

# 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/>*

### BOONVILLE BARN COLLECTIVE

Boonville, Mendocino County  
Award Amount: \$12,202



Photo credit: Gilbert Bages

Nacho Flores of Boonville Barn Collective

*"Our Healthy Soils grant covered the cost of planting a hedgerow which not only helps our farm by protecting us from dust and pesticide drift, but it's also good for our local economy."*  
-Krissy Scommegna

Surrounded by vineyards in the middle of Anderson Valley lies the Boonville Barn Collective, a chile pepper, dried bean, and olive tree operation that produces specialty chili powder, Piment d'Ville, for the country. They received a Healthy Soils Program grant in early 2020 (during the COVID-19 pandemic) to establish a hedgerow of 15 different species of plants that sequester carbon, cut down on pesticide drift from nearby wineries, create pollinator habitat and reduce dust from a nearby road. Co-owners Krissy Scommegna and Gideon Burdick worked with Mendocino Resource Conservation District to identify native pollinator plants that would grow quickly and be easy to maintain.

In addition to increasing the carbon storage potential on their farm, the grant helped them invest in their community by purchasing the plants from a local nursery, at a time when many small businesses were struggling during the statewide shelter-in-place.

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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