



Irrigated Lands Program Limited Resource Growers Self-Determination Tool Guide

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Limited Resource Growers Self-Determination Tool Summary

This document provides instruction to growers on how to use the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Self Determination Tool and the information is necessary to submit to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) to qualify as a “Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher”.

As defined by the USDA, the term “Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher” means a participant:

- With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

Under Order No. R3-2021-0040, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Agricultural Order), the Central Coast Water Board recognizes that certain limited resource growers (as defined by the USDA) may have difficulty achieving compliance and will prioritize assistance for these growers, including but not limited to technical assistance, grant opportunities, and necessary flexibility to achieve compliance (Agricultural Order, page 8, paragraph 37).

Please refer to the Agricultural Order for specific requirements:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ag_order4/2021.pdf


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How to Complete the Self-Assessment

Go to the Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher website:

<https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

Select the current Fiscal Year (FY) tool from the sidebar (i.e. FY 2023, as shown)

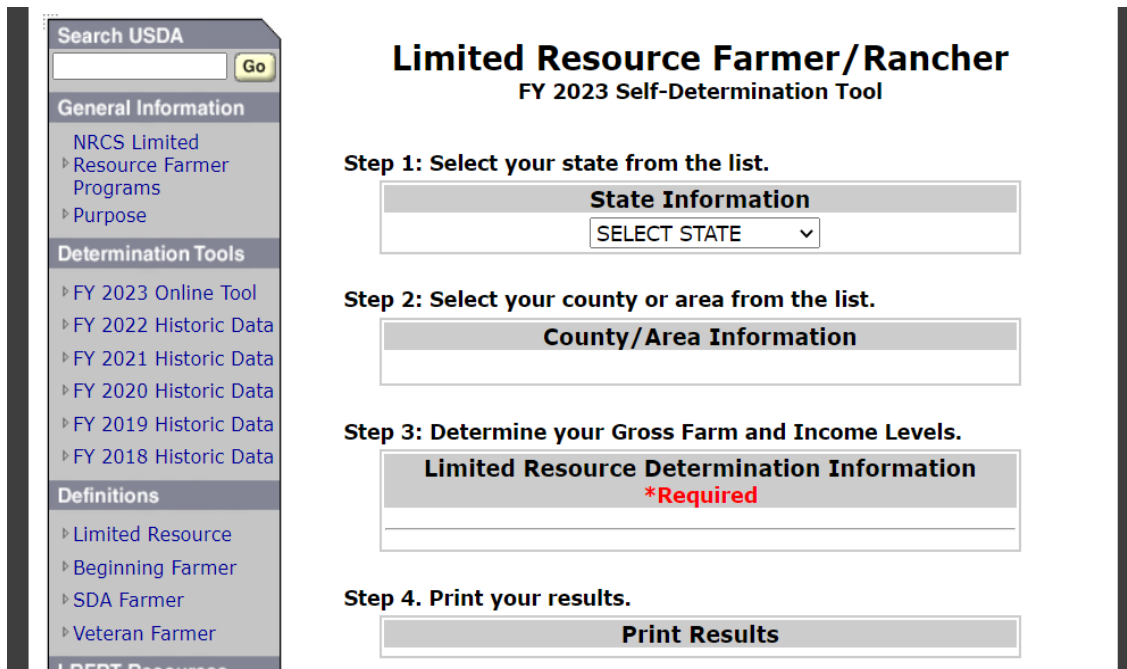


Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Home

The purpose of this program is to ensure that USDA programs are administered in a way that enables small or limited resource farmers to maintain and develop economic viability in farm operations, to ensure USDA financial and technical assistance programs and activities reach small and limited resource farmers and ranchers, and to ensure technical practices and information are relevant to the needs of these farmers and ranchers.

Please use the Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Self-Determination Tool on the left menu to certify your eligibility as a Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher for a particular Federal fiscal year, (October 1 – September 30).

Complete each step shown in the image below:



Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher
FY 2023 Self-Determination Tool

Step 1: Select your state from the list.

State Information

SELECT STATE ▾

Step 2: Select your county or area from the list.

County/Area Information

Step 3: Determine your Gross Farm and Income Levels.

Limited Resource Determination Information
***Required**

Step 4. Print your results.

Print Results

Under “Step 1: Select your state from the list”, select the state that you reside in, or that your ranch is located in.

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Step 1: Select your state from the list.

State Information	
California	▼

Next, “Step 2: Select your county or area from the list”, select the county or area that you live in, or where your ranch is located, consistent with the selection made in the previous step.

Step 2: Select your county or area from the list.

County/Area Information	
SAN LUIS OBISPO	▼

Then for “Step 3: Determine your Gross Farm and Income Levels”, answer both questions by selecting yes or no. Prior years’ tax information will be needed for both questions, including values for Gross Farm Sales and Total Household Income (Adjusted Gross Income Section on IRS form 1040).

An example for San Luis Obispo County is shown below.

Step 3: Determine your Gross Farm and Income Levels.

Limited Resource Determination Information	
*Required	
A. Gross Farm Sales Determination:	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
In each of the tax years 2020 and 2021, was your direct or indirect Gross Farm Sales less than or equal to \$221,200 per year?	*Yes No
B. Adjusted Gross Income Determination:	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
In each of the tax years 2020 and 2021, was your Total Household Income less than the SAN LUIS OBISPO County "County/Area Value" of \$41,805 ?	*Yes No
Total Household Income is defined as Adjusted Gross Income for all members in your household or the amount you entered on IRS Form 1040, Adjusted Gross Income Section. See IRS Web Site for more information on the IRS form. For FY 2023 Programs, this should be compared with your Adjusted Gross Income for 2020 and 2021.	
County/Area Value is calculated as the higher of the National Poverty level or 50% of the County/Area Median Household Income.	

The “County/Area Value” is the National Poverty level or 50% of the Median Household Income for the county selected, whichever is higher.

Finally, “Step 4: Print your results.” Select “Print Results” to view USDA Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher FY Program Status / Income Determination. Select “Print” again to print and/or save a copy. Select “Close” when complete.

Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Determination Information x

**USDA
Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher
FY2023 Program Status**

Verification Date: 4/10/2023

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California

Income Determination	
Gross Farm Sales for 2020 and 2021:	is less than or equal to \$221,200 per year
Adjusted Gross Income:	is less than \$41,805
Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Status:	Based on your answers to the two questions: You ARE ELIGIBLE to qualify as a Limited Resource Producer. You may be required to provide sufficient documentation to verify your claim.

Print

Close

How to Submit a Self-Assessment to the Irrigated Lands Program

The Central Coast Water Board will only accept results received by email or mail.

Growers with an Email Address:

Send results as a PDF attachment to the Irrigated Lands Program:
agNOI@waterboards.ca.gov.

Include the Operation ID (AW#) and “Limited Resource Farmer Self Determination Results” in the subject line. For example, “AW9999 Limited Resource Farmer Self Determination Results.” In the email body, describe in a few sentences the flexibility needed to comply with the Agricultural Order requirements.
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Growers without an Email Address:

Mail a copy of printed results to:

Central Coast Water Board

Attn: Irrigated Lands Program

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 100

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Include the Operation ID (AW#), a few sentences describing the flexibility needed to comply with the Agricultural Order requirements, and the best telephone number(s) to be reached at.

As described in the Agricultural Order, necessary flexibility to achieve compliance may include “adjusted monitoring, reporting, or time schedules.” Please be prepared to discuss the flexibility needed with Irrigated Lands Program staff.

To locate the Operation ID (AW #):

- 1) Log in to GeoTracker: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/login>
- 2) Select “[Edit Ranch Info]”

NAME OF OPERATION	
EDIT OPERATION INFORMATION	
RANCH / FARM NAME	ADDRESS
EDIT RANCH INFO	RANCH ADDRESS/LOCATION

- 3) Locate the AW #is at the top, after the operation name :

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM - NOTICE OF	
Name of Operation:	Name of Operation (AWXXXX) - \
Ranch Name:	<input type="text" value="Ranch Name"/>

Additional Resources

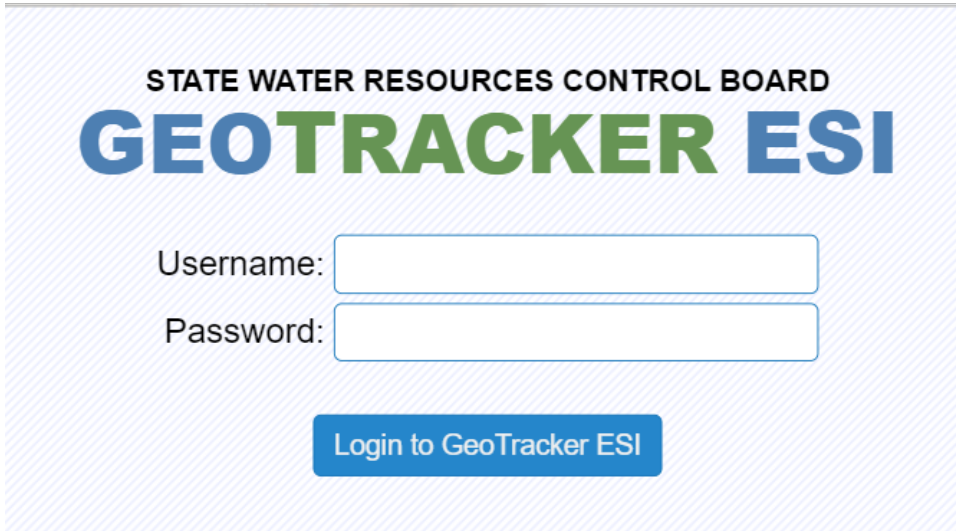
Growers with a language barrier and/or a technology barrier may also have difficulty meeting Agricultural Order requirements. The following sections provide further information, resources, and instructions to help growers in these circumstances.

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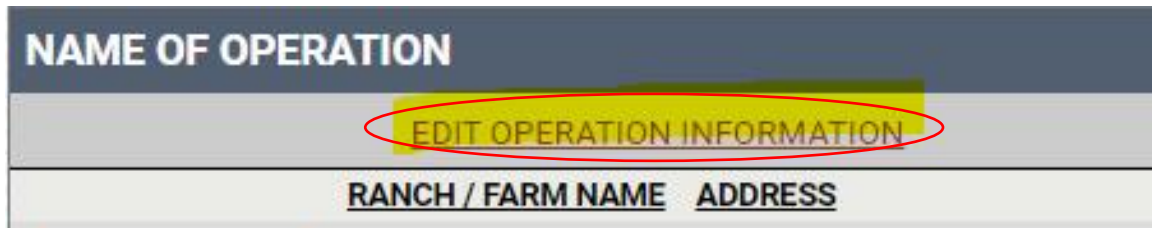
Language Barriers

Growers whose primary language is not English can receive Irrigated Lands Program information in their language by choosing a language preference in GeoTracker.:

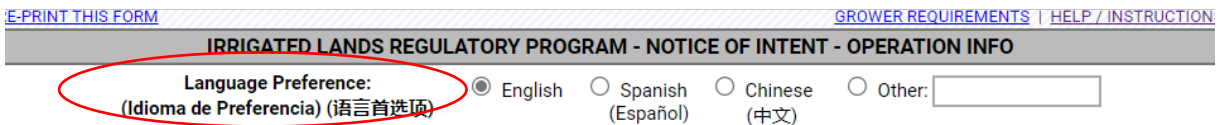
- 1) Log in to GeoTracker: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/login>



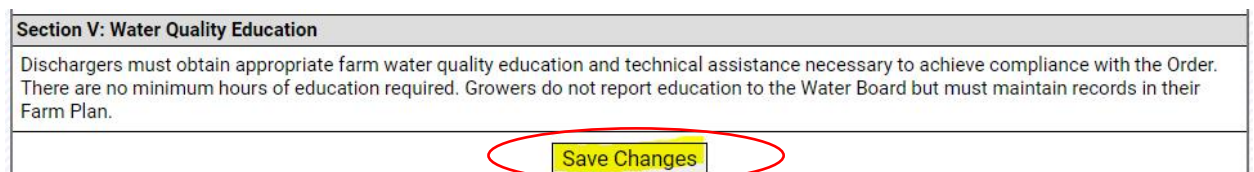
- 2) Select “[EDIT OPERATION INFORMATION]”



- 3) At the top of the form, where it says “Language Preference”, select the preferred language. If the language is not listed, select “Other” and enter the language.



- 4) After the language preference is selected, select “Save Changes” at the bottom of the form.



Technology and Broadband Barriers

Growers who do not have internet connection, or who need additional help with GeoTracker can:

- Schedule an appointment to meet with Irrigated Lands Program staff in person at the San Luis Obispo office.
- Attend a local grower assistance workshop.
- Work with a technical assistance provider or private industry consultant list on the Irrigated lands Program website:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/technical_assistance.html or.
- Use a computer and/or internet connection at a local library, community college, etc.

If additional assistance is needed, please contact the Irrigated Lands Program at AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov or (805) 549-3148.