

# 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/>*

### BLOSSOM VINEYARDS

**Thorton, San Joaquin County**  
**Award Amount: \$98,960**



Photo Credit: J. Baumgartner

*"I believe in biodiversity...my  
beekeeper says he likes being on my  
ranch because it is alive."*

- Frank Olagaray

Frank Olagaray farms over 1,500 acres of organic almonds, walnuts and olives and conventional wine grapes in Thorton, California.

Centering biodiversity at the heart of his operation, Frank became interested in hedgerows because he learned they would bring in honey and wild bees and first established hedgerows of native plants on the borders of his orchards. After seeing increased biodiversity, he applied for a grant to continue planting hedgerows throughout his farm, with the support of the Wild Farm Alliance as a technical assistance provider for the Healthy Soils Program.

The hedgerows create habitat for beneficial insects such as honey bees and natural predators that control pests such as mites and reduce pesticide drift from a neighboring farm, all while sequestering carbon on his farm.



**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.