

## Groundwater Recharge Woolf Farming

Woolf Farming strives to be on the forefront of sustainable farming practices, which is why they explored groundwater recharge in response to the wet winter to increase their water supply and improve their water resources for the future.

Daniel Hartwig, director of sustainability at Woolf Farming, said the company recognized that recharge basins offered the most efficient and cost-effective method to do groundwater recharge. Hartwig said the business is receiving groundwater credits, as it would otherwise not be economically feasible to buy the water and put it into the ground.

However, the path to success was not without hurdles. The permitting process took longer than anticipated, but Woolf Farming demonstrated their commitment by doing their due diligence, following up and cooperating with the necessary government agencies.

Fortunately, their perseverance paid off. Existing systems allowed for a quick turnaround and the recharge basin was ready to take water within a week of approval. What made their location in Huron particularly advantageous for recharge was the absence of Corcoran Clay, an impermeable ground layer found throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Using a combination of drip and furrow irrigation for recharge, Woolf Farming took advantage of floodwaters in the spring and is currently recharging over 500 acre-feet of water per week across 360 acres in Huron.

Hartwig's advice to others considering this path is to do a lot of research up front to save both time and money. He encourages others to conduct thorough testing of their own ground to understand local conditions, because something that works well in one area might not work well in another.

In addition to good maintenance, being up to date on all your Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) rules will make this process much easier, he said.

In a region where surface water supplies are limited, the availability of water is constantly under threat due to drought, and infrastructure is stressed, Woolf Farming's commitment to sustainability through groundwater recharge is encouraging for the future of the region.

