

## Lesson Plan 6.

# Orientation of RWQP Template and Property Information

### Goals/Overview:

Gain an overview of the RWQP Template worksheets and understand how to complete the first Template worksheet.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Gain a general understanding of the RWQP Template worksheets and the flexibility to change worksheets to suit local conditions and specific issues.
2. If a regulatory program is in place, understand which RWQP Template worksheets are necessary for compliance.
3. Communicate the need for attendees to decide who will take responsibility for completing the Template, or divide tasks or worksheets between landowner, tenant, or manager.
4. Communicate potential benefits of completing an RWQP, such as organizing ranch history and future projects, in addition to compliance with water quality regulations.
5. Review benefits of well-managed livestock grazing.

### Introduction/Hook:

- Options are available for how landowners and lessees decide to complete their individual RWQPs and who will be responsible for paperwork.
- Completing the RWQP is less daunting than it might seem, especially with the instruction provided in this series.

### Materials/Speakers:

- Invited speaker and facilitator of discussion would be someone with knowledge in overall ranch management and planning from UCCE, NRCS, RCD, or other relevant organization.
- Instructional video: “[Ranch Water Quality Plan Worksheets Overview](#)” (5 minutes).

- If Water Board staff is in attendance, consider need for further explanations of regulations or regulatory programs.
- Provide copies of [RWQP Template](#). If still in draft stage, provide specific timeline to completion.
- Instructional video: “[Property Information—Worksheet 1](#)” (6 minutes).
- Provide attendees handouts of pertinent resources.

### Time Allocated:

Allow 30 to 40 minutes (20 minutes for presentation and 20 minutes for questions/discussion).

### Procedures/Activities/Strategies/Questions:

- Open with a brief story or anecdote, welcome newcomers, and ask for outstanding questions or concerns.
- Present video: “[Ranch Water Quality Plan Worksheets Overview](#).”
- Discussion of fears, worries, and concerns regarding questions and problems with RWQP Template, process, or approach.
- Share experiences from other watersheds and how RWQP Templates helped to consider, identify, and organize future project opportunities.
- Present video: “[Property Information—Worksheet 1](#).”
- Give participants a homework assignment to complete ([Property Information—Worksheet 1](#)) and ask them to think about their ranch goals in anticipation of [Ranch Goals—Worksheet 2](#).
- Complete the Session Evaluation Form (appendix A).

### Conclusion/Self-assessment:

- Ask participants if the approach and flexibility of the RWQP Template feel realistic and appropriate.

- Encourage participants to decide who (owners, ranch managers, tenants) is responsible for completing an RWQP and submitting forms for applicable regulatory programs.

**Resources:**

Barry, S., W. King, S. Larson, and M. Lennox. 2010. Opportunities to sustain “greener” farming: Comparing impacts of water quality regulations in two catchments: Lake Taupo (NZ) and Tomales Bay, California (USA). Proceedings of the New Zealand Grassland Association 72:17–22. [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water\\_issues/programs/TMDLs/tomalespathogens/TomalesNewZealandBarry.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/tomalespathogens/TomalesNewZealandBarry.pdf)

**Next Steps/Future Lessons:**

- Consider existing locations or projects on a ranch that benefit water quality.
- Encourage participants to discuss previous ranch goals with other ranch managers or owners to understand which were completed successfully or have been replaced by new priorities.
- Participants may need to consult with involved family members and other interested parties to develop ranch goals.