

# 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/healthysoils/>*

## MONKEYFLOWER RANCH

Royal Oaks, Monterey County

Award Amount: \$98,830



*"With the Healthy Soils grant, we are able to plant 800 feet of hedgerows, adding biodiversity both above and below ground and increasing water quality for our entire watershed."*

-Rebecca King

Rebecca King manages Monkeyflower Ranch, a 40-acre farm located in Royal Oaks. She raises dairy sheep on 30 acres of pasture, as well as hogs, chickens and lambs. Rebecca began her commercial milking and cheese production in 2009.

In 2017 she received a Healthy Soils demonstration grant to apply compost to their pastures and plant hedgerows to help prevent erosion of her sandy soils. Every winter, Rebecca noticed that after big storms, soil would wash down the sloped fields onto the road.

Hedgerows (woody shrubs, trees and bushes with extensive root systems) help minimize erosion because the roots stabilize the soil even during large rain events that may become more frequent and intense with climate change. In addition, the plants provide shade for her animals, attract pollinators, and increase wildlife habitat. They also capture moisture from fog banks, and their roots create channels for water to move into the soil profile and increase soil moisture levels.



**CalCAN**  
CALIFORNIA CLIMATE &  
AGRICULTURE NETWORK

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.