

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/>

SONOMA MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE & SONOMA RCD

Petaluma, Sonoma County
Award Amount: \$85,353



"Climate change poses a significant challenge, and we need all the tools in the tool kit, but the solutions aren't always financially feasible on a contemporary business timeline. The Healthy Soils Program enables us to support broader rangeland health in California when it doesn't always make financial to do so. Farmers need our support to be able to take care of the land we entrust to them."

- Byron Palmer

The Sonoma Mountain Institute (SMI) was founded in 2001 to focus on ecological restoration. They now manage eight ranches in Sonoma and Marin Counties across 4,500 acres. To secure their Healthy Soils demonstration grant, they partnered with Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD). The grant will enable them to scale up a pilot project to double its size to explore how a compost application on a small acreage of rangelands can sequester carbon. The Sonoma RCD will collect and analyze data on soil organic matter and SMI will monitor changes in forage productivity, plant diversity and soil health, fertility, and water-holding

capacity. Together, SMI and Sonoma RCD will host at least 120 farmers and ranchers at the site over a three year period to share best practices and encourage a regional network of producers to adopt soil health practices.

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