

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/healthypoils/>

BERETTA DAIRY

Santa Rosa, Sonoma County
Award Amount: \$68,981



“These grants improve our bottom line with savings on labor, diesel and moving manure while also shrinking our environmental footprint.”

- Doug Beretta

Doug Beretta has a 300-cow organic dairy in Sonoma County where his grandfather started farming, and where his daughter Jennifer and son Ryan are planning to continue.

In 2020, the family received a Healthy Soils grant to apply compost, plant a cover crop mixture using a no-till seeder, and support prescribed grazing on their pasture. They also received an AMMP grant to transform their manure management system. Now, an automatic scraper moves the manure out of the barn alleys and into an aerated pit. The manure gets pumped through a screw press solid separator and onto a conveyor belt to a covered concrete pad to be shaped into windrows and composted. They use the dried material as bedding, as green manure on their fields, and they are selling some as a compost amendment.

In addition to improved cow health and cleanliness, they’ve cut various costs. Doug says they no longer pay \$20,000 annually to spread liquid manure, they have cut labor costs by using the automatic scraper, and the produce their own bedding.



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.