

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/>

RIVER GARDEN FARMS

Knights Landing, Yolo County

Award Amount: \$99,243



"River Garden Farms sees a new way forward: farming can play an integral role in wildlife enhancement as well as food production. The Healthy Soils grant allows us to see for ourselves the benefits of cover cropping in rice fields while being better stewards of our environment."

-Dominic Bruno

River Garden Farms has 15,000 acres of farmland in Yolo and Colusa Counties, growing predominately rice and walnuts as well as alfalfa, onion seed, processing tomatoes, wheat and honeydew melons.

In 2017, Audubon California, in partnership with River Garden Farms, received a Healthy Soils demonstration grant to plant cover crops in rice fields and establish a riparian forest buffer. The purpose of the grant is to increase habitat for birds and increase soil nutrients.

For River Garden Farms, the opportunity to be part of the demonstration grant has enabled them to share their experiences with 244 visitors to the farm during a series of field days, including one that took place with 70 participants as part of CalCAN's conference in March 2019.

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