

How do I fill out interview form? - who is recipient?
Not entered.

1/ 11 Agriculture Interview at IV Agriculture Dept.
with Miguel Monroy and Steven Birdsall

Response to: What things would you want the general public to know?

- Diversity of crops.
- Produce is grown year-round.
- There is an abundance of water available for the Imperial Valley.
- Good location because they are near California markets and they can receive produce from the south.
- The land itself (suggesting the beauty of the land).
- Good labor source.
- Good economic impact.
- Good history of agriculture.

1. How much profit does the actual grower see from his crops?
SSDP needs to look at the "gross figures" to answer this question.

2. What types of fees do farmers pay?

Some fees incurred by farmers is from the inspection done by Imperial County Agriculture Department. This is a voluntary programs that growers can participate in. Their produce goes through this inspection, if produce passes it is certified. If produce has this "certification" it can be sold in a larger market.

3. Do the farmers feel threatened by the restoration of the Sea?

The thing that farmers are threatened by is the total maximum density load (TMDL) that is being released from their crop waters into the Sea.

It needs to be understood that the drains carry water flushed from soil, and there is natural salt in the soil. (they were trying to note that not all salinity comes farming practices)

4. Is it all Agriculture runoff or just Agriculture around the Sea runoff that runs into the Sea?
Runoff is from drainage in each parcel. Each field parcel is tiled. The tiling system starts with a trench, gravel is laid down, and a pipe is then laid down, then more gravel, and topped off with soil.

5. Who are the workers on these farms?

Workers migrate from Northern California during September and October to work in IV during the peak harvest time. Many workers live in IV because of the year-round crops. Some seasonal farmers come up from Mexicali.

6. How many corporation farms are there compared to privately owned farms?

No large corporate farms. Most farms are family owned. There are approximately 400 – 500 industrial farmers. A lot of landowners lease the land, however the land must continue to be farmed. This includes improvement to the land such as ditches, etc.

7. Where is the produce distributed? (Nationwide, Worldwide)

Most of the produce goes to the Pacific Rim, some goes to France, and some is delivered locally.

8. Was there a "Boom and Bust" with Agriculture?

The agricultural industry in the IV has continuously been on an uprise. However, there have been times of "ups and downs." Overall, there has been growth and now it is possibly balancing out.

Crop types have changed since agriculture began in the early 1900s, cotton and citrus were the main produce from the valley.

SSDP should look at the crop reports to review the trends.

The pit bull worm (bollweevil) did have some affect at one point, but the pest has been eradicated.

9. What exactly is in the runoff to the Sea?

The thing that farmers are threatened by is the total maximum density load (TMDL) that is being released from their crop waters into the Sea.

It needs to be understood that the drains carry water flushed from soil, and there is natural salt in the soil. (they were trying to note that not all salinity comes farming practices)

10. Are farmers going to start conserving water now with the Compact?

11. What are the seasonal crops?

12. What are the crops year round?

13. What crops generally use more water?

A couple of the crops that use large amounts of water are Alfalfa and Burmuda. These are year-round crops.

14. How much does each crop bring in?

15. IID has stated that the farmers will have to start conserving water by 20,000 MAF per year, for ten years. How are they going to do this?

16. Will the price of water go up as water conservation intensifies?

17. What are some other water options for farmers?

Colorado River is the only water IV receives.

18. How does irrigation change when conservation starts?

19. What happened to Agriculture when the Sea was formed?

When the dike broke, there was not very much existing agriculture so there was not an extensive effect on the agriculture industry.

20. When did irrigation for Agriculture start?

(question changed slightly to when did ag start) When the All American canal was developed is when ag started strong.

21. Why was the Sea designated as a sump?

22. Are farmers up to date on irrigation practices?

Gravity fed flood irrigation cause salts to build up high on the soil. Sprinklers cause the water (with the sailable salts) to slowly filter down into the ground, thus, there is lower salt amounts in the soil.

Some crops are on drip irrigation such as melons or tree crops.

23. Who are the owners of the farmlands?

. No large corporate farms. Most farms are family owned. There are approximately 400 – 500 industrial farmers. A lot of landowners lease the land, however the land must continue to be farmed. This includes improvement to the land such as ditches, etc.

24. What are some irrigation differences between Coachella and Imperial farmers?

Coachella uses mostly drip irrigation because they have more tree crops. IV can't grow the same crops because of the soil types and they are in a flood zone.

25. What are the pros and cons of flood irrigation?

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Some crops are on drip irrigation such as melons or tree crops.

26. Are the farmers being fined for too much runoff?

27. What are the problems with Imperial Valley's agricultural run-off and seepage?

The thing that farmers are threatened by is the total maximum density load (TMDL) that is being released from their crop waters into the Sea.

It needs to be understood that the drains carry water flushed from soil, and there is natural salt in the soil. (they were trying to note that not all salinity comes farming practices)

28. Is there any organic farming in Imperial Valley?

Yes

29. How often are fields tested for pests or disease?

The fields are checked daily for pests.

30. Are there problems with pests or diseases in the crops?

There are some problems with pests. IV has a "Pest Protection Program" that helps farmers with their pests. Imperial Valley gets more pests than San Joaquin Valley because many of the pests come up from Mexico.

31. How do you quarantine fields?

32. How many types of conservation programs are currently being used by Imperial Valley and Coachella Valley?

33. Has Imperial Valley changed crop types to help conserve water?