

AgOrder - new regulations

From: Steve Christian <binyodi@yahoo.com>
To: <AgOrder@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 1/3/2011 10:16 AM
Subject: new regulations
CC: steve <binyodi@yahoo.com>, <kris@vineyardteam.org>

I am writing about the proposed irrigation regulations. I farm 25 acres of head trained, dry farmed Zinfandel grapes. If I think the year will be very rainy, I plant a cover crop of legumes(2009, 2005) I use minimal inputs into the growing of my grapes. I do not irrigate as I am dry farmed, so I am wondering why I am being put into Tier 1 of the program and will be forced to fill out many many forms, attend 15 hours of classes per year to stay updated on irrigation practices that I don't need? This means two days without pay, the cost of the classes and any travel or lodging that the classes may entail. For a small family farm these added costs will be difficult accept, especially as I already work two jobs to keep the farm afloat.

Steve Christian