

Almond Board announces \$2.5M research commitment

Published on 06/25/2015 - 1:55 pm

Written by Business Journal Staff

[0 Comments](#)

The Almond Board of California (ABC) today announced a commitment to spend \$2.5 million on independent, third party research into next-generation farming practices.

The financial commitment, stated a release issued by ABC, "is part of an ongoing effort by the almond community to develop innovative production practices that lead to continued improvement in efficient and sustainable farming."

During the last two decades, industry-funded research overseen by ABC has allowed farmers to reduce the amount of water they use per pound of almonds by 33 percent and has also helped develop orchard practices that better promote healthy environments for honeybees.

"We've made great strides in building a sustainable industry over the past 40 years," said Almond Board CEO Richard Waycott. "Because of the industry's commitment to research and efficiency, growers use 33% less water to grow a pound of almonds than they did two decades ago."

"Today's investment will fuel the next round of innovation to ensure we continue to grow healthy, nutritious food while improving water efficiency and continuing to protect our pollination partners," Waycott added.

Among the 56 proposals that were approved for funding are 13 water projects and nine honeybee health projects.

Two committees of almond growers and processors as well as a research advisory committee of independent experts who assessed the proposals for scientific merit selected the projects from over 70 proposals.

The research is funded through an assessment paid on each pound of almonds produced.

Established in 1950 and based in Modesto, the Almond Board of California is a nonprofit organization that administers a grower-enacted Federal Marketing Order under the supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture.

[inShare](#)