

# 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/>*

### WHITE BUFFALO LAND TRUST

Summerland, Santa Barbara County  
Award Amount: \$98,358



*"We want the demonstration site to show that each and every farm and ranch operation has the opportunity to leverage this funding for soil health building purposes. This grant provides a jumping off point to realize our vision of an integrated agricultural system."*

-Jesse Smith, Director of Land Stewardship

White Buffalo Land Trust is a non-profit stewardship organization, transforming a legacy 12-acre avocado farm into an integrated, biodiverse farm system on the Central Coast. They provide education and training on watershed health, holistic managed grazing, carbon sequestration and more. Located under a mile from the Pacific Ocean, there are a diversity of climatic factors that play a part in determining the agricultural systems they are developing. The impact of coastal moisture, high winds, intense temperature fluctuations, and inconsistent precipitation patterns are all challenges they are mitigating by building soil health.

They received a Healthy Soils Program demonstration grant to support mulching in the avocado orchard and within weeks of laying down straw mulch, noticed lower soil temperatures. Their grant also funded hedgerow plantings along field borders to attract pollinators and sequester carbon in the woody plants and soil. They chose four types of plants with different flowering schedules to promote biodiversity and provide pollinator habitat throughout the year.

The planned field days for 2020 are transitioning towards virtual demonstrations and video production to share their practices and experience with other farmers and ranchers.

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.

