

# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER



Janet Caprile

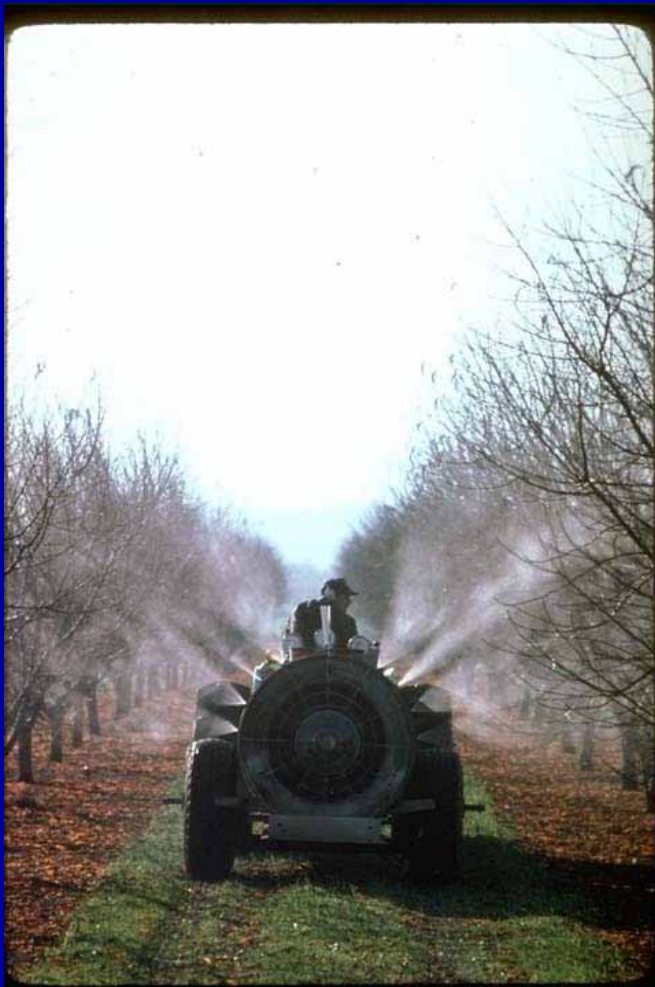
Farm Advisor – Agricultural Crops  
UC Cooperative Extension  
Contra Costa & Alameda Counties

CCC Pest Management Continuing Education Class

November 15 & 18, 2006

# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

How do they get in water?



# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

How do they get in water?

- Drift
- Runoff



Runoff after rain



Runoff after irrigation



# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER



What can you do about it?

- Reduce volume of runoff
- Reduce what's in the runoff

# REDUCING IRRIGATION RUNOFF

**Sprinkler Systems:** application rate < soil infiltration rate

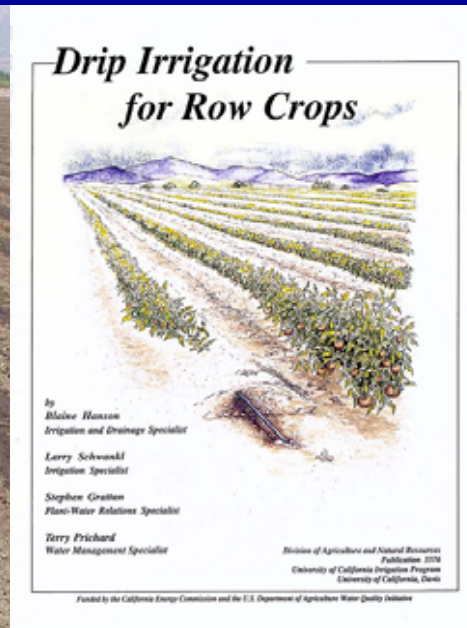
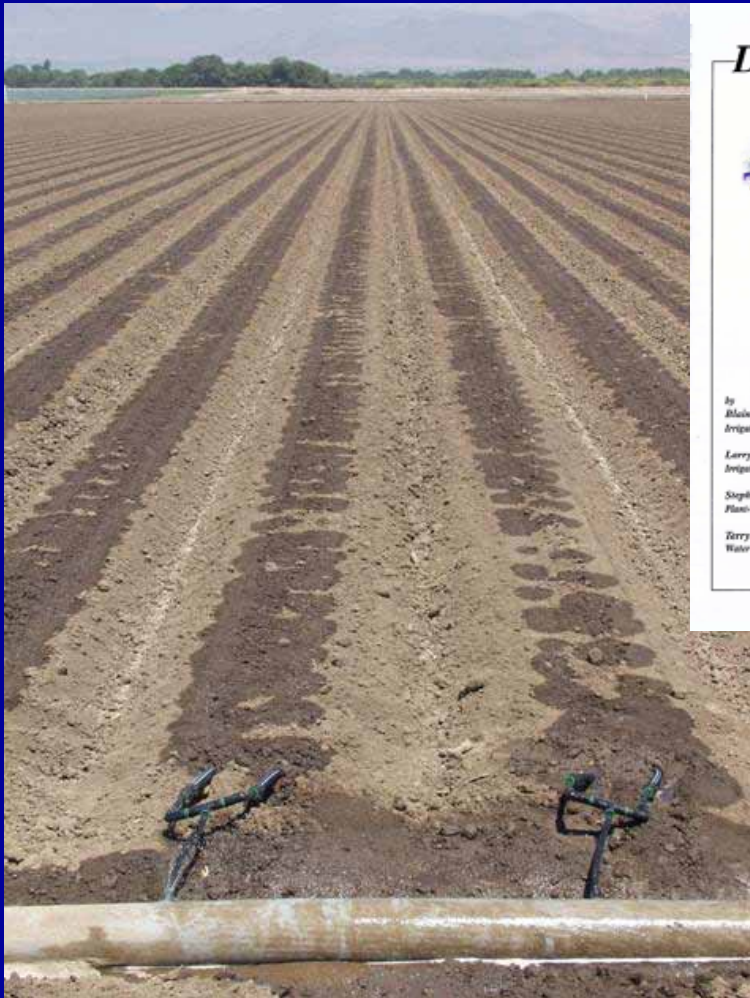
- Adjust set time
- Reduce nozzle size



**Stand Establishment**

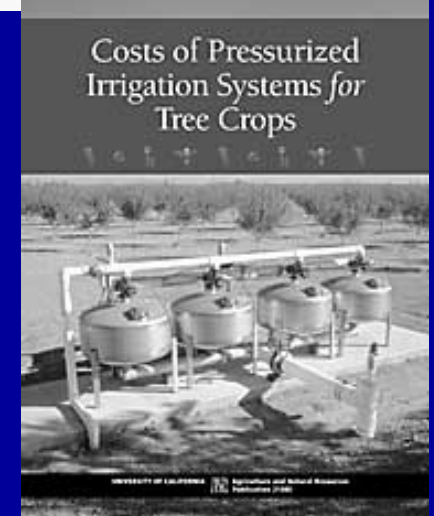
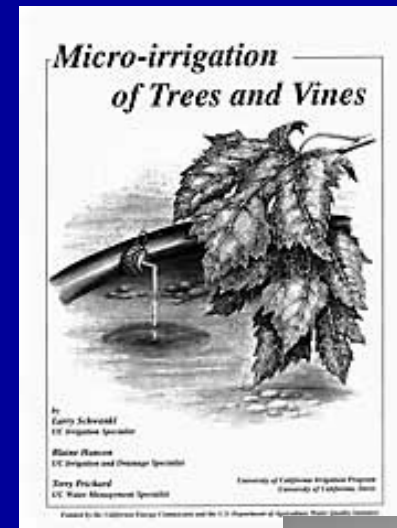
# REDUCING IRRIGATION RUNOFF

Drip irrigation after stand establishment for annual crops



# REDUCING IRRIGATION RUNOFF

Low volume irrigation – drip, microsprinklers for trees & vines



# REDUCING IRRIGATION RUNOFF

**Flood or Furrow Irrigation:**  
runoff is needed for good distribution uniformity



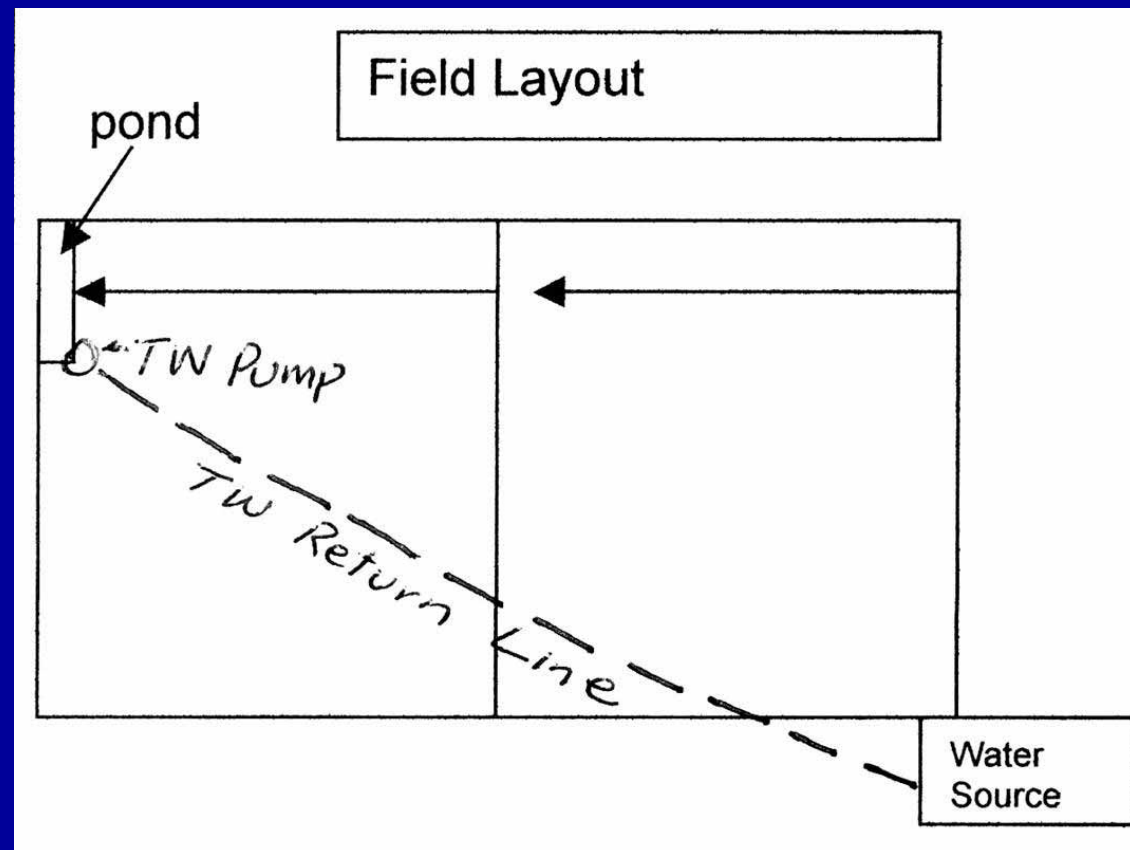


# REDUCING IRRIGATION RUNOFF

## Flood or Furrow Irrigation Tailwater return system

### ADVANTAGES

- Better irrigation efficiency
- Better distribution uniformity
- Lower water costs
- Less monitoring at night



# REDUCING IRRIGATION RUNOFF

Flood or Furrow Irrigation  
Tailwater return system



## DISADVANTAGES

- Costs: Installation, maintenance, operation
- Land out of production
- Management to avoid groundwater contamination

*“Reducing Runoff from Irrigated Lands - Tailwater Return Systems”*  
by Schwankl, Prichard, and Hanson, UC ANR Publication, free

# REDUCING IRRIGATION RUNOFF

## Flood or Furrow Irrigation

### Polyacrilamide (PAM)

- Applied at the beginning of the irrigation
- Reduces sediment in the runoff



# REDUCING IRRIGATION RUNOFF

## Flood or Furrow Irrigation

### Polyacrilamide (PAM)

- Only pesticides strongly attached to soil particles are reduced
  - pyrethroids tend to adsorb
  - OP & carbamates more soluble
- References:
  - “*Pesticide Selection to Reduce Impacts on Water Quality*”, UC Publication 8119, free
  - UCIPM website, Water Tox database, free



# REDUCING IRRIGATION RUNOFF

**In summary:**

- drip or microsprinklers
- sprinkler management
- furrow/flood systems
  - tailwater return
  - PAM



# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF



# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF

## Winter Cover Crops

- Slow runoff
- Increases rain infiltration
- Trap sediments
- Trap pesticides

# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF

## Winter Cover Crops

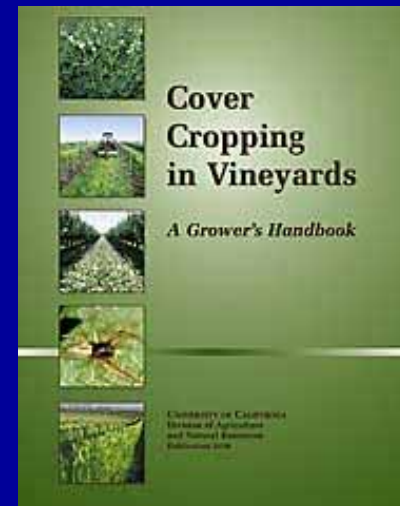
- Select the right cover
  - Weeds work!
- Manage it for your crop
- References:
  - Covercrops for California Agriculture, No. 21471



## Creative Cover Crops for Perennial Farming Systems



## Creative Cover Crops for Annual Farming Systems





# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF



	<b>% reduction in runoff volume</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>43</b>

# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF

Low biomass cover crops - for early planted annuals



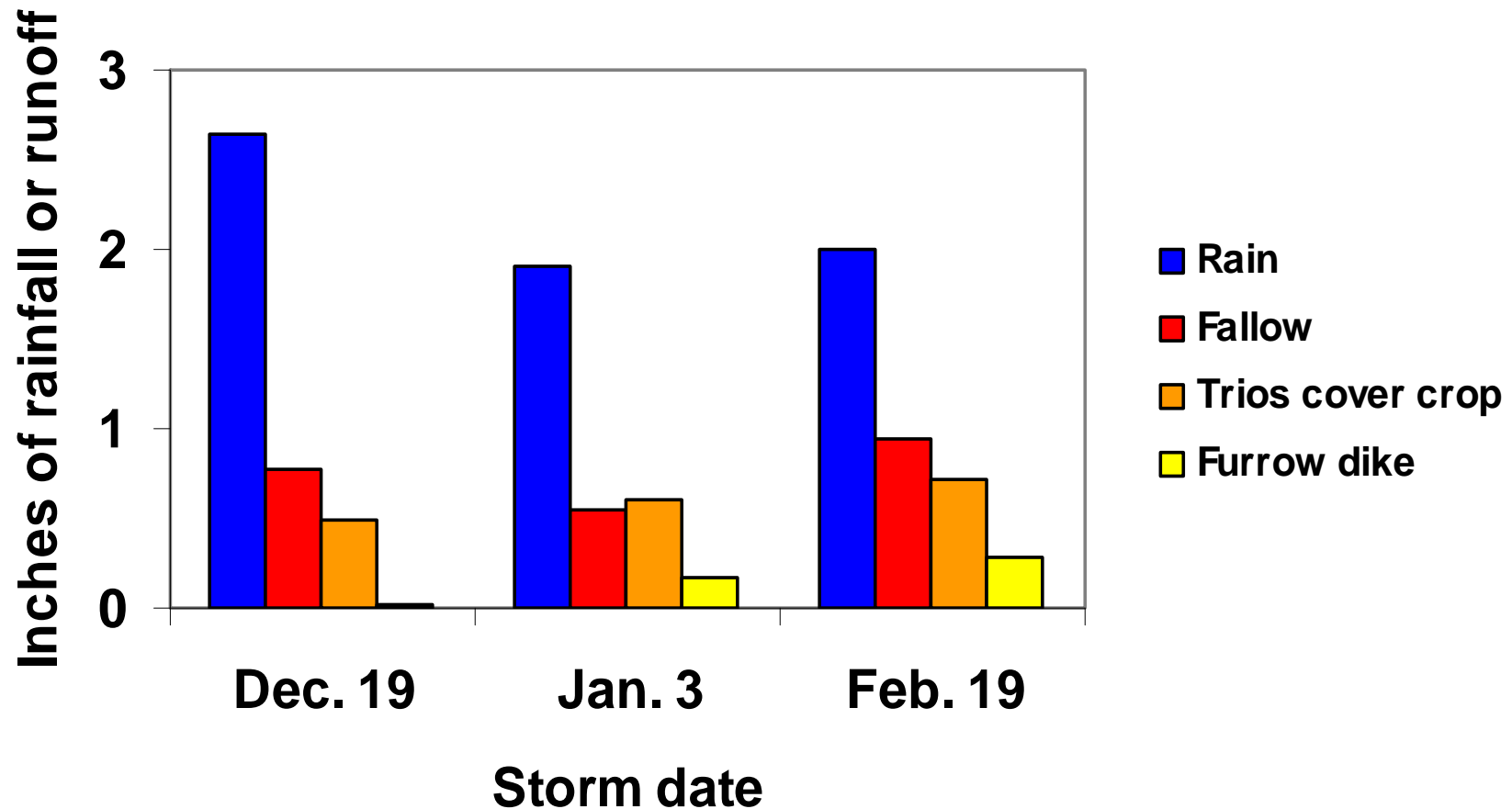
# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF

Furrow Dikes - for early planted annuals



# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF

Furrow Dikes - for early planted annuals



# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF

Vegetated ditches/Grassed waterways

Reduce sediment in the runoff



# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF

Filter strips:  
reduce erosion & sediment in runoff



# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF

Chipping orchard prunings



# REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF

**Chipped orchard prunings**





# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

## **In summary:**

### **Runoff control options for irrigation season**

- drip or microsprinklers
- sprinkler management
- furrow/flood systems
  - tailwater return
  - PAM

### **Runoff control options for winter season**

- use cover crop and/or chips
- furrow dikes
- trap sediment with vegetation

# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

Adjust Pest Management Systems  
to reduce the potential for contamination

- Pesticide selection
- Application timing
- Equipment improvements
- Proper application



# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

## Adjusting Pest Management System

- Pesticide selection
- Resource: UC IPM Program

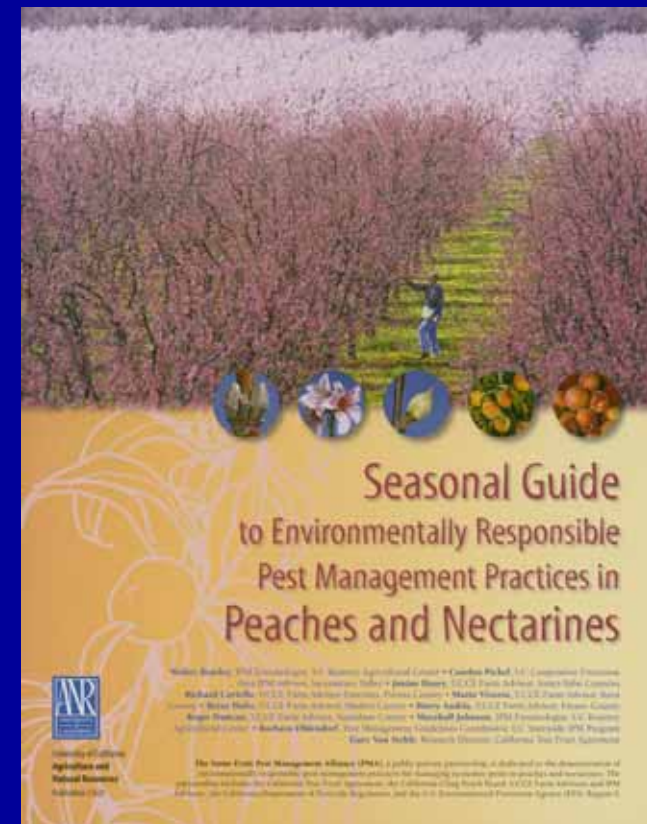
[www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)

- Pest Management Guidelines
- Seasonal Guide Publications
- On line Year-round IPM programs

Outline BMP

Link to list of effective control materials

Link to Watertox database for water quality info



# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

## Adjusting Pest Management System

- Application timing
  - Avoid sprays before rain or irrigation
  - PTB: Dormant oil + BT/Success at bloom



# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

## Adjusting Pest Management System

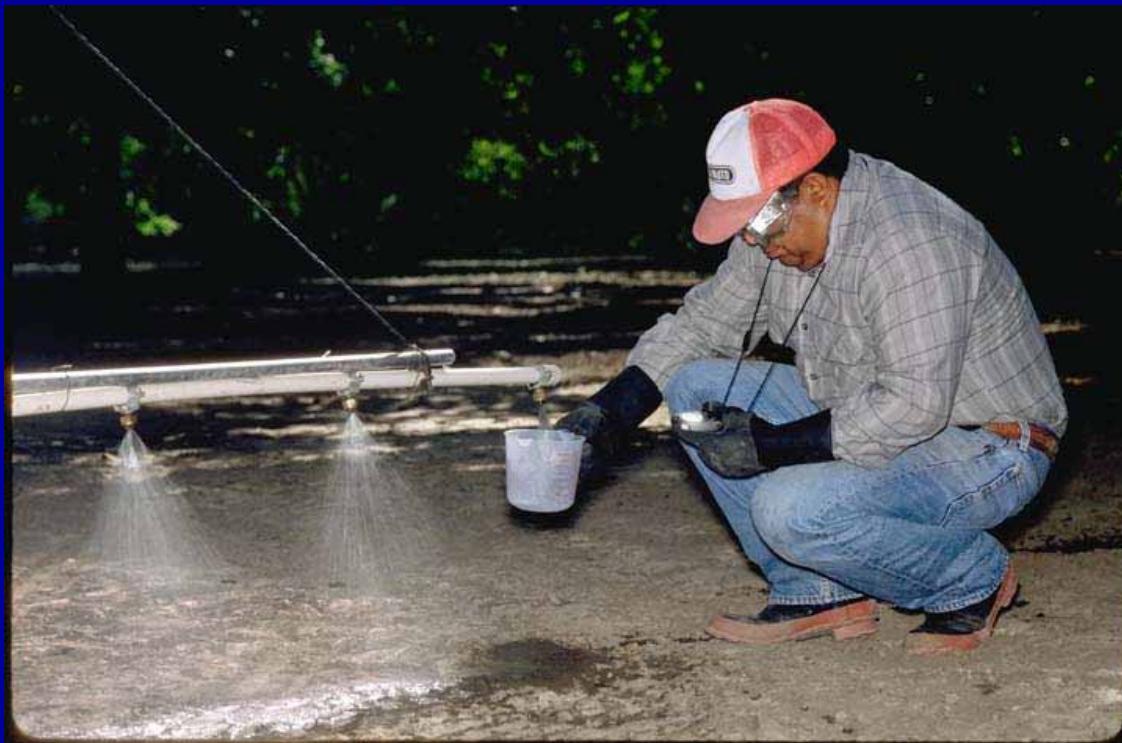
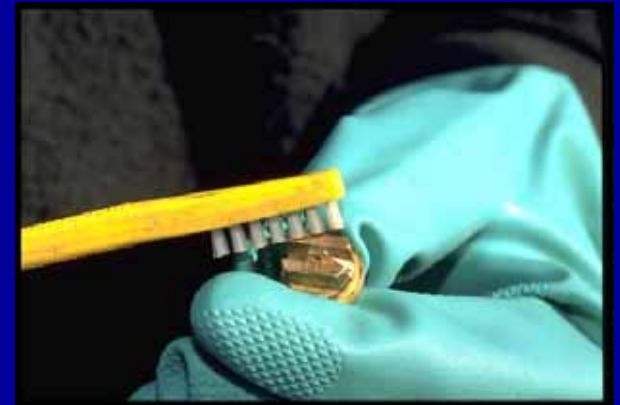
- Equipment improvements
  - Sprayer upgrades



# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

## Adjusting Pest Management System

- Equipment improvements
  - Sprayer upgrade
  - Inspection, maintenance, calibration



# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

## Adjusting Pest Management System

- Proper application
  - Wind speed/direction
  - No drift into waterways



# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

## NRCS Financial Assistance Programs

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

- UC IPM Year Round Program - \$125/acre
- Transition to Organic - \$100/acre
- Substitute “softer” chemical for high risk - \$30/acre
- VOC reducing spray technology - \$30/acre
- Cost share for many other projects
  - Cover crops, grassed waterways, filter strips
  - Irrigation system improvements
  - Furrow dike implements, smart sprayers, etc.

APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 1, 2006

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# REDUCING PESTICIDES IN SURFACE WATER

## **In summary:**

### **Runoff control options for irrigation season**

- drip or microsprinklers
- sprinkler management
- furrow/flood systems: tailwater return or PAM

### **Runoff control options for winter season**

- use cover crop and/or chips
- furrow dikes
- trap sediment with vegetation

### **Pest management options**

- pesticide selection
- application timing
- equipment updates
- proper application

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