Homegrown By Heroes

www.farmvetco.org/homegrown-by-heroes/
Who is Matt Mccue?

- U.S. Army OIF veteran and returned Peace Corps volunteer
- Owner/Operator of Shooting Star Organic Farm and CSA in Fairfield, CA
  - 10 years farming experience
  - Grower of organic vegetables
  - B.S. Business Management
  - Masters in International Agricultural Development – in progress
Examples of Irrigation Districts

South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
Solano Irrigation District  
Imperial Irrigation District

Irrigation district employees know the land, what is being used, what is fallow, and who owns the land.
Basic Components of a Drip Irrigation System

- T-Tape
- Headers
- Valves
- Underground PVC
- Filters
- Pumps
Steps to Creating a Drip Irrigation System

• Step 1: Measure Flow
• Step 2: Test Water
• Step 3: Design System/Install System
• Step 4: Create Schedule
• Step 5: Maintain System
Step 1: Start with Source: Measuring Water Flow (w/o flow meter)

Materials needed: two, 5-gallon buckets, water source, timer, pencil, piece of paper.

Directions:
• Prepare to time 1 minute of flow
• Have buckets ready next to water
• Turn on water
• Fill up bucket and dump it out, then fill it again. Count the number of times you can fill up the bucket in one minute

\[
\text{Gallons per minute is the cornerstone to understanding drip irrigation capacity}
\]

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\begin{align*}
\text{# of buckets filled in 1 minute} & \times \\
\text{# of Gallons bucket holds} & = \text{Gallons Per Minute}
\end{align*}
\]
Step 2: Test Water

- What can’t I grow?
- Will I need to leach?
- Can I drink my water/can animals drink it?
- Irrigation districts publicize water results.
- Always test well water!
Water Testing Labs

- Some companies are cheaper than others!
- There are many labs out there!
Step 3: Design Your System (Start by knowing your tape)

Pay attention to maximum length.