

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/

PAO YANG

Fresno, Fresno County
Award Amount: \$100,000



“We couldn’t have done the application without help from University of California Cooperative Extension.”

- Pao Yang

In 2013, Pao Yang started farming on 40 acres of family land recently converted from almonds and grapes to a diversified Asian vegetable and herb operation. Pao received technical assistance from UC Cooperative Extension that enabled him to successfully apply for his SWEEP grant. With the funds, Pao replaced valves and installed drip irrigation throughout the farm, resulting in significant water use and cost savings. His energy use is also reduced (and therefore greenhouse gas emissions)—he estimates his farm’s annual \$8,000 energy bill is halved as a result of these improvements. Because he is able to deliver water more precisely to his crops, Pao is seeing less weed pressure which reduces labor costs, increases yields, and bolsters his farm’s economic viability.

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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