

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/healthysouils/>

LEONARD LOEWEN FARM

Glenn, Glenn County

Award Amount: \$98,484.60



Leonard Loewen is a farmer in Glenn County and has been working the land since childhood. He has been managing 110 acres of walnuts since 2013 where he has reduced synthetic fertilizers and pesticides by applying compost and cover crops.

In 2019 Leonard successfully applied for a Healthy Soils Program (HSP) grant to introduce compost to 32 additional acres and mulch to 68 acres. The combination of practices has increased water holding capacity and produced a dark, nutrient-rich layer at the top of the soil indicating good soil structure and conditions that hold on to the carbon instead of releasing it into the atmosphere.

As Leonard has adopted new practices, his mindset has also changed. He hopes other farmers will experience a similar transition through support by HSP.

*"Many farmers will never start these practices just because of the cost, but if they knew about a program that will help them start, they might be more open to trying it. The multiple benefits and results then justify continuing the practices
- Leonard Loewen*



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.