

November 8 & 14 On-farm Demonstration Field Days

The success of the Efficiency Conservation Definite Plan rests heavily on identifying on-farm conservation practices that save water and are likely to be implemented once proper financial incentives are put in place.

To better understand and highlight the various possibilities, the Team has been conducting on-farm water conservation technology demonstrations that involve growers and monitor the performance of promising practices. On November 8 and 14, 2006, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) sponsored two field day demonstrations to provide an opportunity for growers, farm managers, IID staff and interested third parties to get a closer look at these projects. A total of nearly 45 people attended the two events.

Each field day had a distinct focus, as described below.

- The first field day, held on farms owned and operated by Alex Jack, Shelvie Crittendon and A.G. Sod Farms, showcased a variety of on-farm technologies centered on testing and assessing different strategies to reduce and reuse tailwater, including:
 - **Multi-use reservoir TRS.** This project looked at the multiple uses of reservoirs built with tailwater recovery systems. The reservoir featured provides multiple benefits including tailwater recovery for surface irrigation plus canal water silt settling and temporary water storage for drip and sprinkler irrigation systems.
 - **Irrigation application system studies.** This demonstration focused on better understanding the water conservation potential of pressurized irrigation systems. Fields showcased included: (1) a field equipped with a dual drip and sprinkle irrigation system; and (2) a field equipped with a center pivot sprinkle system and a regulating reservoir.
 - **Poly-pipe gated pipe and gated pipe/row length.** This demonstration sought to better understand and compare the water savings potential of differing furrow lengths and headlands type. Fields showcased included a field using Poly Pipe in place of a concrete ditch to convey water from the turnout to individual fields and a field using gravity-fed gated poly pipe in place of pump-fed aluminum gated pipe to produce corn with modified row direction.
- The second field day focused on the system-side, giving participants an opportunity to better understand the various water management technologies installed along the Malva 1 Lateral. The field day offered visitors the chance to look at a variety of mechanisms – from automatic lateral headings to long-crested weirs and a custom-designed flap gate – intended to maintain more constant flow rates at farm delivery gates being served by the lateral. Participants also were able to visit the drop structure that the J. Emanuelli and Sons Farm uses to cascade water among their alfalfa fields.

At both field days, participants had an opportunity to view poster presentations that offered greater detail on the underlying water management science and general cost, operational, and anticipated water savings information. Additionally, Definite Plan team members and IID staff were on hand to address any follow-up questions. (Additional information on the various demonstration projects can be found on the Demonstration Project page on this web site.)

The field days – well received by participants – were the result of cooperation among the Definite Plan Team, IID staff and Valley growers and landowners. Specifically, the Team wishes to thank the following people for their cooperation: Alex Jack, Shelvie Crittendon, Wayne Olesh, the J. Emanuelli Farm and IID's IMMU.



Community members eating lunch and discussing water conservation technologies with project team members at the November 8 Showcase Technologies Field Day



Community members viewing the posters at the end of the tour at the November 8 Showcase Technologies Field Day



Community members discussing IID system improvements with project team members at the November 14 Field Day



Community members discussing IID system improvements with project team members at a site on the Malva I tour at the November 14 Field Day



Community members discussing IID system improvements with project team members at a site on the Malva 1 tour at the November 14 Field Day