

# 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/>*

### JSM ORGANICS

**Aromas, Monterey County**  
**Award Amount: \$248,626.27**



*"You can learn so much when you pay attention to details, and work with people in the industry and learn from them, and see how talented they are. Seeing that the things I do are beneficial to others makes me feel good*

*- Javier Zamora, JSM Organics*

Javier Zamora of JSM Organics farms organic fruit and vegetables in Monterey County. Javier comes from a farming family in Mexico and worked in restaurants for 20 years after coming to the U.S. He moved to the Central Valley during the housing crisis of 2008 and while there, he learned about ALBA's farm incubator program, which gave him the farming bug again. He began farming on 1.5 acres with ALBA and now owns a 200 acres that includes 120 acres under a conservation easement held by the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. Javier describes his work with the Foundation as a "beautiful collaboration and partnership."

Javier, who has over 10 years of experience farming, strives to farm with mother nature, utilizing healthy soils practices and thoughtfully using water and fertilizer. To continue building his knowledge, in 2018 Javier applied for a Healthy Soils Demonstration Project grant in collaboration with California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County. The project focused on how compost and mycorrhizal fungi application impacts greenhouse gas emissions, soil organic matter (SOM), and yield. As part of the grant, Javier and his partners conduct outreach and engagement to share their findings with other farmers.

These practices have helped Javier to increase the soil organic matter of his farm, which has supported crop health, as well as water and nutrient holding.



**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.