BUTTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU: 2024 HEALTHY SOILS GRANT APPLICATION

California State University Chico
Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems
2024 Healthy Soils Grant Application

https://www.buttefarmbureau.com/programs/healthy-soils-grant
AGENDA

❖ Grant Overview
❖ Supported Practices
❖ Application Walk-Thru
❖ Replan Tool Demo
❖ Soil Sampling
❖ Timeline
❖ TAP Assistance
❖ Conclusion
GRANT OVERVIEW
The Healthy Soils Program Incentive which originates from the California Healthy Soils Initiative. This initiative is a collaborative effort among various state agencies and departments, aimed at fostering the cultivation of healthy soils across California's agricultural lands.

The grants offered under the Healthy Soils Program serve to provide direct financial incentives to growers and ranchers in California. These incentives are intended to facilitate the adoption of conservation management practices that contribute to carbon sequestration, the reduction of atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs), and the enhancement of soil health.
Butte County received a grant of $4,000,000.00 from the CDFA for their Block Grant under the Healthy Soils Program. This Block Grant Pilot is a component of the broader Healthy Soils Program (HSP), which originates from the California Healthy Soils Initiative. This initiative involves collaboration among various state agencies and departments, all aimed at promoting the cultivation of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands.

The Block Grant Pilot is specifically crafted to streamline financial assistance to California agricultural operations. It operates through regional block grant administrators, making the process more accessible and efficient for eligible recipients.

Accepted Counties: Butte, Glenn, and Tehama
The Grant Guidelines document is an exhaustive resource meticulously delineating every facet of the Butte County Farm Bureau Healthy Soil Grant initiative.

This comprehensive document serves as a roadmap, offering intricate insights into eligibility criteria, application procedures, project scope, evaluation metrics, and post-award requirements (Appendix).

Grant Guidelines Link:
https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:us:9f9d48ec-0c91-4607-8f81-41b147a1cefe
The Butte County Farm Bureau was awarded four million dollars from the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 2023. BCFB will offer up to three rounds of block grant funding beginning in 2024 or until all funding has been awarded.

**Grant Term:**
Duration: 1 - 3 years Depending on Practice

**Maximum Award:**
Limit: $100,000.

**Activity Constraints:**
All activities must occur within the grant term.
Costs incurred outside the grant term will not be reimbursed.

**Award Considerations:**
BCFB reserves the right to offer an award amount different from the requested amount.

**Cost Share Guidelines:**
Awardees may utilize matching funds or in-kind contributions during the grant term.
BCFB does not mandate or prioritize cost share contributions.

**Funds Usage Restrictions:**
HSP funds cannot support the same practice(s) on the same field(s) as other supporting funds (E.G., USDA NRCS EQIP).
HSP funds may be combined within a broader farm plan, supporting different practices on the same field(s) or the same practice(s) on different field(s).

**Limitations On Awardee Actions:**
Awardees cannot use HS incentives awards as cost share for awards from HS program incentive grants, HS demonstration program, or HS block grant pilot program.
ACCEPTED PRACTICES
CROP LAND PRACTICES

- Alley Cropping
- Compost Application
- Conservation Cover
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Contour Buffer Strips
- Cover Cropping
- Field Borders
- Filter Strips
- Forage and Biomass Planting/Pasture and Hay Planting
- Grassed Waterway
- Hedgerow Planting
- Herbaceous Wind Barrier
- Mulching
- Multi-story Cropping/Forest Farming
- Nutrient Management Residue and Tillage Management
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Strip Cropping
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Vegetative Barriers
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
• Compost Application
• Conservation Cover
• Cover Crop
• Filter Strip
• Hedgerow Plantings
• Mulching
• Nutrient Management
• Residue and Tillage Management

• Whole Orchard Recycling (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
• Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
• Compost Application
• Hedgerow Planting
• Prescribed Grazing
• Range Planting
• Riparian Forest Buffer
• Silvopasture
• Tree/Shrub Establishment
**Cover Crops**

Cover crops play a crucial role in regenerative agriculture by enhancing soil health through increased organic matter, nitrogen fixation, and erosion prevention. They also contribute to biodiversity and weed suppression while providing habitat for beneficial insects.

**Hedgerows**

Hedgerows are essential components of regenerative agriculture, acting as natural barriers that reduce soil erosion, provide habitat for wildlife, and enhance biodiversity within agricultural landscapes. They also serve as windbreaks, nutrient sinks, and corridors for beneficial insects, promoting overall ecosystem resilience and sustainability.

**Compost**

Compost is a cornerstone of regenerative agriculture, enriching soil fertility, structure, and microbial activity while sequestering carbon and reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers. It fosters healthy plant growth, enhances water retention, and mitigates soil erosion, contributing to sustainable and resilient farming practices.

**Whole Orchard Recycling**

Whole orchard recycling is a vital regenerative agriculture method where entire trees are returned to the soil post-harvest, enriching it with organic matter, nutrients, and microbial diversity. This practice enhances soil health, fertility, and water retention, while also reducing waste and promoting carbon sequestration for sustainable orchard management.
The website of the Chico State Center of Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems offers an abundance of resources for those interested in regenerative agricultural practices.

Regenerative Agriculture Practices That Improve Soil Health

- **Cover Cropping and Biomass**: Crops that are used specifically for the purpose of improving soil health.
- **Crop Rotation**: Growing a series of different crops with different nutrient usage and nutrient fixing qualities in succession.
- **Reduced Tillage**: No till, strip till, ridge till, mulch till, and vertical/shallow till.
- **Soil Inoculants, Compost and Manures**: Soil amendments that address fertility and soil biodiversity.
- **Adaptive Grazing and Regenerative Ranching**: Adaptive multi-paddock grazing, animal impact, and riparian restoration.
- **Multispecies Grazing**: Grazing multiple species on the same pasture.

[Visit the website](https://www.csuchico.edu/regenerative_agriculture/ra101-section/index.shtml) for more information.
APPLICATION
WALK-THRU

https://www.buttetfarmbureau.com/programs/healthy-soils-program
When compiling documentation for the grant, there are several essential aspects to consider in order to accurately provide the required information.

### Section I: Application Information
- Legal name of operation
- Total agricultural acreage
- Mailing address (Operation or Applicant)
- Etc. Applicant Information (Phone #, Email, First & Last Name)

### Section II: Previously Funded Project
(Only Needed if You have received Previous HSP Funding)
- Previous Healthy Soil Agreement Number(s)
- Assessor's Parcel Number for Previous Implemented practices

### Section III: Replan Tool Data Upload and Information
- Project Implementation Acres
- Total GHG Reduction
- Number of Practices
- Replan PDF & Excel Upload

### Section IV: Practices
- Names of Practices Requested for Funding
- Highest Dollar amount requested

### Section V: Project Location Information
- Assessor's Parcel Number(s)
- Address of Project Sites
- (Optional) GPS Coordinates

### Section VI & VII
- Grower Matched Funds & Grant Requested Funds
- (Only for Compost Projects): Compost Source
REPLAN TOOL DEMO

https://replan-tool.org/cdfa/
The PDF component of CDFA's Replan tool will provide a thorough overview of the projects it encompasses, featuring the project summary, budget, and work plan. This PDF is essential for the application process and must be uploaded accordingly.
# Project summary and budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agricultural system</th>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Implementation acres</th>
<th>Estimated GHG reductions (MT CO₂ e/yr)*</th>
<th>Amount requested in the grant term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orchard</td>
<td>Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808)</td>
<td>8.81</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>$13,600.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard</td>
<td>Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)</td>
<td>6.17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$2,836.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Practice total      |                                                 | 8.81**               | 48                                     | $16,437.64                        |
| Total number of soil samples |                                 | 1 samples / year for 3 years |                                      | $150.00                           |

** Project total                                             $16,587.64

* The estimation of Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions is based on CDFA HSP COMET-Planner (http://comet-planner-cdfa.hsp.com/) developed by USDA-NRCS and Colorado State University coordinated by the CDFA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

** The total project implementation acreage is the total ground acreage where the project is to be implemented.
## Project implementation work plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Ag. system</th>
<th>Practice implementation</th>
<th>Payment scenario</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Implementation acres</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Soil samples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Orchard</td>
<td>Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808) - Compost (C:N &gt; 11) Application to Perennials, Orchards, and Vineyards - Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility</td>
<td>8 tons/acre</td>
<td>West Walnuts</td>
<td>8.81</td>
<td>Project year 1, Project year 2, Project year 3</td>
<td>1 / yr for 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Orchard</td>
<td>Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340) - Add Legume/ Legume Mix Cover Crop to Orchard/ Vineyard Alleys</td>
<td>Multiple species</td>
<td>East Walnuts</td>
<td>6.17</td>
<td>Project year 1, Project year 2, Project year 3</td>
<td>1 / yr for 3 years**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** The number of soil sample(s) is counted only once per field even though it may appear for each practice to be implemented on that field.
The Excel segment of CDFA's Replan tool will generate a data table containing details of the implemented practices. This Excel file is a necessary component for the application process and must be submitted accordingly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tracking number</th>
<th>Agricultural system</th>
<th>Agricultural management practice</th>
<th>Practice implementation</th>
<th>Payment scenario</th>
<th>Field name</th>
<th>Crop(s) grown in the past 1 to 3 years</th>
<th>Proposed crop(s) in the grant term</th>
<th>Approximate center latitude, longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7433210461</td>
<td>Orchard</td>
<td>Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808)</td>
<td>Compost (C:N &gt; 11) Application to Perennials, Orchards, and Vineyards - Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility</td>
<td>8 tons/acre</td>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>WALNUTS</td>
<td>WALNUTS</td>
<td>392.72268, -1212.90559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7433210461</td>
<td>Orchard</td>
<td>Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)</td>
<td>Add Legume/Legume Mix Cover Crop to Orchard/Vineyard Alleys</td>
<td>Multiple species</td>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>WALNUTS</td>
<td>WALNUTS</td>
<td>392.72268, -1221.90559</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808); Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340) 39.72268, -121.90559

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parcels (A/Pt)</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total acres</th>
<th>Practice Implementation acres</th>
<th>Acres of pollinator species planted</th>
<th>Plant species</th>
<th>Implementation timeline</th>
<th>Number of years to be funded</th>
<th>Payment rate ($/per acre or foot)</th>
<th>Estimated funding amount for practice implementation during the grant term</th>
<th>Number of soil samples for soil organic matter test per project year</th>
<th>Number of years to be funded for soil sampling during grant term</th>
<th>Estimated funding amount for soil samples during grant term</th>
<th>Annual GHG emission reduction benefits (metric ton CO2 equivalent/year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4042-330-018-000</td>
<td>Butte</td>
<td>8.81</td>
<td>8.81</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project year 1, Project year 2, Project year 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$514.56</td>
<td>$13,000.85</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4042-180-018-000</td>
<td>Butte</td>
<td>8.81</td>
<td>8.17</td>
<td>6.17</td>
<td>Vigna unguiculata ssp. unguiculata (Cowpea), Vicia sativa (Common vetch), Trifolium repens (Tansy), Pisum sativum subsp. arvense (Pea), Sinapis alba (White mustard)</td>
<td>Project year 1, Project year 2, Project year 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$153.32</td>
<td>$2,836.79</td>
<td>1**</td>
<td>3**</td>
<td>$150.00**</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4042-180-018-000</td>
<td>Butte</td>
<td>8.81</td>
<td>6.17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Project year 1, Project year 2, Project year 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$153.32</td>
<td>$2,836.79</td>
<td>1**</td>
<td>3**</td>
<td>$150.00**</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| AQ-180-018-000  | Butte  | 8.81        | 6.17                          |                                   |               | Project year 1, Project year 2, Project year 3 | 3                          | $153.32                     | $2,836.79                                                           | 1**                                                                | 3**                                                                | $150.00**                                                           | 9                                                                  |
Grant recipients must conduct soil sampling just before commencing practice implementation and within the grant term to ensure an accurate evaluation of soil organic matter (SOM). Additionally, it is mandatory for recipients to sample SOM content annually, preceding each year's practice implementation. For precise results, this should align with the baseline soil sample month and employ the same testing method at the same laboratory.

Source: Butte County Healthy Soils Program Incentive Grant Guidelines, Page 23.
TIMELINES
The application period begins March 6, 2024. The deadline to submit a grant application is May 3, 2024, at 5:00 pm pacific standard time. No exceptions will be granted for late submissions.

Tentative timeline (subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Activity</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCFB Grant Guidelines Available</td>
<td>February 28, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCFB Grant Guidelines Available</td>
<td>March 6, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Application Deadline</td>
<td>May 3, 2024 at 5 pm PST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Review</td>
<td>May 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announce Awards</td>
<td>June 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Process</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Agreement Stage</td>
<td>Estimated Time for Stage Completion*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant packet compilation – during this step, BCFB will work with awardees to get</td>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the information necessary to execute the grant agreement. Timeline for this step is</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dependent on how promptly the awardee provides information to BCFB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant agreement execution</td>
<td>Up to 120 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing advance payments – if awardees request and are granted approval for an</td>
<td>At least 45 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advance payment, it takes at least 45 days to process this payment after execution of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the grant agreement.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Subject to change
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS (TAP)
Navigating the grant application process can be perplexing, especially when utilizing the CDFA Replan tool and determining the most suitable practices for your operation. In such instances, the Chico State Center of Regenerative Agriculture is ready and available to aid, offering guidance to ensure a smoother and more informed application experience.

Technical Assistance Request Form: https://form.jotform.com/240507416823150
UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE: HSP APPLICATION VS. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST

HSP Application:

**Purpose:** Seeking Funding for Projects

**Description:** Formal Request for Grant Funding

**Content:**
- Detailed Project Proposal
- Budget Allocation
- Implementation Plan

**Outcome:** Grant Award for Eligible Projects

Technical Assistance Request:

**Purpose:** Seeking Guidance and Support

**Description:** Request for TAP Assitances

**Content:**
1. Specific Queries or Issues
2. Areas Needing Improvement
3. Desired Guidance

**Outcome:** Application Assistance
THANK YOU

Weekly Q&A For General Questions:

Thursday Coffee Hour
Every Week
Starting March 14th
Running Until Grant Ends

https://csuchico.zoom.us/j/89068875958?pwd=a0ZHVDVxeC9yOVo0eWJBWDFjTHFrdz09

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