

California Department of Food and Agriculture Healthy Soils Program

The objective of the Healthy Soils Program is to build soil carbon and reduce agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by providing monetary incentives to farmers and ranchers for adopting new management practices that encourage soil microbial diversity, improve soil health and provide farm benefits. The program is coordinated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

Incentivized Agricultural Practices Include:

Compost Application
Reduced Till (NRCS 345)
Cover Crops (NRS 340)
Mulching (NRCS 484)
Hedgerow Planting (NRCS 422)
Forage and biomass Planting (NRCS 512)
Vegetative Barrier (NRCS 601)
Nutrient Management (NRCS 590)
Riparian Buffer (NRCS 391)
Grassed Waterway (NRCS 412)
Prescribed Grazing (NRCS 528)
Silvopasture (NRCS 381)
Complete List on CDFA Website



Live Earth Farm received funding for Cover Crops and Hedgerows with 2017 Healthy Soils Program .

2019 Funding Application Period Begins 12/28/18. Proposals are due on 3/8/19

Free Workshops for those interested in applying for Healthy Soils Projects.:

January 17 at ALBA 1:00-3:00 (English)

January 17 at ALBA 3:00-5:00 (Spanish)

Others TBA, visit CDFA website

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysouls/>

One on one direct assistance for incentives applications will be provided by most local Resource Conservation Districts.

Demonstration Projects applications are through an organization. Participation in these help spread the word about benefits to other farmers and ranchers.

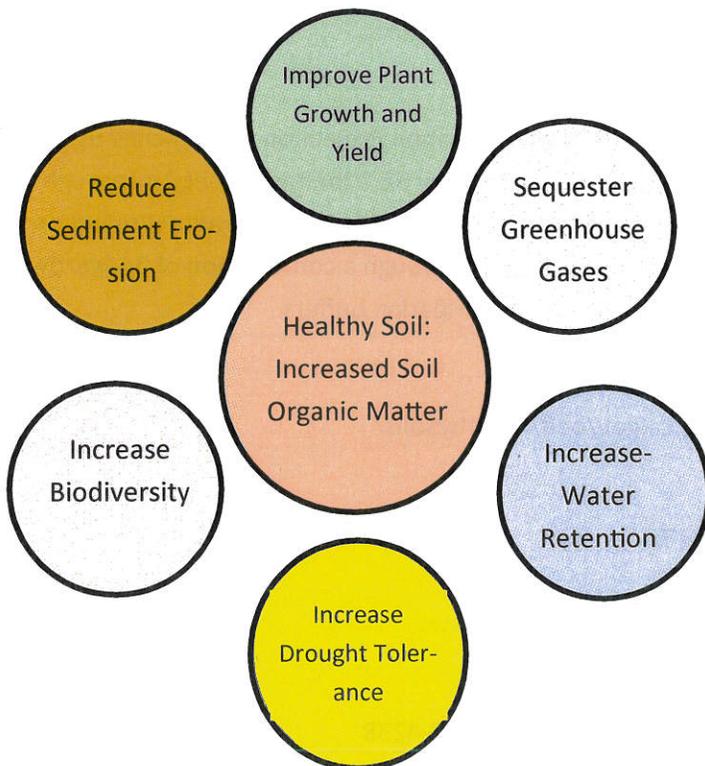
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Healthy Soils Benefit the Farmer, the Environment and the Community

CDFA Healthy Soils Funding 2019

Grant funding for the CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP) comes from the California's carbon market cap and trade proceeds. An anticipated \$8.5 million will be awarded to projects through the HSP in 2019. Grant awards will go to two types of projects: HSP Incentives Program and HSP Demonstration Projects. The HSP Incentives Program provides financial assistance for implementation of conservation management that improve soil health, sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The HSP Demonstration Projects reward these same practices and in addition have a research component and outreach component to showcase California farmers and rancher's implementation of HSP practices. The request for grant applications is scheduled to come out in December 28, 2018 and will be due March 8, 2019.

HSP Incentives Projects

The HSP Incentives projects applications are completed by the farmer or rancher. If the property is leased, land owner approval is required as part of the application process. Many Resource Conservation Districts will provide workshops and assistance to farmers and ranchers interested in applying for HSP Incentives Programs. CDFA will also conduct workshops and webinars on the grant application process.

HSP Demonstration Projects

The HSP Demonstration project applications are completed by non-profit organizations, UCCE, and Resource Conservation Districts. Typically they last for a period of 3 years. During this time the practices chosen by the farmer are implemented on the farm, usually in an area they have not been previously implemented. Measurements are taken to track increases in soil organic matter and other important factors such as forage production or crop yields. In some cases, green house gas production is monitored. Demonstration events are held to share the science and the direct experience and expertise of the farmers.

Current Demonstration Projects in Monterey and Santa Cruz

The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation is managing a 2018 Demonstration Project on two ranches used for production of sheep, goats, pigs and chickens estimated to reduce GHG by 62.2 tonnes CO₂ eq/yr through compost addition and hedgerow planting. The RCD Monterey County is managing a Demonstration Project on a 140 acre organic farm estimated to reduce GHG by 1.9 tonnes CO₂ eq/yr through a combination of hedgerows, grassed filter strips, crop rotation, cover crops, native grass pastures, and riparian buffers.

For more information

Visit the CDFA Healthy Soils Website: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/HealthySoils/>

Contact your local Resource Conservation District:

Monterey RCD: Laura.murphy@rcdmonterey.org

Santa Cruz RCD: slozano@rcdsantacruz.org

Santa Clara and San Benito: smoreno@gcrd.org

Or Contact Pam Krone from the CA Marine Sanctuary Foundation at 831-647-4238
pam.krone@noaa.gov



or