

Farmer & Rancher Climate Leaders

State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program Participants

SWEEP, administered by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), provides grants to farmers and ranchers for irrigation management improvements that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save water.

More info is available on CDFA's website: www.cdfa.ca.gov/oeffi/sweep/

AGRICULTURE & LAND-BASED TRAINING ASSOCIATION (ALBA)

Salinas, Monterey County
Award Amount: \$96,950



“By making these irrigation improvements at our site, we’ll be able to empower our larger network of farmers and aspiring farmers with the knowledge and know-how to make better irrigation decisions on their farms.”

- Nathan Harkleroad,
Education Program Manager

Since 2001, the Agriculture & Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) has used land-based education in the Salinas Valley to create economic opportunity for limited-resource and aspiring organic farmers. At their 100-acre site, they provide extensive training and technical assistance and serve as an incubator for farm businesses. With a State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program (SWEEP) grant, ALBA will install soil moisture monitoring equipment that will provide them information they need to make more efficient irrigation decisions. They will also use SWEEP funds to install a solar array to power their irrigation pump. Inspired by this project, ALBA has begun planning for installation of a larger solar array with the goal of offsetting energy needs at their site, thereby reducing overhead costs. They will pass along the savings to the farmers in their training program in the form of lower start-up costs for their new farm businesses.

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