



## Estero Americano Watershed Rangeland Water Quality Management Project

**Project Description:** The project will assist dairy and livestock operators in the Estero Americano Watershed to develop conservation ranch plans and will fund infrastructure improvements to enhance pasture management and to enhance water quality protection. The RCD and a certified rangeland specialist will work with operators to develop conservation ranch plans. The primary components of conservation ranch plan include: an inventory of production-related resources, operational goal setting, an inventory and assessment of natural resources, identification of potential water quality problems based on resource conditions and current management practices, and a grazing plan. During the planning process, operators will work with a conservation planner to identify best management practices and needed infrastructure improvements such as off-channel water development, cross-fencing, animal walkways, streambank stabilization and riparian pasture development that will result in improved water quality conditions in the watershed. The project will also fund a watershed water quality monitoring program.

All program participants are encouraged to apply for NRCS, EQIP funding in order to provide cost-share for projects funded under this program. Livestock operators with EQIP contracts will receive conservation planning assistance through the NRCS, Petaluma Field Office.

**Project Goals:** 1) To assist dairy and livestock operators in the Estero Americano Watershed reach full compliance with current and future water quality standards, 2) to reduce nutrient pollution and sediment from entering the estuary and its tributaries, and 3) to enhance forage productivity and the economic viability of agriculture in the watershed.

**Project Eligibility Requirements:** All dairy and livestock operators in the Estero Americano Watershed. A Technical Advisor Committee (TAC) will be convened for the project to identify priority conservation areas and management practices.

**Project Budget:**

\$992,694 SWRCB, Proposition 50 Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program and 15% cost-share

**Project Timeline:** January 1, 2007 through April 1, 2010

**Project Manager:**

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