

The Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995
Food and Agricultural Code Sections 560-568

Declarations:

1. California agriculture significantly contributes to the economy and the ecosystem.
2. Environmental laws should be based on the best scientific evidence gathered from public and private sources.
3. Best scientific evidence should include the net environmental impact provided by agriculture.
4. Additional research is necessary to adequately inventory the impact that agriculture has on the environment.
5. Recognition should be afforded to agricultural activities that produce a net benefit for the environment.

Overview:

1. CDFA shall establish and oversee an environmental farming program that provides incentives to farmers whose practices promote the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and wildlife and their habitat.
2. CDFA may assist in the compilation of scientific evidence from public and private sources, including the scientific community, industry, conservation organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies identifying the net environmental impacts that agriculture creates for the environment. The department shall serve as the depository of this information and provide it to federal, state, and local governments, as needed.
3. CDFA shall conduct the activities with existing resources.

Panel Membership:

1. Panel members shall be highly qualified and professionally active or engaged in the conduct of scientific research.
2. Members shall serve a term of three years.
3. The Secretary of CDFA shall appoint three members
 - a. At least one of these members shall have a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of agriculture and shall represent production agriculture.
4. The Secretary of Cal/EPA shall appoint one member who has a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of human health or environmental science.
5. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall appoint one member who has a minimum of five years of training and experience in the field of resource management.
6. The Panel may establish ad hoc committees

Panel Duties:

1. The secretary shall convene a five-member Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming ("The Panel").

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2. The Panel will advise and assist federal, state, and local government agencies on issues relating to air, water, and wildlife by:
 - a. Reviewing data on the impact that agriculture has on the environment and
 - i. Recommending to appropriate state agencies data that the panel approves as scientifically valid.
 1. A state agency that receives data recommended by the panel may adopt and incorporate the data into the appropriate program.
 2. If a state agency does not utilize the data recommended by the panel, it shall provide the panel with a written statement of reasons for not utilizing the data.
 - ii. Assisting government agencies to incorporate benefits into environmental regulatory programs.
 - b. Compiling the net environmental impacts that agriculture creates for the environment
 - c. Researching, reviewing, and commenting on data upon which proposed environmental policies and regulatory programs are based to:
 - i. Ensure that the environmental impacts of agricultural activities are accurately portrayed and
 - ii. To identify incentives that may be provided to encourage agricultural practices with environmental benefits.