



# 2026 Late Summer Farmlands Habitat Program

## GET PAID TO FLOOD YOUR FIELDS!

Provide shallow flooded habitat during the late summer and early fall for migratory shorebirds.

## APPLY HERE

or learn more at  
[birdreturns.org/program/farmlands](https://birdreturns.org/program/farmlands)

**APPLICATION PERIOD: June 1st to June 22nd, 2026 AT 11:59PM**

### Program Requirements:

- **Flooding Acreage:** Minimum of 30 acres
- **Flooding Window:** Provide habitat for 5 weeks between August 31 to October 2
  - **Weeks 1-3:** Shallow flooding of ponded mudflats of max 4 inches.
  - **Weeks 4-5:** Evaporative drawdown
- Enrolled acreage must be fully flooded by the program start date

### Who is eligible?

- Farmers located in the Sacramento Valley and the Sacramento- SanJoaquin Delta regions.
- Row or field crops where mud flats or shallow flooding can be maintained.



BirdReturns is managed by the Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership with support from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.





## Transform your fields into habitat!

The BirdReturns-Late Summer Farmlands program compensates growers for flooding their fields to provide critical habitat for waterbirds during their migration. By managing water depth and timing, private farmlands can meet critical habitat needs for a high diversity of migratory bird species.

### QUESTIONS?

Visit [birdreturns.org](https://birdreturns.org) or contact us at [birds@tnc.org](mailto:birds@tnc.org)

## Why is Late Summer Habitat important?

Migratory shorebirds begin arriving in the Central Valley in July and often have nowhere to stopover on long migrations. With 95% of historic wetlands gone and most ag lands in production during fall migration, there are few places where they can rest and refuel. After harvest, your ag fields can be managed post-harvest to provide crucial habitat when these birds need it most.



PC: Bekka Rosenkrantz/TNC

## Connection with Our Ag Lands

Since 2015, BirdReturns has built strong partnerships with farmers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Sacramento Valley to provide migratory bird habitat and help farmers diversify their revenue and support long-term viability of annual crops.

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