



APG 2026 Grower Participation & Innovation Opportunities

Helping growers evaluate tools, solve real problems, and improve profitability.

American Pistachio Growers is offering a range of participation opportunities that help growers evaluate real solutions under real orchard conditions. These programs are designed to support better decision-making, improve operational efficiency, and strengthen both the economic and environmental sustainability of pistachio production. APG helps growers assess the value of new tools and technologies, connects them with the right partners, and provides support throughout the evaluation process.

Ultimately, these opportunities exist to help growers increase profitability and reduce risk, while continuing to advance responsible resource management.

1. APG Orchard Advancement Consultation & Vendor Matching

Start here — APG helps growers review their practices and connect with tools or vendors that fit their operation.

APG offers a customized orchard consultation to evaluate irrigation strategy, soil and nutrient challenges, pest pressure, canopy structure, and operational goals. From there, APG connects growers with appropriate technologies, agronomic tools, and Associate Member partners that match their needs.

This service reduces risk, saves time, and ensures growers focus on solutions with the highest potential return.

2. Regional IPM Participation (West Fresno County & Modesto Only)

Join a regional NOW monitoring effort using DAS, smart traps, and anonymized data-sharing.

Growers in eligible regions can participate in a UC Riverside / Washington State University **Decision Aid System (DAS)** project that uses automated smart traps to refine NOW timing and regional movement insights.

Participation includes streamlined sharing of:

- Neighborhood damage data
- Sanitation observations
- Pesticide Use Report (PUR) information
- All anonymized and aggregated automatically

Growers receive:

- DAS timing advisories
- Crop phenology modeling and forecasting
- Regional NOW movement analytics
- Product bonus discounts for participation
- Additional agronomic support from APG's technical advisor and grower coordinator

This program improves spray timing and strengthens regional understanding of NOW behavior.

3. Sustainable Spray Technologies

SmartApply® • On-Target® • WeedSeeker® 2

Evaluate precision spray systems using APG's templates to quantify savings and impact.

Growers can participate in structured spray technology demonstrations that evaluate SmartApply®, On-Target® electrostatic spraying, and WeedSeeker® 2 optical weed control.

APG will:

- Set up demonstrations directly with the appropriate equipment providers
- Help growers calculate savings using standardized templates
- Assist growers in interpreting operational and economic results and payoffs

These tools may reduce material use, improve coverage, and increase efficiency — and this is an opportunity to evaluate them under real orchard conditions.

4. Variable Rate Application (VRA) Demonstrations

Target amendments where they are needed most — improving weak areas and reducing unnecessary spending in stronger areas.

Growers can evaluate variable-rate gypsum, compost, lime, or fertilizer applications to manage orchard variability more precisely. This approach helps:

- Strengthen underperforming zones
- Reduce unneeded inputs in strong areas
- Improve consistency across the ranch
- Maximize return on amendment investments

Growers apply materials using their own operators; APG provides evaluation support and interpretation.

5. Cover Cropping & Carbon Sequestration Opportunities

A. Custom Cover Crop Program

Growers can work with cover crop experts to design mixes tailored to orchard-specific challenges including:

- Infiltration
- Soil structure
- Salinity movement
- Carbon building
- Overall soil biological activity

B. Oakville Bluegrass 10-Acre Reimbursement Grant + Carbon Study

Growers may also participate in a **10-acre Oakville Bluegrass planting, a highly-unique perennial grass cover crop**, funded through a reimbursement grant, plus a carbon credit economic assessment on the same block.

This helps improve soil health while contributing to emerging carbon valuation models for pistachios.

6. Water Technology Demonstrations (Pre-SWEEP Readiness)

Evaluate irrigation technologies that support water efficiency and prepare your system for future SWEEP funding cycles.

APG firmly intends to apply for the upcoming SWEEP block grants and in effort to prepare for this potential award, will connect growers to irrigation technologies including water monitoring tools, soil moisture platforms, automation systems, and irrigation scheduling technologies.

APG will:

- Assist growers in evaluating which technologies are appropriate
- Pair growers with vetted companies or work with their existing vendors
- Help growers prepare their systems for SWEEP-eligible upgrades
- Provide support from planning through pre-application readiness

These technologies can improve timing, efficiency, and SGMA-related water management.

7. WaterOne.AI — GSA & Water Communications Tools

Stay ahead of water decisions that affect your ranch — without attending every meeting.

<https://gsa.waterone.ai/>

WaterOne.AI offers growers a suite of tools that track over 100 GSA and irrigation district meetings. To help growers stay on top of SGMA, WaterOne shares critical updates on policy decisions, water prices, recharge opportunities, allocation forecasts, and more.

Through “ChatGSA” and short virtual updates, growers receive the most relevant local water information in a format that’s easy to act on. Participation simply involves signing up and engaging with tools designed to help plan and protect your water future.

This is one of the easiest, highest-value services APG can put into growers’ hands.

8. Weather Tools Forecasting Study (Limited to 5 Growers)

Evaluate advanced precipitation and snowpack forecasting — and support APG’s water advocacy efforts.

APG is coordinating a five-grower pilot with **Weather Tools** (Rob Doornbos) to evaluate long-range forecasting accuracy and its usefulness for planning irrigation, disease management, and recharge timing.

Grower feedback will help APG advocate for improved forecasting methods at the state and federal levels.

9. Ag-Tech Tools & Sensor Evaluations

Robotics • Advanced Analytics • Drone Imagery • Dendrometers • Nanobubbles

Participate in specialty technology evaluations identified through agricultural technology alliances and innovation partners.

These tools address specialized challenges in stress detection, infiltration, canopy visibility, and irrigation optimization.

APG helps growers:

- Pair growers with ag tech providers
- Understand what the tools measure
- Interpret results
- Determine whether technologies “measure what matters” for pistachios

Companies handle installation and technical support; APG helps growers navigate the analytics and practicality.

10. Carbonic Acid Irrigation Trial (One Slot Remaining)

Participate in a Fresno State soil research project evaluating carbonic acid for infiltration and soil function.

One grower opportunity remains to join a Fresno State research project led by Dr. Sangeeta Bansal evaluating carbonic acid as a method to improve infiltration and health in pistachio soils.

Growers participate in this research with support from Eco2Mix and advisory guidance from APG.

11. Specialty Fertilizer & Nutrient Optimization Connections

APG connects growers with nutrient programs that may offer better agronomic or economic fit.

Growers can explore enhanced-efficiency fertilizers, specialty blends, and alternative nutrient programs. APG introduces growers to companies offering these strategies and helps growers think through evaluation criteria — without dictating agronomic programs.

12. Agronomic Products, Biostimulants & Crop Care Solutions

Biological Insecticides • Softer Chemistries • Biostimulants • Reflectants

Explore agronomic inputs with APG guidance on small-block evaluation design.

This includes tools such as Spear-Lep, lime sulfur, Oxidate 5.0, Sierra Naturals, biostimulants, and reflectants (kaolin, CaCO₃, TiO₂) and many others.

Growers who apply reflectant products using APG's methodology may be able to participate in nonstructural carbohydrate (NSC) sampling to evaluate effects on heat mitigation and tree physiology and yield.

13. Rospec Insights – Strategic Farm Financial Planning & Analytics

Turn your agronomic and financial data into clear budgets, operational plans, and decision-ready dashboards.

APG is offering growers access to Rospec Insights, led by Nick Rosa, to help bring together all components of farm financials and agronomic performance into a unified analytical framework.

Rospec specializes in transforming farm records, cost structures, yield histories, and operational

data into Power BI dashboards and financial tools that support accurate budgeting, scenario planning, and long-term decision-making.

Growers can take advantage of:

- Free initial consultations arranged through APG
- Customized budgeting tools
- Cash-flow mapping and multi-year planning
- Integration of agronomic benchmarks into financial models
- Operational performance dashboards built around *your* ranch
- Insights that help growers identify cost drivers, ROI opportunities, and risk exposures

This service helps growers understand the true economics of their operation, evaluate practice changes with confidence, and create strategic plans grounded in real numbers — not guesswork.

APG coordinates the introduction and supports growers throughout the process to ensure the planning tools fit pistachio-specific needs.

14. Irrigation System Assessment

Identify inefficiencies, improve water delivery, and strengthen orchard performance through a full irrigation system evaluation.

APG is offering growers the opportunity to receive support in conducting **irrigation system assessments** to identify issues such as clogged emitters, pressure variation, flow inconsistencies, pump performance decline, and system wear that can reduce water efficiency and impact yield.

Through this opportunity, growers can:

- Evaluate pressure and flow consistency across blocks
- Identify zones receiving inadequate or excessive water
- Improve overall system performance and irrigation timing
- Strengthen SGMA reporting and groundwater management
- Prepare systems for future SWEEP upgrades
- Understand how irrigation delivery affects tree stress and productivity

APG helps growers coordinate the assessment and interpret findings so they can prioritize repairs, upgrades, or management changes. Improving irrigation performance often delivers one of the quickest economic returns in an orchard.

15. Grower-Proposed Projects & New Ideas

If there's something we haven't covered — bring it to us. APG will explore it with you.

APG recognizes that some of the best innovations come directly from growers. If you're facing a challenge, considering a new technology, testing a product, or exploring a practice that isn't listed here, we want to hear about it. APG is committed to supporting grower-initiated ideas by helping evaluate new tools, coordinating small-scale trials, connecting you with the right partners, or building a collaborative study around your concept.

Our goal is simple: if it can help growers become more productive, profitable, or resilient, we want to help you explore it — and develop insights that benefit the broader pistachio community.

APG is committed to building a stronger, more resilient pistachio industry by working directly with growers to evaluate tools, technologies, and practices that improve profitability and long-term sustainability. These opportunities are designed to put practical solutions in your hands, reduce uncertainty, and support better decision-making across every aspect of orchard management.

If any of these programs interest you — or if you'd like to explore something not listed here — we're ready to work with you. Your participation helps drive innovation across the industry, and APG is here to support you every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued leadership and engagement.



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