

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Ask Laura Newsletter Column
Authorship for April 2015 Newsletter: Laura Tourte, Farm Management Advisor

Q: What resources do you have to help us understand more about water and the drought?

A: You will want to visit the California Institute for Water Resources (CIWR) website at <http://ciwr.ucanr.edu>. The mission of the institute, which is part of UC's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, is to integrate California's research, extension, and education programs to develop research-based solutions to water resource challenges.

When you visit the site you will see a link to Research and Outreach Projects, which lists and describes various statewide efforts that are currently underway. In addition,

Within the Tools and Resources tab, you will find:

- A link to CropManage, an online irrigation and nitrogen management program, developed by local UCCE Farm Advisor Michael Cahn, along with other collaborators.
- A link to the Nitrite Groundwater Pollution Hazard Index, which provides information to farmers interested in voluntary management practices that reduce nitrogen contamination potential in groundwater.
- A link to Drought Resources, Events, and Experts.

Within the Drought Resources, Events, and Experts tab, you will find:

- A link to upcoming workshops and other local and statewide events.
- A link to statewide experts on water resources, drought, and irrigation, including contact information.
- A link to more drought and information resources.

Within the Drought Information and Resources section, you will find:

- A link to Insights: Water and Drought Online Seminar Series, which contains over 30 videos, of roughly 20 to 30 minutes each, on a selection of topics under the headings Drought Impacts on Water Supply, Drought Preparedness Practices and Policies, Water Management in Urban Landscapes, and Crop Management Practices under Limited Water Supply for Annual and Perennial Crops.

This is only a small part of what is available on the CIWR website. If you keep exploring the site, you will also see links to a new blog called The Confluence, which posts a variety of stories on water and drought from throughout the state. You may also follow the most recent news and information via Twitter or Instagram (@ucanrwater), or receive periodic updates by joining the CIWR email list.

Please let me know if you have additional questions: ljtourte@ucanr.edu or (831) 763-8005.