

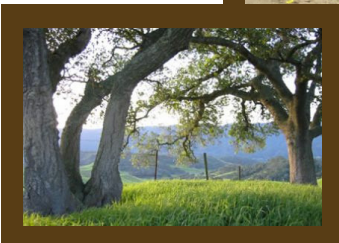
# Farmer & Rancher Climate Leaders Healthy Soils Program Participants

*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/>*

## SANTA BARBARA BLUEBERRIES & RESTORATION OAKS RANCH

Gaviota, Santa Barbara County  
Award Amount: \$18,982



“We think we can take a holistic approach to keep more water and carbon in the soil, use less fertilizer and produce better crops. We want to demonstrate this on a working operation to show that this is replicable for people making a living in agriculture.”

- Ed Seaman

Ed Seaman started his farming career in Santa Barbara Blueberries' roadside farm stand. Since then, he has worked in every aspect of the operation, which he and his wife now own. They secured Healthy Soils funding in partnership with Restoration Oaks Ranch where the blueberry farm is located. Their focus is to build resilience in the face of extreme water insecurity. On the slope above their well, they will plant native shrubs and trees to reduce soil erosion, stabilizing the hillside and encouraging water penetration to recharge the aquifer. At the ranch, compost spread over grazed lands will add soil organic matter, thereby increasing soil carbon storage. Mulching the blueberry fields will increase soil moisture and cut irrigation demand.

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.



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