

FREE Water Management Classes

The San Benito County Water District, acting as the lead agency, secured a grant through the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Field Services Program. This program is available to water agencies that contract with the USBR. Contractors compete for grant funds by submitting proposals that focus on the efficient use of water. Each proposal is evaluated and only those that are deemed to have the greatest chance of success are funded. This award will help fund water management classes for agricultural water customers, urban landscape professionals and residential water users. Instructors from the Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo will come to our county to provide instruction. These classes will be coordinated and partially funded by the Water Resources Association San Benito County. **All classes are free to the public.**

Ag Customers -February 1-5 (5-days of instruction)

Basic Soil, Plant & Water Relationships-Agriculture (1 day)

Texture and structure
Water holding capacity, retention
Intake rates
Evaporation
Transpiration
Soils classification
Measurement of soil moisture and tension

Irrigation Scheduling Salinity & Drainage (2 days)

ET_o and crop coefficients
Practical irrigation scheduling
How efficiency and uniformity influence scheduling
Drainage concepts and layouts
Salinity
Leaching requirements, reclamation

Ag waiver credits: 14 hours

Basic Pipeline Hydraulics (2 days)

Pipe materials & sizes
Energy equation, friction, elevation changes
Basic spreadsheet operations

Landscape Professionals December 9th-11th (3 days of instruction)

Basic Soil, Plant & Water Relationships (1 day)

Soil texture and structure
Water holding capacity
Retention, intake rates
Evaporation
Transpiration
Measurement of soil moisture and tension

Landscape Irrigation Auditor (2 days)

Prepares landscape professionals to perform site inspections, evaluate irrigation systems, and develop efficient irrigation schedules for drip, bubbler microspray and sprinkler systems. Benefits from audits include water and cost savings, as well as improved landscape health and appearance.

Residential Customers May 2010 (exact dates to be announced in January 2010)

Residents will learn how to select drought tolerant and native plants for San Benito County. Planting techniques and irrigation strategies will also be discussed.

An irrigation professional will demonstrate how to efficiently design/retrofit landscape irrigation systems using drip, micro and spray heads. This workshop will also demonstrate some of the newer and innovative irrigation technologies.

All classes are limited to 20 students and are available on a first come, first serve basis. Lunch or snacks will be provided at each class. Specific dates will be announced in the local newspapers and through associated agencies and water providers.

For more information call:

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