

February 22, 2010

Report finds that Co-management approach on farmland is optimal path to ensure safe produce and ecological health

The Nature Conservancy recently produced *Safe and Sustainable*, a report for Georgetown's University's Produce Safety Project; which was developed with support from more than 35 expert advisors representing many facets of the agricultural industry—from small and mid-scale growers to shippers and buyers—as well as government agencies, environmental non-profits, the legal world and academia.

The report sheds light on the causes and consequences of food safety practices in California's Central:

- What's happening on farms today
- What's driving these changes
- And, the best path forward

Farmers and landowners in California's Central Coast are recognized leaders in natural resource conservation efforts. However, new food safety requirements are putting enormous pressure on some growers to reverse more than 20 years of resource conservation investments. Yet, throughout the development of the report, growers stated their continued commitment to produce safe food, their desire to be excellent stewards of natural resources, and their belief that they can do both well – if food safety programs allow them to effectively integrate resource conservation practices.

“Our goal in preparing *Safe and Sustainable* was simple: to bring the best available information—and the right mix of people—together to address critical challenges to protecting our food supply and the environment.” said Christina Fischer, Monterey Project Director for The Nature Conservancy in California. “Producing safe and nutritious fruits and vegetables is essential for public health. So too are grower's efforts to safeguard natural resources such as clean water, clean air, and healthy ecosystems. Success means that growers have what they need to do both well.”

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The report is now available online at <http://www.producesafetyproject.org>.

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