

Results of Ranch Water Quality Planning Short Course Conducted Through California's State Wide Survey

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The University of California Cooperative Extension conducted a statewide survey of rangeland owners and managers who had participated in the California Ranch Water Quality Planning Short Course (RWQPSC). A general social survey was developed and mailed to approximately 750 participants. The objective of this survey was to document the short course impacts by assessing: (1) best management practices implemented, (2) reasons for implementation, and (3) financial contributions made by participants to maintain water quality.

The survey results indicated that short course participants conducted nonpoint source self-assessments and documented best management practices. The majority of practices implemented were: water development, grazing management practices, riparian fencing, and erosion control. The participants completed the RWQPSC in support of industry water quality initiatives and to reduce nonpoint source pollution from their lands. Participants spent between \$500 and \$50,000 each on best management practice implementation. The majority of participants worked on the plan during the short course and has since completed their plans. The RWQPSC, through the short course process, educated landowners to address industry initiatives, assess nonpoint source pollution, and make decisions that significantly impacted California watersheds by improving overall water quality.