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August 19, 2019 | News from



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Central Valley Farmer Speaks About Climate Change in the New York Times

On August 8th, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a major report, entitled [Climate Change and Land](#), offering a comprehensive view of climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation—all within the land sector.

It addresses the role of land in driving global warming and highlight opportunities to reduce emissions from deforestation and agriculture. Importantly, the report spotlights the promise of carbon sequestration, where farmers and ranchers can play an important role in drawing carbon back down out of the atmosphere and storing it in our forests and soils. And it conveys a sense of urgency about the need to transform how we grow food to make the most of the opportunities in agriculture and forestry for curbing climate change.

An opinion column commenting on this report was recently published in the New York Times by Alan Sano, one of CalCAN's farmer partners in the San Joaquin Valley. Read [the full post on our blog](#), including a link to the NYT op ed.

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Forward



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CDFA Accepting Applications for Climate Smart Ag Technical Assistance Grants

Application deadline: August 30

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is now accepting applications for [2019 Climate Smart Agriculture \(CSA\) Technical Assistance Funding](#). Funds awarded through this competitive grant process will be distributed to Resource Conservation Districts, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and nonprofit organizations with demonstrated technical expertise in designing and implementing agricultural management practices to support CDFA's 2019 CSA incentive programs.

Eligible organizations may request up to \$120,000 to provide technical assistance to potential applicants and awardees of the [Alternative Manure Management Program](#) (AMMP) and the [Healthy Soils Program](#) (HSP). A description of the technical assistance program and links to the application materials can be found on [CDFA's Technical Assistance page](#).

Applications for the Technical Assistance Grants are due August 30, 2019 at 5 p.m. PT. Late applications will not be accepted.

Read [the full blog post for all the details](#).

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Climate Smart Agriculture in Monterey Bay Area

As farmers look for solutions to prevent erosion, reduce soil compaction, increase yields, improve water quality and become more resilient against floods and droughts, many are finding that the solution lies within the soil. By improving soil health, farmers are able to increase nutrient and water holding capacity, decrease pest and disease pressure, reduce reliance on fossil fuel-based inputs and sink carbon out of the atmosphere. It's a win-win solution, providing on-farm and environmental benefits.

Since 2017, California has been providing grants to farmers and ranchers to implement practices that improve soil health, through the state's Healthy Soils Program. This past year \$12.48 million was awarded to farmers and ranchers across the state, to fund 194 incentive projects and 23 demonstration projects ([read more here](#)).

Check out our recent blog for the regional spotlight on the Monterey Bay Area and read stories about



Photo: UC researchers tracking pollinators in hedgerow planted as part of Healthy Soils Grant at Monkeyflower Ranch

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Alternative Manure Management Profile: Scott Magnuson

CDFA featured Magnuson Dairy in a video about the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP).



"For us it was about making sure we could be sustainable, returning compost to the soil to increase fertility and make sure we could pass on our dairy to future generations." – Scott Magnuson

With the AMMP grant, Scott Magnuson made a number of improvements to his dairy operation, all with the goal of reducing the methane emissions from manure lagoons that result from the anaerobic decomposition of manure solids submerged in water. He installed equipment that separates the manure solids from the liquids, and bought a compost turner to aerate the manure to produce compost for his fields. He also built a compost bedded pack barn for his heifers where large amounts of bedding are added to the stalls and the manure mixture is aerated to produce compost right in the barn. Finally, they increased pasture time for the cows so manure is deposited directly on fields to decompose.

[Watch the video.](#)

New Training Program for Beginning Farmers

The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) is offering a free online training program for beginning farmers, existing organic farmers and farmers in transition to organic production.

The content throughout the training program focuses on organic specialty crop production in California.

The Organic Soil Health Management training is now live. [You can access it here.](#)



There will be a total of 6 training modules, covering the following topics:

- Weed Management
- Irrigation and Water Management
- Insect and Mite Management
- Disease Management
- Business Management and Marketing

The rest of the training modules will be introduced throughout the year, with the entire program available in spring 2020.

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CDFA Healthy Soils Feedback Session:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has scheduled a public meeting on August 23, 2019 to hear from stakeholders and the public about the Healthy Soils Program. CDFA encourages farmers, ranchers, technical assistance providers, agricultural associations, university and state university partners, commodity groups, agricultural support service organizations, and other agricultural stakeholders--including the members of the public--to engage in this opportunity for dialog about the program itself and approaches for outreach and engagement.

The session will be on **August 23rd from 9am-12pm**

California Department of Food and Agriculture, Main Auditorium, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA

You may also attend via webinar ([registration link](#)).

The meeting will cover several important topics, including feedback on developing partnerships, information sharing and engagement with socially disadvantaged farmers, conservation practices, and program recommendations. Workshops to gather feedback on new changes for the next release of the Healthy Soils Program Request for Proposals will be held in September.

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Funding

CDFA Specialty Crop Multi-State Program Grants

California Department of Food and Agriculture
\$250,000 - \$1 Million

Proposals due September 1, 2019

[See details.](#)

Sonoma County RCD Funding for Fire Recovery

Sonoma County RCD

Eligibility: Landowners with properties damaged by the 2017 Tubbs or Nuns Fires

Submit Project Inquiry by September 6, 2019

[See details.](#)

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Jobs

Alameda Resource Conservation District

Project Assistant, Technical Assistance
Livermore, CA

[See details.](#)

American Farmland Trust

Policy Associate
Sacramento, CA

[See details.](#)

Future Harvest

Project Director, The Million Acre Challenge
Maryland or Washington DC.

[See details.](#)

Yolo County Resource Conservation District

Project Assistant
Woodland, CA

[See details.](#)

Events

Range Tailgate 2: Cows, Compost + Carbon

Sonoma County Resource Conservation District
August 27 • 9 – 11:30am • Petaluma, CA

[More information](#)

Public Forum on California's Water Future

California State Board of Food and Agriculture
September 5 • 1 – 3:30pm • Fresno, CA

[More information](#)

Elderberry Field Day: Planting Hedgerows

The Cloverleaf Farm

September 17 • 1:30 – 5:30pm • Dixon, CA

[More information](#)

Carbon Farm Planning

Carbon Farming Network

October 3 • 9am – 5pm • Fresno, CA

[More information](#)

Soil Health Academy

CSU Chico

December 3-5 • Chico, CA

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