

California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP) Bee Friendly Farming Report



This confidential report was prepared for:

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Assessment Year: 2020

Full confidentiality is maintained for all information provided and generated this report. Individual assessment results have not been shared with other individuals or organizations.

1. Offer forage providing good nutrition for bees on at least 3%* of land. Forage can be temporary, including crops and cover crops.
2. Provide bloom of different flowering plants throughout the growing season, especially in early spring and late autumn. There is no minimum land coverage for seasonal bloom.
3. If not inhibited by government mandated water restrictions, offer clean water for bees.
4. Provide habitat for nesting through features such as hedgerows, natural brush, buffer strips, or bare ground.
5. Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM); reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals.

Go to <https://www.pollinator.org/bff/bff-us> to learn more or choose [Apply for BFF Certification](#) to fill out the application. On the application page, attach the PDF report from Step 1 in the "About You" section for "Existing Audit Files" (see example below).

Choose Almonds for Production

Choose California Almond Sustainability Program

Attach the PDF Report for your orchard

Primary Production *
Almonds

Existing Certifications
California Almond Sustainability Program

Recent audit information from other qualifying certifications your farm holds can be submitted in place of the rest of this form. Qualifying certifications are listed in the dropdown box above. If you hold a certification that is not listed above, please contact isaac@pollinator.org for assistance.

Existing Audit Files *
Browse Files

In Confirmation and Payment enter the coupon code CASP2021. This coupon is provided by the Almond Board and will waive your certification fee for the first year.

Enter coupon
CASP2021 Apply

Summary

Location	Acres	Eligibility Status	BFF 1	BFF 2	BFF 3	BFF 4	BFF 5
Vilas Farms	16	Eligible	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sum of Eligible Acres	16						

California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP) Bee Friendly Farming Report

Rod Vilas rod@vilasfarms.com

Business Name: Vilas Business Unit Name: Vilas

Vilas Farms (16 Acres Stanislaus County) details part 1

Assessment Year: 2020 Status: Eligible

Criteria 1: Offer forage providing good nutrition for bees on at least 3%* of land. Forage can be temporary, including crops and cover crops.

Evaluation: Yes

Question 49 on cover cropping for pollinators must be "Yes" to meet BFF 1 (3% land requirement).

BFF #1 is automatically calculated in CASP depending on presence of cover crop in your orchard. However, permanent vegetation and/or cover crop grown next to your orchard might also qualify if they are greater than 3% of your land size. If your farm meets all other BFF criteria AND you think you may still qualify for BFF #1, please contact Miles Dakin at Pollinator Partnership (miles@pollinator.org) to help determine your certification eligibility.

CASP Bee Health and Pollination Module Questions	Response
47. Cover crop (resident ground cover or planted) was intentionally grown between orchard rows.	Yes
48. The ground cover was a planted cover crop.	Yes
49. The cover crop was recommended for providing forage to pollinators (e.g., mustards, clovers, vetch and/or wildflowers).	Yes

Criteria 2: Provide bloom Of different flowering plants throughout the growing season, especially in early spring And late autumn. There is no minimum land coverage for seasonal bloom.

Evaluation: Yes

Question 45 on hedgerows Or question 46 on adjacent vegetation must be yes to meet BFF 2 (bloom requirement).

CASP Bee Health and Pollination Module Questions	Response
45. Hedgerows of flowering shrubs, such as coyote brush, were maintained along at least some edges of the farm or facility to provide alternative nutrition sources for managed and native pollinators and pest natural enemies.	Yes
46. Vegetation was maintained on or adjacent to the farm or facility that provided pollen and nectar sources for pollinator bees before and/or after almond bloom (includes nutritional ground cover).	Yes

Criteria 3: If not inhibited by government mandated water restrictions, offer clean water for bees.

Evaluation: Yes

Question 09 on available water and 27 (if applicable) must be yes to meet BFF 3 (clean water for bees).

CASP Bee Health and Pollination Module Questions	Response
09. Abundant potable water, free from contamination, was provided for bees.	Yes
27. Water sources for pollinator bees were covered before or replaced after pesticide applications.	Yes

Criteria 4: Provide habitat for nesting through features such as hedgerows, natural brush, or buffer strips.

Evaluation: Yes

Question 45 on hedgerows or question 46 on adjacent vegetation must be yes to meet BFF 4 (habitat requirement).

CASP Bee Health and Pollination Module Questions	Response
45. Hedgerows of flowering shrubs, such as coyote brush, were maintained along at least some edges of the farm or facility to provide alternative nutrition sources for managed and native pollinators and pest natural enemies.	Yes
46. Vegetation was maintained on or adjacent to the farm or facility that provided pollen and nectar sources for pollinator bees before and/or after almond bloom (includes nutritional ground cover).	Yes

California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP) Bee Friendly Farming Report

Rod Vilas rod@vilasfarms.com

Business Name: **Vilas** Business Unit Name: **Vilas**

Vilas Farms (16 Acres Stanislaus County) details part 2

Assessment Year: **2020** Status: **Eligible**

Criteria 5: Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM); reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals.

Evaluation: Yes

The Bee Friendly Farming IPM requirement is evaluated using 11 CASP questions. If monitored by a PCA, question 15, then every question must be "Yes" or "Not applicable". If not monitored by a PCA, then question 18 can be blank.

CASP Bee Health and Pollination Module Questions	Response
12. Arrangements were made with the beekeeper about which pesticides could be applied if daytime applications were necessary while hives were present; if an application(s) was necessary, the beekeeper was provided with 48-hour advance notice.	Yes
13. Which, and when during the day, pesticides could be applied while hives were present were communicated to the person responsible for pesticide recommendations, as well as the applicator.	Yes
15. The orchard was monitored by a licensed PCA for insects, mites, diseases and pest natural enemies (i.e., beneficials) at least once every two weeks during the growing season. (Note: diseases should be monitored weekly during bloom and spring.)	Yes
18. Scouting data, university guidelines and practical experience were used to design and implement management strategies for insects, mites and diseases.	Yes
21. To determine necessary fungicides, rates and timings, disease symptoms were monitored weekly prior to and during bloom, and throughout spring, until weather was no longer conducive for disease development.	Yes
23. Pesticides were not used during bloom that had label cautions "highly toxic to bees", "toxic to bees," "residual times" or "extended residual toxicity."	Yes
25. During bloom, necessary fungicides (or <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>) were applied in the late afternoon or evening when bees and pollen were not present.	Yes
30. If effective alternatives existed, broad-spectrum insecticides and acaricides, such as pyrethroids, organophosphates and carbamates, were not used because of their potential negative effects on beneficial and nontarget organisms.	Yes
34. Air blast and/or aerial applications only occurred when winds were between 2 and 8 mph (minimizes drift from inversions and wind).	Yes
43. Spraying near waterways (e.g., creeks or irrigation canals) or other sensitive sites (e.g., residences, schools, pollinator and pest natural enemy habitat) was discontinued when winds blew in the direction of these sites.	Yes
44. When operating air blast sprayers next to open or sensitive sites (e.g., aquatic areas, residences, schools, pollinator and pest natural enemy habitat), the two rows directly adjacent to these sites were sprayed on the outer side only (i.e., to direct spray into the orchard).	Yes