OIM product: Agro Gold WS
- 378 violations of adulteration & misbranding
- 4-day hearing, December 11-14, 2024
- Written closing briefs - January/February 2024
- Decision anticipated in March 2024
- CDFA seeking \$1.89M plus \$92K in investigative costs. Attorneys fees also sought.



# AAPFCO Winter Annual Conference

February 19-20, 2024  
Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza  
Mobile, AL

<https://www.aapfco.org/meetings.html>



Biostimulants World Congress 2023

# Biostimulants World Congress

November 28 – December 1, 2023

Milan, Italy



- CDFA EPM Nick Young spoke on “Regulating Biostimulants in the USA” and served on a regulatory panel.
- Regulatory Panel Discussion:
  - Nick Young (CA & Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) perspective)
  - David Boudreau (Biostimulant Council – Federal perspective)
  - Ed Thomas (The Fertilizer Institute Certification Program)
  - Elodie Lebastard (EBIC – European perspective)

## Beneficial Substances & Biostimulant Update

- **“Beneficial Substances Uniform Bill”** Recommended by AAPFCO Board of Directors to “Official” in October 2023 (*Voting Step 5 of 6*)
- **Final step will be an “OFFICIAL” vote by membership at the AAPFCO Winter Annual Conference on February 19, 2024**
- Additional work will be the development of novel laboratory methods through AAPFCO lab services committee and the annual methods forum (*Forum follows Winter Annual Conf*)
- States will then formally adopt pertinent sections
  - California working on “Fertilizer Omnibus Bill” for beneficial substances and plant biostimulants



## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

### California Code of Regulations

#### 2303. Labeling Requirements.

(g) ~~The statement “NONPLANT FOOD INGREDIENT” printed in capital letters (for auxiliary soil and plant substance products).~~

(h) A statement of composition showing the amount~~percent~~ of each ~~active~~ ingredient, which is the agent in a product primarily responsible for the intended effects (for auxiliary soil and plant substances) using the following format:

## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

### **CONTAINS BENEFICIAL SUBSTANCE(S)**

Name of beneficial substance \_\_\_\_\_ % (or acceptable units)

Species of microorganism \_\_\_\_\_ viable CFU/cm<sup>3</sup>, /mL, /g, or  
other acceptable units

*(Identify and list all beneficial substances. Substances shall include ingredient source, if applicable. Ex. “humic acid from leonardite or saponin from Yucca schidigera”).*

## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

~~NONPLANT FOOD INGREDIENT(S):~~

~~X% Humic Acids (state the source of the humic acids)~~

~~X% Polymers (state the name of the specific polymer)~~

~~X% Wetting Agents (state the name of the specific wetting agent)~~

## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

(I) The following format and guarantees, as applicable for the following products or ingredients, shall appear after the derivation statement of agricultural mineral and commercial fertilizer labels:

### **ALSO CONTAINS BENEFICIAL SUBSTANCE(S)**

Name of beneficial substance	% (or acceptable units)
Species of microorganism	viable CFU/cm <sup>3</sup> , /mL, /g or other acceptable units

*(Identify and list all beneficial substances. Substances shall include ingredient source, if applicable. Ex. "humic acid from leonardite or saponin from Yucca schidigera").*

## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

~~ALSO CONTAINS NONPLANT FOOD INGREDIENT(S):~~

~~X% Humic Acids (state the source of the humic acids)~~

~~X% Polymers (state the name of the specific polymer – required for auxiliary soil and plant substances only)~~

~~X% Wetting Agents (state the name of the specific wetting agent on company letterhead and note if confidential – not required on the label)~~

## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

(t) Testing methodology for the informational statement of laboratory test results shall conform to either sample preparation method 3050B or 3051 and conform to analysis methods as described in US EPA Publication SW-846 (Revision 3, December 1996), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

(1) The heavy metal testing results shall be no more than five (5) years old at the time of initial registration and renewal approval.

## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

### 2309. Phosphorus.

(a) Products that contain phosphorous acid shall state on the label the percentage of “Total Phosphoric Acid”, upon conversion of phosphorous acid.

Total Phosphoric Acid ( $P_2O_5$ )\_\_%

In addition, the label shall state the following text:

## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

(1) “\*Phosphorous acid products are for use as a supplemental fertilizer treatment.

~~(2)~~ Upon foliar application, the phosphite ions are taken up directly by the plant foliage and may undergo a degree of conversion to phosphate ions, or will be used directly by plants, as phosphite ions.

~~(3)~~ As a soil application to annual crops, a lesser response from the initial crop, with a corresponding superior response from succeeding crops, may be observed. In addition, placement close to seeds or root zones may be injurious to crops. The effect may be aggravated by a soil pH below 6.5.”



## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

(A) The grade of a product containing phosphorous acid shall either possess an asterisk by the available phosphoric acid percentage expressed as total phosphoric acid ( $X - X^* - X$ ) or it shall represent the amount of guaranteed available phosphoric acid ("0", if no available phosphoric acid is guaranteed). The asterisk from the grade shall also appear in front of the statement described in (1), ~~(2), and (3)~~ of this section.

## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

(b) Products that contain ~~p~~Phosphoric acid and phosphorous acid shall state on the label the percentage of "Available Phosphoric Acid" and "Total Phosphoric Acid". ~~If, in addition, a percentage of "Total Phosphoric Acid" is stated, T~~the percentage of "Insoluble Phosphoric Acid" (Citrate-Insoluble Phosphorus), ~~if greater than zero,~~ must be stated immediately below. ~~E~~for example:

Available Phosphoric Acid ( $P_2O_5$ ) \_\_\_\_ %  
\_\_\_\_ % Total Phosphoric Acid ( $P_2O_5$ )  
\_\_\_\_ % Insoluble Phosphoric Acid ( $P_2O_5$ )

## 2024 Proposed Rulemaking

### 2317.5. Investigational Allowances.

(c)(2) The investigational allowances are applied as follows:

(B) For zinc guaranteed at 36.0 percent Zn, the investigational allowance is calculated as  $0.005 + 0.1(36.0) = 3.605$  percent. ~~However, the maximum allowance is 1 unit (one percentage point). Therefore, the investigational allowance for 36.0 percent Zn guarantee is 1.0 percentage point.~~ An analyzed value for zinc of 34.9932.394 percent Zn or less would be declared deficient and in violation. An analyzed value for zinc of ~~35.032.395 percent~~ (36.0 – 3.605 = 32.395) or more is within the investigational allowance for a 36.0 percent zinc guarantee.

## FIAB Guidance for Mushroom Kits

- ▶ Mushroom Kits typically fall under FMIP jurisdiction and require registration as “Packaged Soil Amendments”
- ▶ California Certified Organic Farmers informally requested CDFA to consider exempting these products from regulation
  - ▶ A regulation change may be necessary
- ▶ These kits often just have a log as mushroom spore substrate



## FIAB Guidance for Mushroom Kits

**FAC 14552.** “Packaged soil amendment” means any substance distributed for the purpose of promoting plant growth or improving the quality of crops by conditioning soils solely through physical means. It includes all of the following:

- (a) Hay.
- (b) Straw.
- (c) Peat moss.
- (d) Leaf mold.
- (e) Sand.
- (f) Wood products.
- (g) Any product or mixture of products intended for use as a potting medium, planting mix, or soilless growing media.

## FIAB Guidance for Mushroom Kits

- ▶ Examples of Mushroom Kit composition:
  - ▶ “Organic plant-based soil infused with mushroom spawn”
  - ▶ “Shitake mushroom mycelium infused within a log”
  - ▶ “Growing media ingredients list: mushroom compost and peat moss casing.”
  - ▶ “Growing media ingredients list: sawdust, cottonseed hull, or straw”
  - ▶ “Growing media ingredients list: sawdust”



## **Annual Impartiality Summary**

- ▶ After today's meeting, the FIAB will receive an annual impartiality survey via email
- ▶ Required for the CDFA fertilizer program's International Standards Organization (ISO) audit
- ▶ The survey is specific in scope and only encompasses the OIM program's impartiality
- ▶ The end of the survey identifies risks to impartiality that the program has identified



## **Fertilizer Registration Updates**

**Agenda Item 5**

**Martin Burger, Ph.D.  
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)**

### Approved Registrations/Labels (December 31, 2023)

	CONVENTIONAL	Organic Input Materials (OIM)
Commercial Fertilizer	2,577	429
Specialty Fertilizer	2,413	486
Bulk Agricultural Minerals	151	163
Packaged Agricultural Minerals	1,739	552
Auxiliary Soil & Plant Substances	672	225
Packaged Soil Amendments	613	286
Bulk Soil Amendments		63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,165</b>	<b>2,204</b>

### Registration Status (December 31, 2023)

	Conventional	Organic Input Materials (OIM)
Approved	8,222	2,204
Provisional	0	0
Pending Review	347	190
Re-submitted	332	518
Data/Revisions required	830	433
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,731</b>	<b>3,345</b>

<b>Organic Input Materials Registrations</b>
--

Approvals	2021	2022	2023
All (renewals & new)	1,202	1,263	1,515
within 30 days	39.9%	40.5%	34.2%
within 60 days	16.0%	9.8%	8.9%
within 90 days	10.2%	5.1%	5.3%
within 120 days	7.8%	4.6%	5.4%
>120 days	26.2%	40.0%	46.2%

<b>Conventional Labels</b>
----------------------------

Approvals	2021	2022	2023
All (renewals & new)	4,694	5,145	5,089
within 30 days	71.5%	68.6%	60.4%
within 60 days	6.6%	4.9%	8.5%
within 90 days	7.1%	6.5%	4.4%
within 120 days	5.4%	3.5%	4.8%
>120 days	9.4%	16.5%	21.9%



# Field Updates

2023 Sampling Summary

2023 Complaint Summary

2023 Notice of Proposed Actions

Pathogen Pilot Survey Update

Nicole Smith

Field Staff Senior Environmental  
Scientist (Supervisor)

## 2023 Sampling Summary

1,423	Total Samples (1,072 in 2022)
10.68%*	Violation Rate (Analytical Violations)
704	Conventional Samples
719	Organic Input Material (OIM) Samples

\* Estimated

FIAB Meeting

February 8, 2024

## 2023 Complaint Summary

20 Formal Complaints / 15 closed, 5 pending

14 Conventional, 6 OIM

2022 – 21 Complaints

2021 – 52 Complaints

2020 – 145 Complaints

FIAB Meeting

February 8, 2024

## 2023 Notice of Proposed Actions

13 Notice of Proposed Actions

8 Completed (Paid) – Total Received \$39,556.69

5 Pending

FIAB Meeting

February 8, 2024



## Pathogen Pilot Survey Update

291 Total number of samples obtained as of 1/16/24

222 packaged/off the shelf

69 taken at manufacturer/distributor locations

FIAB Meeting

February 8, 2024

## Pathogen Pilot Survey Update

### Results received for 291 Samples

18 Total detections of *Salmonella* spp.

5 Total detections above the NOP Standard\* (< 3 mpn / 4g)

17 of 18 detections in packaged, off-the-shelf retail products

5 of 5 detections above NOP Standard\* are packaged, off-the-shelf retail products

16 of 18 detections from products that contain bone meal

10 of 18 detections are straight bone meal products

2 of 18 no bone meal products are biosolids and dairy manure

2 of 18 detections are conventional products / 16 of 18 are OIM

*\*NOP standard is for processed animal manures only.*

FIAB Meeting

February 8, 2024



# 2024 FREP Updates

## AGENDA ITEM 5

FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY  
BOARD

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

## Update Items



1. FREP Outreach Activities
2. Grant Program Pre-Proposals
3. Nitrogen and Irrigation Initiative

# Outreach Activities



## FREP-WPHA Conference

*November 8-9, 2023*

- Pre-conference tour of Duarte Nursery
- Workshops: Fertigation, Salinity Management
- Poster session
- ~130 participants



# Outreach Activities



## Other Conferences

- Almond Conference
- Latino Farmer Conference
- California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
- Crop Consultant Conference

## Presentation

- Almond Board 2024 Nutrient Summit

# Grant Program Pre-Proposals



RFP Released *October 31, 2023*

Pre-Proposals Due *December 18*

TASC meeting *February 19*

39 Pre-Proposals Received

# Nitrogen and Irrigation Initiative



## NII Farm Advisor Meetings and Presentations, September 2023 – February 2024

Date	9/21/2023	12/12/2023	1/9/2024	1/10/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/16/2024	1/18/2024	1/23/2024	1/30/2024	2/6/2024	2/15/2024	2/20/2024	2/21/2024
County location	Santa Cruz	Fresno	Central Coast	Fresno	Fresno	Kern	Kern	Kings	Fresno	Fresno Webinar	Fresno	Fresno	Monterey	Kern
Title	Training for irrigators		NutriAg meeting	Nut Tree MEY 2024	KRWQC Annual Workshop Webinar	Kern River coalition meeting	Kern River coalition meeting	Kings Fairground workshop	Selma Workshop	KRWQC Annual Workshop Webinar	Easton Workshop	Kerman Workshop	Irrigation and Nutrient Management workshop	Growers mtg NII
Host Advisor	Monterey office with Santa Cruz RCD	Kings River with Mae presenting	Michael Cahn	Mae Culumber	Kings River with Mae presenting	Mohammad presenting	Mohammad presenting	Kings River with Mae presenting	Kings River with Mae presenting	Kings River with Mae presenting	Mae Culumber	Mae Culumber	Michael Cahn	Mohammad Yaghmour
Presentation Type	Private group consultation	Invited talk at public event	Invited talk at public event	Invited talk at public event	Invited talk at public event	Invited talk at public event	Invited talk at public event	Invited talk at public event	Invited talk at public event	Invited talk at public event	Invited talk at public event	Invited talk at public event	(Co)Hosted public event	(Co)Hosted public event

# Nitrogen and Irrigation Initiative



## Other Program Activities:

- Stakeholder Advisory Group
  - November 3, 2023
- NII Staff training
  - November 14, 2023
  - February 21, 2024

# Nitrogen and Irrigation Initiative



## Update on Water Board agricultural regulation

### Central Valley

- ILRP
- CV-SALTS

### Central Coast

- ILRP – State Board Remand of Ag Order 4.0

## **Nitrogen and Irrigation Initiative**

*A collaboration between UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, the California Water Resources Institute, UC Davis, and CDFA Fertilizer Research and Education Program*

### **Quarterly Report to the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board – January 2024**

#### **Introduction**

California growers face continuously evolving water quality regulations in the Central Valley and Central Coast regions. Inefficient irrigation and nitrogen over-fertilization have resulted in groundwater nitrate contamination. The Nitrogen and Irrigation Initiative (NII) is designed to deliver intensive support to growers in these regions seeking to improve their efficiencies and strategically prepare for increasingly stringent water quality regulations.

#### **Regulatory compliance: the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) statewide**

In September 2023, the State Water Board adopted an order that remanded some provisions of the Central Coast Water Board's Ag Order 4.0 back to the board. In effect, the State Board stated that limits on total fertilizer applications and on excess fertilizer applications (known as A-R) were not consistent with established precedents. Thus, in the short term, the Central Coast Board will re-write and adopt new elements to their irrigated lands order.

In the same order, the State Board established a process to convene a second agricultural expert panel that would be working from new information received since the first expert panel convened in 2014. This new panel could convene as early as this summer and will probably be asked to weigh in on fertilization limits (the questions posed to the panel will be formulated through a public process beginning in February).

In 2024, the Central Valley Water Quality Coalitions will submit revised Groundwater Quality Management Plans to document how their grower members will be evaluated for protecting groundwater from excess fertilizer nitrogen. This could include establishing acceptable ranges for reported nitrogen use efficiency, or other measures that show progress in reducing nitrate loading to groundwater. These revisions will represent the next stage in a continuous process of increasing compliance challenges.

#### **Progress on Objectives**

##### **Hire and train field staff**

*Hiring progress for the project team*

Significant progress has been made in filling project team vacancies. All NII project team positions are now either filled or in the hiring process.

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>CDFA staff</i>	<i>4 participating*</i>
County Advisors	5 participating, 1 in onboarding process
Extension Specialists	3 participating
Academic Coordinator	1 hired
Project Scientist	1 in hiring process
Research Data Analyst	1 hired
Staff Research Associates (SRAs)	6 hired, 1 in hiring process
UC Davis Social Science Research Team	4 participating

\*Staff listed as “Participating” are not compensated through the NII and are considered in-kind contributors.

### *Collaborative trainings held with Climate Smart and Small Farms Programs*

Three trainings for the NII team have been held, all collaborating with the Climate Smart Agriculture and Small Farms programs teams. The kickoff training occurred in July 2022 and focused on distribution uniformity, the Feb. 2023 training focused on irrigation pump tests, and the November 2023 training emphasized chemigation as well as flow meter calibration. Another collaborative training is planned for February 2024, which will highlight technological advances in irrigation management.

Climate Smart and Small Farms programs are integrated into various networks of growers in the counties we serve, and they work with growers who have irrigation and nutrient management needs. Conducting collaborative trainings helps create synergies among the programs so that we are able to best serve growers and improve on-farm irrigation and nutrient management efficiencies.

### **Design and implement outreach events**

Collaborating with regional groups has been a key advancement in NII outreach work. This occurs in two areas: current progress is focused on work with water quality coalitions and future efforts will be made with commodity groups. As of January 24, 2024, our advisors have given at least 7 talks at ILRP coalition events, some targeted toward growers with outlier parcels and others for all members. An additional talk for a coalition meeting is planned for the end of January, and more events are being planned for the future. For upcoming outreach events, we are pursuing closer collaboration with commodity groups to better reach their members with workshops and other events.

### Summary of outreach events

Completed as of January 2024

Event Type	Number since Nov. 23	Running Total
Workshops	0	21 (1,112 participants)
Webinars	0	5 (438 participants)
Field Days	0	4 (62 participants)
Coalition event talks*	6	7
Invited talks with other collaborators*	6	13
<b>Events totals</b>	<b>12 events</b>	<b>50 events ( 1,612 participants)</b>

\* Participant numbers not yet available for these events

Planned for Winter/Spring 2024

Event Type	Number scheduled for 2024 so far
Workshops	12
Coalition event talks	1
Invited talks with other collaborators	2
<b>Events totals</b>	<b>15 events planned</b>

### Collaborate with water quality coalitions

*Reach out to targeted growers*

To best reach growers who risk non-compliance with water quality regulations due to excess nitrogen applied and reported on irrigation and nitrogen management plans (INMP), we have collaborated with various water quality coalitions. An agreement is in place with the Southern San Joaquin Valley coalitions to share anonymous data with us, so that we can better target our outreach efforts. Additionally, our advisors have been in contact with several coalitions to plan or carry out informational events with coalition members. Currently, NII advisors are in contact with Kings River, Kern River, Tule Basin, and East San Joaquin water quality coalitions.

### Improve grower understanding through on-farm consultation

*Advertise UCCE availability*

Collaborating with the water quality coalitions also allows us to work with them to increase NII visibility and reach more growers with information about on-farm consultations.



### ***Work directly with growers through on-farm consultation***

Completed as of January 2024

<b>Consultation type</b>	<b>Number since Nov. 23</b>	<b>Running total</b>
Individual consultations	34 (34 participants)	164 (164 participants)
Group consultations	1 (25 participants)	10 (144 participants)
<b>Consultation totals</b>	<b>35 consultations (59 participants)</b>	<b>174 consultations (308 participants)</b>

Planned for 2024

SRAs will continue to conduct outreach with growers and provide on-farm consultations as requested. In addition, our Santa Clara office is providing INMP consultations to assist with ILRP reporting throughout the month of February 2024.

### **Implement on-farm trials**

On-farm trials demonstrate irrigation and nutrient management best practices for growers, going beyond the workshop medium for information sharing. Viewing a demonstration trial in a grower's field or at a field day also provides an important venue for peer-to-peer learning.

NII advisors currently have 9 trials in place, with one more about to start. The trials are spread across the project area:

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of trials</b>
Kern	2
Fresno	3
Madera	2
Monterey	2, with a 3 <sup>rd</sup> starting soon

Additionally, 3 trials previously supported by the project have come to term and are no longer running: 2 in Stanislaus and 1 in Madera. Advisors continue to work on recruiting growers for additional on-farm demonstration trials that will exhibit irrigation and nutrient management best practices.

### **Evaluate and report on activities and progress**

To assess the impact of the program and inform future directions, a suite of evaluation tools is being implemented with our UC Davis collaborators. Surveys collect data from workshop and consultation participants, and a PhD student has recently started conducting interviews with program participants to complement survey data. Analysis of this data clarifies efficacy of extension tools and informs future directions of the project. Consultation surveys are still being analyzed to reflect pre- and post-season change, but workshop surveys analyzed to date reflect that the clear majority of participants come away having learned about irrigation and/or nitrogen management. When asked if

they learned about irrigation and/or nitrogen management, 91-96% of workshop participants responded positively.

### **Track improvements in nitrogen and irrigation efficiency**

UC Davis researchers are also using grower surveys to track changes in nitrogen and irrigation efficiency and will have initial results to report after end-of-season surveys for 2023 are analyzed.

### **Stakeholder Advisory Group**

The NII partners have convened a Stakeholder Advisory Group to give us perspectives from different parts of the agricultural community and advise the program and make suggestions for improved outreach and visibility in their represented communities. Members include representatives from water quality coalitions, commodity organizations, environmental organizations, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Certified Crop Advisors. We held four stakeholder meetings in 2023 and are scheduling the next one in spring 2024.

The stakeholders have provided valuable feedback on program evaluation elements, outreach opportunities with coalitions and other agricultural organizations, and have acted as a sounding board for moving forward with planned program activities.

**BYLAWS**  
**for the**  
**California Department of Food and Agriculture**  
**FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Article I. Name and Purpose.**

The **Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board** (Board) was established by Chapter 5 (commencing with section 14501) of Division 7 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) (Chapter 5). The Board was created under the authority of the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to promote the distribution of effective and safe fertilizing materials essential for the production of food and fiber and to ensure that consumers receive fertilizing materials that are safe, effective, and meet the quality and quantity guaranteed by the manufacturer.

The Board shall not engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes described above or identified within FAC Sections 14583 and 14583.5.

**Article II. Membership.**

***Section 1. Non-liability of members***

Members of the Board shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of CDFA or the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (Program).

***Section 2. Number of members and compensation***

As provided by FAC Section 14581, the Board shall consist of nine persons appointed by the Secretary, eight of whom shall be licensed under Chapter 5 and subject to the payment of the inspection fee in accordance with Chapter 5, and one of whom shall be a public member who shall represent the interests of the general public in all matters coming before the Board and shall have the same voting and other rights and immunities as other members of the Board.

The members of the Board shall receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary traveling expenses in accordance with Department of Human Resources rules. These expenses shall be paid out of appropriations made to CDFA.

***Section 3. Eligibility for membership***

Membership shall be open to persons who are licensed and subject to payment of the inspection fee.

One additional member to the Board shall be a public member, who is not a manufacturer or distributor of fertilizing materials, nor financially interested in any manufacturer or distributor.

Qualifications of the nominees for membership are evaluated by the Board. The Board's recommendations are submitted with the information on all nominees to the Secretary. The Secretary determines who shall be appointed to the Board.

#### ***Section 4. Terms***

The term of office of the Board members shall be three years. The Board shall submit recommendations for appointment to the Secretary, who will make the appointments.

Terms shall be staggered so one-third of the Board seats shall be open for appointment each year.

Vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms for the length remaining in that term.

#### ***Section 5. Officers***

Board officers shall be nominated and selected by the Board for a term of one year. The Board shall vote on officers at the first meeting of every calendar year. A member may hold only one office at a time. In the event of an unexpected vacancy, the Board will elect a member to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of the office.

A chairperson shall be elected to preside over meetings of the Board, serve as its principal spokesperson, and perform whatever duties the board may from time-to-time assign.

A vice chairperson shall be elected to serve in the absence and with the authority of the chairperson, and to perform tasks as assigned by the chairperson.

The Board may create additional officers from time to time as it may deem advisable with such titles and duties as it may assign.

#### ***Section 6. Rights and responsibilities of members***

Membership to the board is based on certain qualifications, such as holding a fertilizer license. The cessation of such qualification during a member's tenure shall be a valid reason for their resignation or termination from the Board. Whenever a member is in doubt on their continued eligibility, it shall be their duty to advise the Board.

Board members are of one class, with equal rights, unless otherwise stated in the bylaws. Every Board member shall have the right at any reasonable time to read or receive a copy of the minutes or bylaws after they have been approved by the Board.

The Board shall be advisory to the Secretary and may make recommendations on all matters pertaining to Chapter 5, including, but not limited to, the programmatic priorities based on industry need, the inspection and enforcement program, research and education, annual budget, necessary fees to provide adequate inspection services, and regulations required to accomplish the purposes of Chapter 5.

Board members must complete the bi-annual required trainings, including but not limited to “Ethics Training for State Officials” and ‘Maintaining a Respectful Work Environment.” Members must complete the annual Form 700 – Statement of Economic Interests and satisfy any other requirements that promote impartiality.

Subcommittees shall be created at the discretion of the Board whenever necessary for issues that require further study or to help fulfill its functions. The Board may choose to make specific subcommittees a part of the Program’s organizational structure.

### ***Section 7. Conflict of Interest***

When any member has an actual or potential conflict of interest, it shall be their duty to advise the Board and thereupon refrain from further participation in the Board’s deliberations on the matter.

A member’s withdrawal from participation in discussion of a subject, or even their departure from the meeting room during discussion of a subject in which the member has a personal interest, shall not affect the existence of a previously established quorum.

### ***Section 8. Resignation and termination***

Any member may resign at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to any officer of the board or to the Program. Resignation is effective upon receipt of the letter, unless it specifies a later time for the resignation to become effective.

Members shall adhere to professional standards, conduct and ethics. A member who has missed three or more consecutive meetings may be removed by a majority vote of the board. A member’s term may be terminated by the Secretary or by a two-thirds vote of the membership for other cause. If a member is no longer a licensee, their membership will be terminated. If a public member becomes financially invested, their membership will be terminated.

## **Article III. Meetings of the Members.**

### ***Section 1. Meeting purpose and governance***

Board meetings are called for the membership to elect officers, receive reports, and determine the direction of the Board and the Program. All meetings shall be open to the public and shall conform to the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Government Code, Section 11120 et seq.). Interested parties cannot vote on agenda items but have an opportunity to make public comments during the meeting.

Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order or, from time to time, by group consensus decision-making to support the best interest of the Board insofar as such rules are not inconsistent with or in conflict with these Bylaws or with the provisions of law.

### ***Section 2. Quorum and Voting***

A minimum of five members present at any properly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum. No action, decision, or vote may take place at a meeting without a quorum present.

Every act, decision, or vote made by a majority of the members present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be regarded as the act of the full membership of the Board.

Issues to be voted on shall be decided by a simple majority of those present at a meeting duly held at which quorum is present except for special issues requiring more than a majority vote, including any that need a unanimous decision. The voting requirement for such special issues must be clearly noted in the meeting agenda.

There shall be no proxy voting except in the case of a specific motion and only when required for the Board to achieve a quorum on a critical issue. A two-thirds vote of the membership at the meeting is required to allow proxy voting. A notice of such a motion and its outcome must be distributed to the full membership within 30 days following the meeting at which the proxy vote was held.

### ***Section 3. Meeting time and place***

The board shall meet at least once a year at the call of the Chairperson. The Secretary, the Program, the Chairperson, or a minimum of any five members may designate additional meeting dates. Board meetings shall be held at a reasonable time and place as designated by the Chairperson.

#### ***Section 4. Notice of meeting***

Notice of each meeting shall be given not less than 10 days in advance of the meeting to all board members and interested persons entitled to notice under the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. Such notice shall be maintained as a part of the meeting record.

Proposed agenda items for an upcoming meeting shall be submitted by board members no later than 45 days prior to a scheduled meeting date.

#### **Article IV. Subcommittees**

The chairperson may establish subcommittees at the recommendation of the board. Membership of these subcommittees shall be determined by the Board and may be comprised of board members and interested public citizens. The Board may, at any time, revoke or modify any or all of the authority delegated to a subcommittee, increase or decrease the number of its members (but not below two), and fill vacancies therein.

A quorum to conduct subcommittee business shall be a majority of the subcommittee members. A majority of the quorum shall be entitled to adopt resolutions constituting committee action.

An action to adjourn can be approved by a simple majority of the members present at the time of the vote.

#### **Article V. Program Responsibilities**

The Program is responsible for the recordkeeping of the Board. Such records may be stored in computer files.

The Program shall keep the minutes of all meetings, proceedings, and actions of the Board and its subcommittees based on the Program's retention schedule. The minutes shall include the date, time and place such meeting was held; the names of board members present and absent; the names of CDFA staff present; the names of interested parties present; and the proceedings of such meetings. The minutes shall also contain any protests concerning lack of adequate notice or dissents from members of the Board, if the protesting or dissenting members request such protest be recorded within the minutes.

The Program shall keep a record of the original and each amended version of the Bylaws.

The Program shall give notice of all meetings of the Board in accordance with the Bylaws.

The Program shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board or the Bylaws.

## **Article VI. Bylaws**

The bylaws shall be effective upon approval by the board.

Notice of any proposal to amend, supplement, or repeal the bylaws must be given no less than 45 days prior to a meeting at which such change shall be considered. After proper notice, any change to the bylaws shall take effect with a two-thirds vote of the Board members sitting at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present.

The Board may not amend Bylaw provisions fixing the authorized number of members, the eligibility for membership, nor any other provision prescribed by the FAC or California Code of Regulations without first revising such law or regulation.

Adopted by the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board on [date]



# Fertilizer Board Bylaws Review

Refer to Handout

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BYLAWS</b> for the California Department of Food and Agriculture FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD</p> <p><b>Article I. Name and Purpose.</b></p> <p>The <b>Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board</b> (Board) was established by Chapter 5 (commencing with section 14501) of Division 7 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) (Chapter 5). The Board was created under the authority of the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to promote the distribution of effective and safe fertilizing materials essential for the production of food and fiber and to ensure that consumers receive fertilizing materials that are safe, effective, and meet the quality and quantity guaranteed by the manufacturer.</p> <p>The Board shall not engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes described above or identified within FAC Sections 14583 and 14583.5.</p> <p><b>Article II. Membership.</b></p> <p><b>Section 1. Non-liability of members</b></p> <p>Members of the Board shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of CDFA or the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (Program).</p> <p><b>Section 2. Number of members and compensation</b></p> <p>As provided by FAC Section 14581, the Board shall consist of nine persons appointed by the Secretary, eight of whom shall be licensed under Chapter 5 and subject to the payment of the inspection fee in accordance with Chapter 5, and one of whom shall be a public member who shall represent the interests of the general public in all matters coming before the Board and shall have the same voting and other rights and immunities as other members of the Board.</p> <p>The members of the Board shall receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary traveling expenses in accordance with Department of Human Resources rules. These expenses shall be paid out of appropriations made to CDFA.</p>
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CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Agenda Item 6

Teresa Bowers, EPM I

February 8, 2024

### ASSAYS COMPLETED FOR SAMPLES RECEIVED 1/1/23 - 12/31/23

Assay	Number of assays	Rush	Priority	Avg turn around time (Bus. days)	% of assays completed		
					0 - 10 days	0 - 15 days	0 - 21 days
Arsenic	288	0	2	15	23%	51%	83%
Boron	93	0	1	15	28%	59%	92%
Cadmium	288	0	2	15	23%	51%	83%
Calcium	216	0	7	15	24%	54%	89%
Calcium Carbonate	7	0	0	16	0%	57%	71%
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent	7	0	0	14	43%	57%	57%
Chlorine	54	0	8	14	52%	72%	83%
Cobalt	19	0	0	16	11%	58%	84%
Copper	85	0	0	15	22%	59%	91%
Density	43	0	25	4	98%	98%	98%
Free Water	13	0	0	12	46%	69%	85%
Gypsum Equivalent - Calcium	13	0	0	19	15%	38%	62%
Gypsum Equivalent - Sulfur	13	0	0	18	15%	46%	62%
Humic Acid	80	0	4	16	31%	49%	73%
Iron	163	0	3	14	30%	65%	90%
Lead	289	0	0	15	22%	51%	83%
Magnesium	124	0	2	14	29%	64%	91%
Magnesium Carbonate	4	0	0	15	0%	75%	75%
Manganese	144	0	3	15	21%	64%	91%

### ASSAYS COMPLETED FOR SAMPLES RECEIVED 1/1/23 - 12/31/23

Assay	Number of assays	Rush	Priority	Avg turn around time (Bus. days)	% of assays completed		
					0 - 10 days	0 - 15 days	0 - 21 days
Moisture	8	0	0	12	25%	75%	100%
Molybdenum	90	0	1	14	23%	62%	94%
Nitrogen - Ammoniacal	77	0	21	13	39%	79%	86%
Nitrogen - Nitrate	48	0	15	12	54%	81%	88%
Nitrogen - Total	854	0	107	7	80%	94%	99%
Organic Matter	26	0	2	11	42%	65%	96%
pH	48	0	25	5	94%	98%	100%
Phosphoric Acid - Available	544	0	52	15	41%	63%	76%
Phosphoric Acid - Total	7	0	0	11	57%	86%	100%
Potassium - Soluble	639	0	59	15	40%	62%	76%
Sodium	40	0	7	14	35%	60%	88%
Soluble Silicon	5	0	0	26	0%	0%	0%
Sulfur - Sulfate	15	0	0	16	33%	73%	80%
Sulfur - Total	289	0	16	13	35%	67%	90%
Thiamine	4	0	0	13	50%	75%	75%
Urea	89	0	11	14	35%	69%	84%
Water Insoluble Nitrogen	100	0	19	15	44%	66%	76%
Water Soluble Nitrogen	95	0	19	15	36%	65%	76%
Zinc	172	0	0	14	26%	63%	91%

TOTAL NUMBER OF ASSAYS	5,094
AVERAGE TURN AROUND TIME	11

Reruns not included in assay count

## Sample Information

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Total Number of Samples Received		1,131
Routine	89.8%	1,016
Priority	10.2%	115
Rush	0.0%	0
Total Number of Samples Completed		927

## Completed Assay Information

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Assay Type	% of Completed Assays	# of Assays
Routine	91.8%	4,678
Rush	0.0%	0
Priority	8.2%	416
Total Number of Assays Completed		5,094

Assay Type	% of Completed Assays	# of Assays
Re-run	8.7%	485
Total Number of Assays Completed		5,579
Average # of Assays Completed per Sample		6.0



## Program Updates

- Turn-around times still longer than usual. Section supervisor on extended leave.
- Laboratory bench and infrastructure underway to further modernize and improve lab adaptability to new technology and sample flow.
- New Kjeldahl instrument ordered to serve as back-up and promote sample throughput.



Agenda Item 7

## **Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board Vacancy**

### Applicant 1: Steve Aichele

Aichele-Association and Title	Years in Industry	Education
<b>Pacific Coast Resources Corporation</b> Wholesale Fertilizer Company <i>CFO / Co-Owner</i>	30+	Art Center College of Design <i>MFA</i> Southern Utah University BA <i>Business Administration and Economics</i>
<b>Affiliation / Certification</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerospace Estimator / Program Manager</li> <li>• Far West Agribusiness Member</li> <li>• California Fertilizer Association</li> </ul>		
<b>Relevant Experience</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands-on agricultural work from age of 14</li> <li>• Fertilizer wholesaler</li> <li>• Regulatory roles throughout fertilizer supply chain</li> <li>• Environmental compliance consultant</li> <li>• Extensive interaction with California stakeholders</li> </ul>		

### Applicant 2: Chris Bradway

Bradway-Association and Title	Years in Industry	Education
<b>Down to Earth Distributors, Inc.</b> General Manager <i>DTE Fertilizer Operations</i>	22	University of Massachusetts-Amherst <i>Bachelors-Physics / Astronomy</i>
<b>Affiliation / Certification</b>		
IOIA Organic Crop Inspection Training and Certification – State College, PA IOIA Organic Processing Inspection Training and Certification Program-Tampa, FL		
<b>Relevant Experience</b>		
Manage and oversee daily fertilizer operations division Manage supply chain cycle, logistics, and visibility processes Manage fertilizer operations financial resources Develop and manage pricing programs for wholesale distribution Facilitate reporting, information flow, and work toward productive and motivated team.		



**Applicant 3: Jay Irvine**

Irvine-Association and Title	Years in Industry	Education
<b>Component Ag</b> Division of Earth Science Labs <i>Executive Board Member</i> <b>Component Ag Nutrient/Pesticide Manufacture</b> <i>President</i>	39	CSU Fresno – BS Ag <i>Business Marketing and Economics</i> CSU Fresno – <i>Graduate Studies</i>
<b>Affiliation / Certification</b>		
California Pest Control Advisors License CDFA Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board Western Plant Health Association (WPHA) member Alpha Gamma Rho National Agricultural Fraternity California Agricultural Production Consultants Association member		
<b>Relevant Experience</b>		
Business and strategic planning Sales management Marketing, supplier, and product management Product research and development Financial and human resource management		

**Applicant 4: Nick Kanellos**

Kanellos-Association and Title	Years in Industry	Education
<b>EZ-GRO</b> Hicrocorp <i>President, Chief Human Resources Officer, Co-Owner</i>	20+	Durham College - Canada <i>Business Administration / Human Resources</i>
<b>Affiliation / Certification</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate in Advanced Human Resources Law</li> <li>• Mental Health Certificate for Human Resources Professionals Association</li> <li>• Supervisor of Health and Safety Awareness</li> <li>• Asbestos awareness certificate</li> <li>• Canadian Food and Inspection Agency</li> <li>• EPA</li> <li>• OMRI</li> <li>• ECO Cert</li> </ul>		
<b>Relevant Experience</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decades interaction with CDFA Fertilizer program with registering, <u>licensing</u> and upkeep of conventional and OIM products</li> <li>• Ensure government compliance (international)</li> <li>• Prepare licenses and registrations</li> <li>• Update Standard Operating Procedures</li> <li>• Create tools to measure performance in relation to compensation</li> <li>• Conduct training seminars</li> <li>• Develop and engage relationships with local and international sources</li> <li>• Create and manage company investment portfolio</li> <li>• Complete international wire transfers to suppliers</li> </ul>		

### Applicant 5: Andrew Larson

Larson-Association and Title	Years in Industry	Education
<b>Compass Minerals</b> PNW & Southwest <i>Key Account Manager</i>	18	Washington State University Pullman, WA <i>BA Business Administration / Management Information Systems</i>
<b>Affiliation / Certification</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Health Plant</li> <li>• California Fertilizer Foundation</li> <li>• Farwest Agribusiness Association</li> </ul>		
<b>Relevant Experience</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Sales Nominations</li> <li>• Process rail detention reports for US sales</li> <li>• National Account Management</li> <li>• Special projects for national accounts</li> <li>• Customer relations</li> <li>• Quarterly forecast award winner</li> <li>• Agricultural stakeholder sales management</li> </ul>		

### Applicant 6: Victor Lopez

Lopez-Association and Title	Years in Industry	Education
<b>Rockwood Ag Services, Inc.</b> El Centro, CA <i>President and CE)</i>	15+	California Polytechnic – San Luis Obispo – <i>BS Agribusiness/Marketing &amp; Economics</i> National University, San Diego – <i>Global Master of Business Administration</i> California Agricultural Leadership Program
<b>Affiliation / Certification</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified Crop Advisor</li> <li>• DPR PCA (Pest Control Advisor) QAL (Qualified Applicator Advisor) License</li> <li>• CAPCA San Diego-member</li> <li>• CCA Desert Valleys-member</li> <li>• The Fertilizer Institute-member</li> <li>• Imperial County Farm Bureau Board</li> <li>• Produce Business</li> </ul>		
<b>Relevant Experience</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitive analysis</li> <li>• Market Intelligence</li> <li>• Financial Management</li> <li>• Workers Compensation</li> <li>• Niche Marketing</li> <li>• Global Marketing</li> <li>• Public Relations and Speaking</li> <li>• Bilingual / Bicultural (Spanish-English)</li> </ul>		