

San Diego County Water Authority Agricultural Water Management Program Evaluation

Presented by:
San Diego County Water Authority
and Maddaus Water Management, Inc.



Project Goals

Answer the following questions:

- What were the pre- and post-audit water consumption patterns?
- How much water has this program saved?
- Can the program implementation process be improved?

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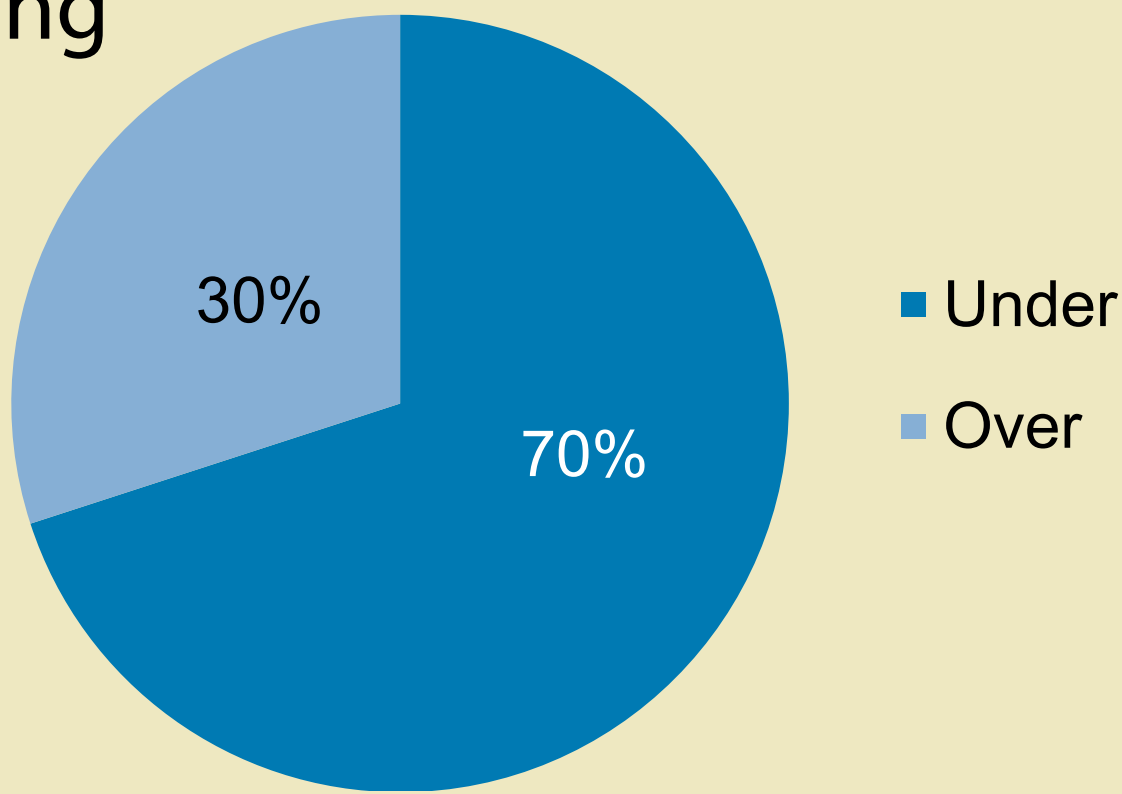
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Pre-Audit Water Consumption

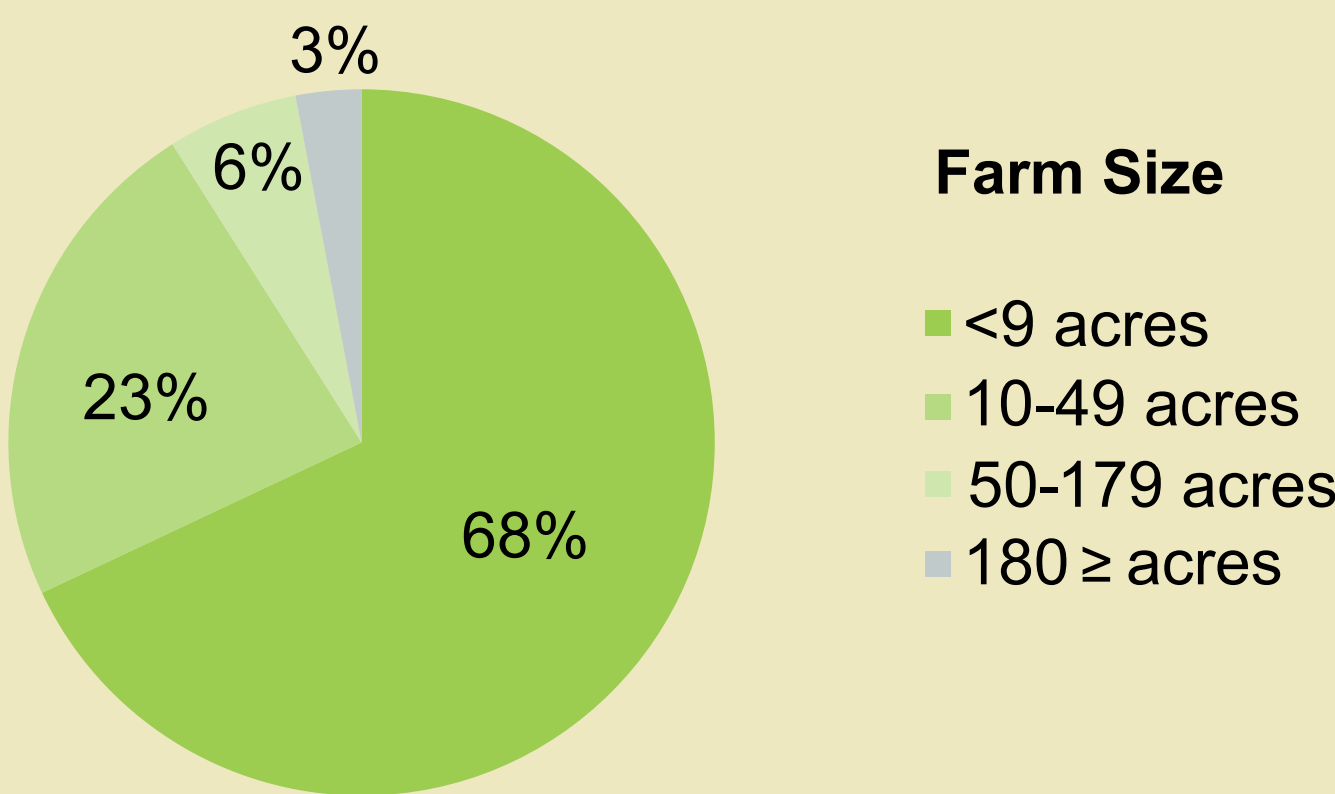
Overwatering vs. Underwatering

Pre-audit 70% under-watered
and 30% over-watered



It's a Family Affair

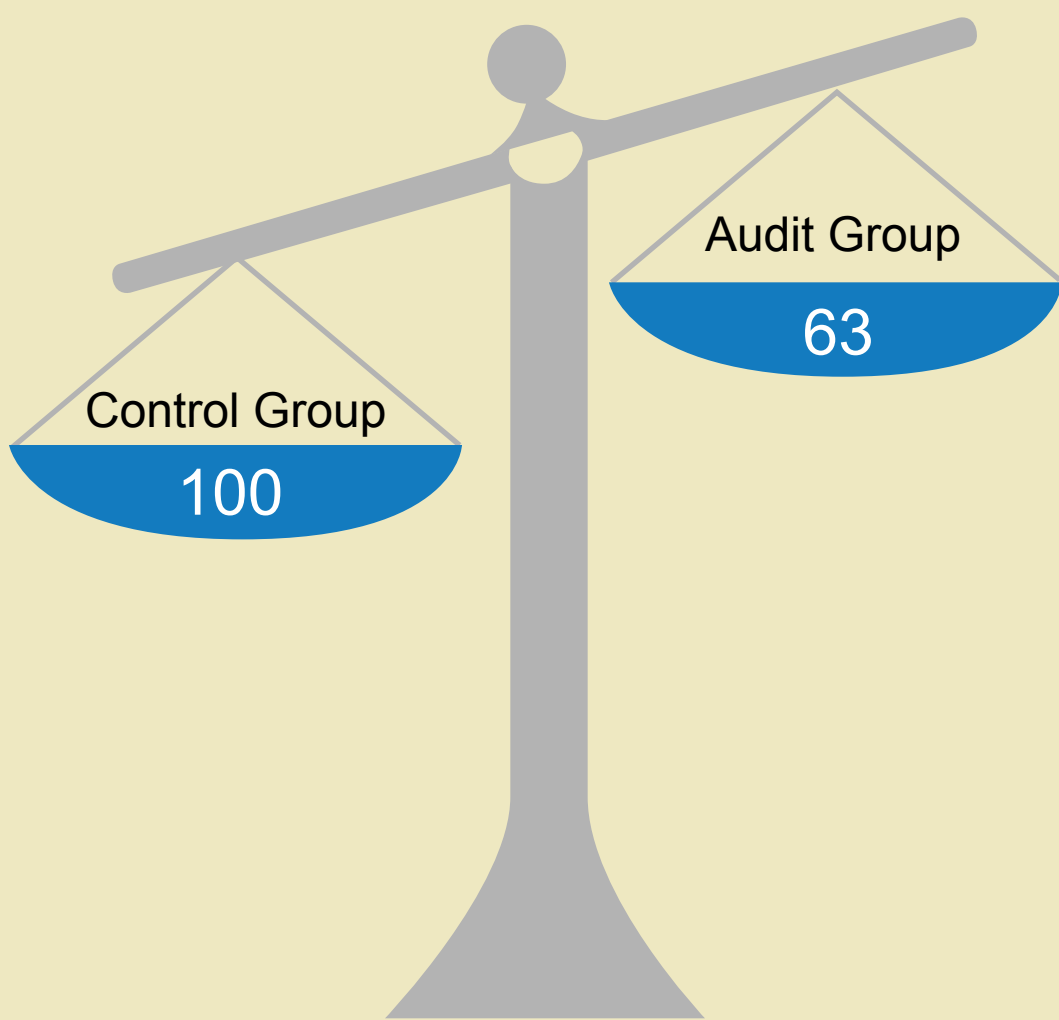
- 92% of San Diego County farms are family owned
- 91% are less than 50 acres



Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture, USDA

Audit and Control Group Comparison

- 63 audited sites
- 100 non-audited sites (control group)



Results/The Good News

- 60% of farms decreased water use post audit, for program saving of 1.4 acre-feet per year.
- Mission Resource Conservation District, an outside consultant, provided the farms with agriculture expertise, educating farmers on how to use water more efficiently and increase crop production.
- Opportunity for customer cost reduction through water use reduction.
- Minor adjustments to the audit delivery method could improve program effectiveness.

