

Farmer & Rancher Climate Leaders

Alternative Manure Management Program Participants

The Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP), administered by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), provides grants to dairy and other livestock producers to support their transition to manure handling and storage strategies that reduce methane emissions, including less water-intensive strategies and increasing pasture-based dairying.

More info is available on CDFA's website: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/>

ALEXANDRE FAMILY FARM

Crescent City, Del Norte County

Award Amount: \$749,746



“Our business model is to do the right thing at every turn. This project is good for our cattle, our employees, our brand identity and the environment.”

- Blake Alexandre

Blake and Stephanie Alexandre along with their five children operate an organic dairy and pasture-raised chicken business on a total of 7,000 acres in three Northern California counties. They attribute the high level of involvement of their children in the family business to the fact that they have made it interesting by diversifying, bottling and marketing their own milk, and hosting youth programs on the farm. The AMMP

program will give them resources to upgrade some of their aging infrastructure. They will build a compost bedded pack barn to house their young stock. Rather than flushing the manure out of the alleys with water, they will instead use large amounts of bedding to produce compost underneath the cows. They will combine this material with crab shells, fish waste and wood shavings from the area to enhance the compost, then apply it to their 3,000 acres of pasture to improve soil health. This system will keep their calves healthier during the wet winters, and enables them to build a new facility that is organized and appropriately-sized.

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

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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/>

ALEXANDRE FAMILY FARM

Crescent City, Del Norte County
Award Amount: \$50,000



"By being organic, we are not just chasing a market price, we are trying to take the best care of our soils. We are firm believers in the biological role of the soil."

- Blake Alexandre

Stephanie and Blake Alexandre along with four of their five children operate an organic dairy and pasture-raised chicken business on a total of 7,000 acres in three Northern California counties. Their Healthy Soils grant will support them in combining three strategies for improving soil health: applying compost, planting cover crops and installing riparian buffers and

herbaceous vegetative plants that store carbon and improve water penetration into the soil. They know that taking care of their soil translates into better eggs and milk and more efficiency. They plan to share what they learn with other North Coast grazing and pasture dairies, hoping their neighbors will be inspired to adopt similar practices.

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