

Fresno State study says drought causes \$3.3 billion in farm losses

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The state's historic drought has hit the San Joaquin Valley hard, with farm losses estimated at \$3.3 billion, an increase in health issues and a decline in income, according to a Fresno State study released Thursday.

The report, funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation, was the work of a team of faculty members with expertise in water, economics, public health and engineering.

Fresno State faculty and administrators unveiled the report amid a backdrop of dry and dusty fields on the campus farm.

Provost Lynette Zelezny, who directed the study, said the goal was to produce data on the drought's impact on the San Joaquin Valley and use that data to develop possible solutions.

Among the recommendations made in the report is the development of a water budget for all users and recognize the true value of water and price it accordingly.

This story will be updated.