Farmer & Rancher Climate Leaders
Healthy Soils Program Participants

The Healthy Soils Program, administered by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), provides grants to farmers and ranchers who adopt management practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration in soil and plants.
More info is available on CDFA's website: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/

W.H. LATIMER PROPERTIES, LLC

Visalia, Lindsay, Strathmore & Ivanhoe in Tulare County
Award Amount: $45,800

"The Healthy Soils Program addresses so many challenges that we face in the Central Valley and beyond – from pollution problems due to nitrate leaching in our communities, to severe water insecurity in the state, to the problematic abundance of carbon in the atmosphere."

- Max Latimer Lasiter

Left to right: John Lawson, Ranch Manager, Karen Rodman, Bookkeeper, Max Latimer Lasiter, Sustainable Practices & Development Coordinator

With a vested interest in maintaining the economic viability of his family's century-old farming business, Max Latimer Lasiter started farming with experienced ranch manager John Lawson in the midst of California's recent record droughts. In search of ways to increase water efficiency across their 11 ranches planted with citrus, Max found an answer: building healthier soil. For several years, he developed plans to remedy depleted soils, increase water-holding capacity, and reduce dependence on synthetic fertilizers. When Max discovered the Healthy Soils Program, he jumped at the opportunity to rapidly scale up his soil-building approach. Supported by technical assistance from the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, he successfully applied for a grant. With the funds, he will amend 320 acres of orchards with composted manure from local dairies for three consecutive years.

The California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN) is a statewide coalition that advances state and federal policy to realize the powerful climate solutions offered by sustainable and organic agriculture.

CalCAN
CALIFORNIA CLIMATE & AGRICULTURE NETWORK