

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/healthysouils/>

FAT UNCLE FARMS

Wasco, Kern County
Award Amount: \$41,576



crop beneath the almond canopy where his livestock graze before and after the almond harvest. Nathanael also plants ancient grains beneath the almonds, turning the understory into harvestable pasture. This system has increased production, biodiversity, soil organic matter and water holding capacity.

“Thanks to the Healthy Soils Program, we have made new connections with other farmers and organizations. Most importantly, we have been able to try new practices that benefit our farm, the environment and overall climate.”

- Nathanael Siemens

For Nathanael Siemens, farming is about honoring the generations of farmers before him. He is a 4th generation farmer, whose grandparents grew cotton and alfalfa and whose parents couldn't afford to continue to farm. When Nate decided to farm 10 years ago, he chose to do dry farmed grain. His operation has since diversified into dry farmed almonds, wheat, cotton and livestock. Nathanael used Healthy Soils funding to plant a leguminous cover

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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