

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/oefi/sweep/

MITCHELL FARMS

Elk Grove, Sacramento County

Award Amount: \$43,100



“This technology takes the guessing out of making irrigation decisions. This is especially helpful with a new orchard with constantly changing water needs.”

- Charlotte Mitchell

Since 1854, the Mitchell family has been farming just south of Sacramento, originally running a dairy and now producing walnuts, turkeys, sheep and hay. They installed their new walnut orchard two years ago, using crop diversification as a strategy to enable their two sons to stay on the land and resist the pressure to sell the farm to developers. With their SWEEP grant, they installed soil moisture and weather sensors that deliver real-time data to their phones. This improvement helps them tailor their water use to actual demand which varies with weather conditions and soil type. They also purchased a variable frequency drive for their pump which reduces the energy load in starting up and running the equipment, cutting costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

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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