

# AppAssure Helps the California Almond Board Support an Entire Industry

## Background

Last year, 1.5 billion pounds of almonds were grown in California. That's 81% of the world's supply. Established in 1950 through a Federal Market Order, the California Almond Board supports every grower in that state with information, market expansion efforts, and more. The Board's wide-range of responsibilities are managed by a staff of about 40 people. Bill O'Donnell, Senior System Administrator says that e-mail is vital for communications and the Board's website is essential for getting information to constituents. Keeping both systems up and running with up-to-the-minute information is critical. He relies on AppAssure for Microsoft Exchange backup and recovery and also protects his SharePoint environment to keep his website readily available.



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**– Bill O’Donnell  
Sr. System Administrator,  
CA Almond Board**

## Downtime is Not Acceptable

The California Almond Board has a huge responsibility; it supports an entire industry. Like other industry boards, the California Almond Board was established through a Federal Market Order and is charged with providing information to members and expanding markets to increase their overall market share and revenue. California almond growers already supply 81% of the world's almonds. Last year, they grew and shipped 1.5 billion pounds of almonds to other states and around the world.

Communications between the Board's small staff (about 40 people) and its many constituents are the core of its operations. “We can't have downtime on e-mail or the website,” explains Bill O'Donnell, the Board's Senior System Administrator.

Bill was using tape backup for Exchange data but explains “that doesn't work for real-time restore.” Also, new web initiatives were on the table that required having a fast backup and restoration system that functioned with Microsoft SharePoint.

Fortunately, Bill received a call from AppAssure.

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## Protecting Microsoft Exchange and SharePoint with AppAssure

“I attended a Cisco-related event and met AppAssure,” says Bill. “After the event, I got a call and the sales rep explained that AppAssure would let me do live restorations of my Exchange and SharePoint servers. I really loved that.”

Bill implemented AppAssure on a weekend and estimates that installation, roll-out to three servers, and making sure it was all working took no more than 2 hours. “Implementation was very simple and everything worked right away,” reports Bill. “It was a happy surprise.”

Now AppAssure is taking snapshots of the Board’s Exchange and SharePoint applications and related data every 10 minutes. “AppAssure just runs itself,” says Bill. “I just check the console every now and then to make sure that everything is o.k. and it always is.”

## What if he didn’t have AppAssure?

Since AppAssure has been in place, the California Almond Board hasn’t suffered an outage that would require application or data recovery. Bill knows that he’s covered in case an outage does happen. And he knows he’s much better off than he was with tape libraries. “Without AppAssure, I’d have to retrieve backup tapes that might be off-site and then rebuild servers. When I got back up and running, it might be with data that was a few days old. With AppAssure I’ll get e-mail or the website back immediately and with current data. That’s important because I’m concerned about total uptime.”

“When I came to the Almond Board I began to build an IT toolkit,” says Bill. “It turns out that AppAssure is an essential solution.”

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