



# Healthy Soils Program (HSP) Grant

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2021 Grant Information

# Grant Application Assistance

San Joaquin Farm Bureau is a Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistant for the CDFA's SWEEP (water) and HSP (soil) grants.

- Amber McDowell
  - (209) 470-1212
  - [amber@sjfb.org](mailto:amber@sjfb.org)
- Bruce Blodgett
  - (209) 931-4931



# Funding and Duration



- **\$75 million available**
  - \$50 million from the Budget Act 2021- General Funds
  - \$25 million from California Climate Investments
- **Project Grant Amounts: Not to exceed \$100,000**
  - 25% min for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers (SDFR)
  - 35% min for Priority Populations (PP)- Several areas in San Joaquin County are PP zones
    - 20% min for projects that provide benefit to Disadvantaged Communities with 10% min located within the Disadvantaged Communities
    - 15% min for projects that benefit Low Income Communities
  - Flat-rate payment system on a reimbursement basis through yearly invoicing upon practice verification
    - Advance Payment is available for up to 25% of grant award
- **Project Duration:** Summer 2022 with implementation begin no later than Dec 31, 2022 and finish Spring 2025 ( minimum of yearly soil samples)
- <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/IncentivesProgram.html>

# Eligibility

**California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes are eligible to apply.**

- The project must be on a California agricultural operation and awardee's address must be located in CA.
- For the purposes of this program, an agricultural operation is defined as row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, and greenhouse operations producing food crops or flowers as defined in Food and Agricultural Code section 77911.
- Must implement at least 1 eligible ag management practice on fields where said practice was not implemented previously.
- Projects must result in a net GHG benefit
- May be combined with other funds as match (USDA/NRCS)

# Program Requirements

- Only submit one application per funding round per unique tax identification number. If submitting as a sole proprietor, use the last four digits of the individual's social security number. Ag operations must use the legal business name and associated tax ID number.
- Applicant must lease, own, or have control of the fields and APNs during the entirety of the project duration.
- Practice proposed listed in application cannot be moved to different APN or applied to less acreage during the grant implementation period.
- All practices must be implemented in accordance with their respective NRCS CPS requirements for implementation in CA, CDFA Compost Application White Paper, and CDFA's Whole Orchard Recycling Report.
- Submit soil samples once prior to implementation and each year following initial implementation for 3 years.
- Maintain 3 years post project completion documentation of maintenance of practice, actual benefits achieved, and organic matter/soil samples testing reports. Subject to State audit during and for 3 years post final payment of grant funds.

# Program Restrictions

HSP grant funds **cannot** be used to:

- Fund existing and ongoing implementation of practices listed under Eligible Agricultural Management Practices
- Previously implemented practice on same field
- Implement management practice that are not listed under Eligible Agricultural Management Practices
- Implement Compost or Whole Orchard Recycling on APNs where soil organic matter content is greater than 20% by dry weight in top 8inch depth
- Implement unsuitable practices for specific lands or crops types based on NRCS conservation Practice Standards and NRCS California Practice Scenarios
- Potted plants and plant growth media other than soil

# Eligible Practices for Cropland

1. Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
2. Compost Application (Interim CPS 808)
  1. Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
  2. On-farm Produced Compost
3. Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
4. Conservation Crop Rotation ([USDA NRCS CPS 328](#))
5. Contour Buffer Strips ([USDA NRCS CPS 332](#))
6. Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
7. Field Border ([USDA NRCS CPS 386](#))
8. Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
9. Forage and Biomass Planting ([USDA NRCS 512](#))
10. Grassed Waterway ([USDA NRCS CPS 412](#))
11. Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
12. Herbaceous Wind Barrier ([USDA NRCS CPS 603](#))
13. Mulching
  1. Natural Materials ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
  2. Wood Chips ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
14. Multi-story Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 379](#))
15. Nutrient Management ([USDA NRCS CPS 590](#)) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
16. Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
17. Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
18. Riparian Forest Buffer ([USDA NRCS CPS 391](#))
19. Riparian Herbaceous Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 390](#))
20. Strip Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 585](#))
21. Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 612](#))
22. Vegetative Barriers (601) ([USDA NRCS CPS 601](#))
23. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))



# Eligible Practices for Orchard or Vineyard

1. Compost Application (Interim CPS 808)
  1. Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
  2. On-farm Produced Compost
2. Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
3. Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
4. Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
5. Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
6. Mulching
  1. Nature Materials ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
  2. Wood Chips ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
7. Nutrient Management ([USDA NRCS CPS 590](#)) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
8. Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
9. Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
10. Whole Orchard Recycling (Interim CPS 808)
11. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))



# Eligible Practices for Grazing Land

1. Compost Application (Interim CPS 808)
  1. Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
  2. On-farm Produced Compost
2. Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
3. Prescribed Grazing ([USDA NRCS CPS 528](#))
4. Range Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 550](#))
5. Riparian Forest Buffer ([USDA NRCS CPS 391](#))
6. Silvopasture ([USDA NRCS CPS 381](#))
7. Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 612](#))
8. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

# Additional Requirements

- Multiple management practices may be included within the same APN (except overlapping practices) and multiple APNs within the same ag operation may be included in the project
- Eligible management practices will be incentivized based on payment rates
- Prescribed Grazing must be located on grazing land and include a Grazing Management Plan prepared by a professional Certified Rangeland Manager
- Riparian Forest Buffer and Riparian Herbaceous Cover practices must be adjacent to and upgradient from water courses or water bodies
- Conservation Crop Rotation must have detailed plan for rotation, listing all cash crops and/or cover crops to be planted in the correct sequence
- Cover Crops may not claim post-termination cover crop residue as mulching practice with natural materials to prevent overestimation of GHG reductions

# Additional Requirements

- Establishment of permanent woody cover must take into consideration wildlife and pollinator needs when selecting or siting tree or shrub species. Crop trees may not be planted exclusively.
- Composting Application have specific rates for land type and sourcing requirements
- Whole Orchard Recycling must be on trees over 10 years old, chips incorporated into the same field they came from to at least 6 inches in depth.
- Acreage determination in orchards and vineyards for cover crop, conservation cover, reduced-till and no-till practices in alleys are: 70% for orchards, 60% for vineyards of the whole field
- Practices in the same group cannot be implemented/overlapped on the same land area

# Non-Over Lapping Practices

## Group I

- Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
- Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (USDA NRCS CPS 328)
- Strip Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 585)

## Group II

- Residue and Tillage Management-No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
- Residue and Tillage Management-Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS)

## Group III:

- Compost Application (Interim CPS 808)
- Purchased from a Certified Facility
  - On-farm Produced Compost

## Group IV

- Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
- Whole Orchard Recycling (Interim CPS 808)

## Group V

- Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 327)
- Contour Buffer Strips (USDA NRCS CPS 332)
- Field Border (USDA NRCS CPS 386)
- Filter Strip (USDA NRCS CPS 393)
- Forage and Biomass Planting (USDA NRCS 512)
- Grassed Waterway (USDA NRCS CPS 412)
- Herbaceous Wind Barrier (USDA NRCS CPS 603)
- Range Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 550)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 390)
- Vegetative Barriers (601) (USDA NRCS CPS 601)

## Group VI

- Alley Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 311)
- Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
- Multi-story Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 379)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (USDA NRCS CPS 391)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 612)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)
- Silvopasture (USDA NRCS CPS 381)

## Group VII

- Any practice listed in Group V and mulching
- Any practice listed in Group V and Group VI with reduced-till or no-till

# Information needed to fill out application

- Project Site location: APN(s) and address or latitude/longitude coordinates
- Cropping history in past 3 years (2019-2021) in all APN(s) included in application
- Management practice history in past 3 years (2019-2021) in all APN(s)
- Proposed plan of crops for all APNs/fields included in the project during the next 3 years (2022-2025)

**Provide info to Amber to help complete specific application components for you.**

# Grant Application Submission

- Application
  - Primary contact person needs to be the person who will sign contract
- Work Plan Template
  - Timeline of when and how project activities will occur
- Re-Plan Tool
  - Project Design- map, practice, species if applicable
- COMET-Planner
  - GHG Reduction Estimation
  - Payment calculator
- Landowner Agreement (if applicable)
- Grazing Management Plan (required for prescribed grazing projects)
  - Must be prepared by a professional Certified Rangeland Manager
- Conservation Plan (optional)
  - Must be prepared by a certified NRCS specialist, Crop Advisor, Professional Soil Scientist, or Professional Agronomist

**Rolling Deadline- Opened Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, closes Feb 25, 2022 or until all funding is has been granted.**

# Review and Evaluation Process

- Administrative Review – Internal
  - Review that application is complete, program requirements were met
  - Applications that are disqualified will be notified and may reapply after correcting the reason for disqualification.
- Technical Review – External
  - Applications that move to technical review will be scored and funded in the order that they were received if they meet a **minimum qualifying score of 40 out of 60 points**.
  - Evaluate the feasibility and overall likelihood of project success
- Applicants will be notified by email



# Scoring Categories

Scoring Criteria	Maximum Points
Project Logistics	10
Project Design	10
Project Work Plan	10
Project Budget & GHGH Emission Reduction Estimation	20
Conservation Plan (if applicable)	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

**Detailed Scoring Criteria for each category is on page 27-28 of the HSP RGA Document**

**Minimum of 40 points: will be funded**