

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/>

TERRA CULTURA

Aromas, San Benito County

Award Amount: \$12,775



"We have already begun to see results, where there used to be bare sand, is now teeming with life - there are pollinators in the hedgerows and our plants are thriving."

*-Jessica Wohlander,
Co-Executive Director, Operations*

Terra Cultura is a quarter-acre community farm located in Aromas, just east of Watsonville. Terra Cultura cultivates more than just food, they also provide space for arts and environmental education. With the Healthy Soils grant, they were funded for a large number of practices that enable them to showcase many climate smart agriculture tools at their site.

With the grant, they followed some basic principles of soil health: (1) keep soil covered year-round (with mulch); (2) minimize soil disturbance (by reducing tillage); (3) keep plants in the ground year-round (with a cover crop in winter); (4) maximize biodiversity through through silvopasture (eventually incorporating chickens and goats in their orchard, which also adds fertility from the manure).

They also applied compost to add nutrients to their soil and planted a hedgerow, a native shrub barrier, providing habitat for pollinators.

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