



# OEFI NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING AND INNOVATION



## BY THE NUMBERS

# \$122 m

in funds awarded to reduce green house gas emissions in the state of California

# 701

projects supported

# 6.7 million

estimated metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e will be reduced over project lifespans

*Over the past quarter, CDFA staff has worked to fulfill OEFI's mission and use innovation, efficient management and science to serve California agriculture and support practices that benefit our environment. This newsletter provides updates on our programs, staff activities, and current funding opportunities.*

## OEFI staff visit Bay Area farms and research facilities to learn about climate smart technologies



Last month OEFI staff visited Bay Area farms and laboratories as part of their annual strategic planning meeting. These facilities, which included an energy independent vineyard, organic dairies and research laboratory use creative technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainability.

Contact us at  
[cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov)

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# Program Updates

## Alternative Manure Management Program



**Funding available!** CDFA has announced funding for the Alternative Manure Management Program. The program will provide \$19-33 million in grants to California dairy and livestock operators to implement non-digester manure management practices that reduce methane emissions. Program requirements, application instructions and information on free technical assistance can be found at: [cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP](http://cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP). Deadline to apply is **Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. PDT.**

## Dairy Digester Research and Development Program



### Grand Opening - Lakeview Dairy Digester Project

In February, CDFA Secretary Karen Ross participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new dairy digester project at Lakeview Dairy in Bakersfield, CA. Created in partnership with California Bioenergy and CDFA, the Lakeview digester will create enough energy to power 1,000 California homes.

**Project profile - Carlos Echeverria and Sons (CE&S) Dairy Biogas project.** Learn how Kern Country Dairy Farmers, Felix and Carlos Echeverria partnered with the state to build a digester project on their operation.

**Op-ed: Click** to read "How dairy farmers are helping us meet our climate goals," by CDFA Secretary Karen Ross.



## Healthy Soils Program



**Funding available!** CDFA is now accepting applications for the Healthy Soils Program (HSP). The program provides funding for incentivizing and demonstrating soil health practices that sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gases, and improve soil health. Up to \$1.6 million will be awarded for the projects, with no more than \$500,000 allocated specifically for HSP Demonstration projects. Detailed information on eligibility, program requirements, and technical assistance can be found at [cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils](http://cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils). Deadline to apply is **Friday, April 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. PDT.**

## State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program



### Project Profile: Desert Fresh, Inc

Click **here** to read about how SWEEP helped a Coachella Valley farm lower irrigation water use by nearly 15 percent while producing the same yield using precision agriculture technology.



## Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis



OPCA continues work with the Coalition for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES), UC Cooperative Extension, and the Dept. of Pesticide Regulation on the next phase of research to reduce pesticide spray drift in orchards. Learn more at [cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/opca](http://cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/opca).

## Research



### Research funding opportunity

CDFA is now accepting research proposals to evaluate how small dairies may differ from large dairies and describe cost effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (methane) from small-scale dairies. Proposals are due 5 P.M. PDT on Monday, **April 16, 2018**. Learn more at [cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/research](http://cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/research).