2020 HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM
INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The 2020 Healthy Soils Incentives Program is funded by the California Climate Investments.

Request for Grant Applications
Draft for Public Comment

Release date: TBD with rolling application submission up to 4 months or until available funds are expended.

Last day of rolling application period: TBD

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

CONTENTS

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The California Department of Agriculture (CDFA), in coordination with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), is pleased to announce funding availability through a competitive grant process for the 2020 Healthy Soils Program (HSP) Incentives Program.

The 2020 HSP Incentives Program is part of the Healthy Soils Program (HSP), which stems from the California Healthy Soils Initiative, a collaboration of state agencies and departments that promotes the development of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands. The 2020 HSP Incentives Program is funded by the California Climate Investments, authorized by the Budget Act of 2019.

The objectives of the HSP are to increase statewide implementation of conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs) by (1) providing financial incentives to California growers and ranchers for agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health, (2) funding on-farm demonstration projects that conduct research and/or showcase conservation management practices that mitigate GHG emissions and improve soil health, and (3) creating a platform promoting widespread adoption of conservation management practices throughout the state.

The HSP Incentives Program addresses Objective 1. Objectives 2 and 3 are addressed in the 2020 HSP Demonstration Projects. Request for Applications for both the HSP Incentives Program and the HSP Demonstration Projects are available on the HSP website: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/.

FUNDING AND DURATION

CDFA was appropriated $28 million from the California Climate Investments, authorized by the Budget Act of 2019 to fund HSP – Incentives Program and Demonstration Projects. The HSP Incentives Program will provide financial incentives to California growers and ranchers for implementation of agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs, and improve soil health.

- The maximum grant award is $100,000.
- The application submission period will be on a rolling basis, starting [date TBD] and continuing for up to 4 months, or until available funds are expended, whichever is earlier.
- Grant funds cannot be expended before [date TBD] or after [date TBD].
- Cost sharing (matching funds or in-kind contributions) during grant duration is not required but encouraged (See: Project Duration and Cost Sharing).
- CDFA reserves the right to offer an award different than the amount requested.

The HSP funds may be combined with other funds as match for the same project, such as funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). However, HSP funds cannot cover activities or costs funded by other federal or state grant programs.

ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSIONS

ELIGIBILITY

- California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes are eligible to apply.
- Projects must be located on a California agricultural operation. For the purpose of this program, an agricultural operation is defined as row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, and livestock and livestock product operations.
- University and research farms, and city community gardens are not eligible for funding through the HSP Incentives Program. These entities may apply for the HSP Demonstration Projects.
- Awards are limited to one per agricultural operation using a unique tax identification number per round of funding.
- All projects must implement at least one of the eligible agricultural management practices listed under Eligible Agricultural Management Practices, on fields where said practice was not implemented previously:
    - A previously implemented practice cannot be implemented on same field or APN.
    - A previously implemented practice can be implemented on a new, different field within the same APN.
    - Practices cannot be moved to different fields within an APN during the term of the grant agreement.
- Projects must result in net GHG benefits (i.e., net positive GHG reductions) from specific eligible agricultural management practices identified in this solicitation for the grant agreement term supported by document(s) of Carbon Sequestration and GHG Estimation Report(s) (See GHG Reduction Estimation).
- Applicants must provide past three years' baseline data on cropping and management histories directly related to fields identified by APNs where eligible agricultural management practices are proposed for implementation to be eligible for funding.
- Applicants must lease, own or otherwise control the fields and APNs where project activities are proposed to occur for the entirety of the project duration. If leasing

land, applicants must ensure the proposed project does not violate their lease agreement and document approval by the landowner to implement proposed practices(s) from [date TBD] to [date TBD].
- If selected for funding, applicants must be able to execute a grant agreement within 30 days of receiving a notice of award.

EXCLUSIONS

- Fields that have previously received HSP Incentives or Demonstration awards are not eligible.
- HSP Incentives Program funds cannot be used to implement management practices that are not listed under Eligible Agricultural Management Practices in this grant solicitation. All requirements for practice implementation must be followed.
- HSP Incentives Program funds cannot be used to fund fields with existing and ongoing implementation of any agricultural management practices listed under Eligible Agricultural Management Practices including fields for which a HSP Demonstrations or Incentives project was previously awarded. New fields within a previously funded APN, or new practices to be implemented on previously funded fields are eligible.
- Compost Application Practices may not be implemented on APNs where soil organic matter content is greater than 20 percent by dry weight in top 20 cm (or 8 inch) depth.
- Practices may not be implemented on lands or crop types that are not suitable based on NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and NRCS California Practice Scenarios.
- HSP Incentives program funds cannot be used for projects that use potted plants or other plant growth media.

ELIGIBLE AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

CDFA has identified eligible agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health for 2020 HSP projects. An applicant must include the APN(s) of the field(s) where the eligible management practice(s) will be implemented. An applicant may include multiple practices on the same APN or the same practice on multiple APNs. Some practices may not be implemented on the exact same field as part of the same project. Refer to Non-Overlapping Practices for details.

The following management practices were selected from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Practice Standards (CPS) and CDFA specified Compost Application Practices. HSP-

specific GHG Quantification Methodology is currently available for these practices.

All practices must be implemented in accordance with their respective NRCS CPS requirements for implementation in California and CDFA Compost Application White Paper. HSP-specific requirements for implementation of eligible practices are based on NRCS CPS documentation and 2019 NRCS California Practice Scenarios (HSP-specific practices only). Refer to the Program Requirements and Appendix A for details.

All eligible practices are divided into the categories below:

I. Soil Management Practices on Annual and/or Perennial Croplands[1]

- Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (USDA NRCS CPS 328)
- Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
- Nutrient Management (USDA NRCS CPS 590) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
- Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
- Residue and Tillage Management − Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
- Strip Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 585)
- Compost Application Practices
    - Compost Application to Annual Crops
        - Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
        - On-farm Produced Compost
    - Compost Application to Perennials, Orchards and Vineyards
        - Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
        - On-farm Produced Compost
- Whole Orchard Recycling

II. Herbaceous Cover Establishment on Croplands

- Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 327)
- Contour Buffer Strips (USDA NRCS CPS 332)
- Field Border (USDA NRCS CPS 386)
- Filter Strip (USDA NRCS CPS 393)
- Forage and Biomass Planting (USDA NRCS 512)
- Grassed Waterway (USDA NRCS CPS 412)

[1] **Annual or perennial cropland**: land where the crop(s) grown is identified as annual or perennial crop according to the Annual and Perennial Crop List for the Purpose of Conservation Compliance under the Food and Security Act of 1985, as amended or is determined as annual or perennial by the local USDA NRCS if it is not included in the list.

- Herbaceous Wind Barrier (USDA NRCS CPS 603)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 390)
- Vegetative Barriers (601) (USDA NRCS CPS 601)

III. Woody Cover Establishment on Croplands and/or Grazing Lands

- Alley Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 311)
- Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
- Multi-story Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 379)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (USDA NRCS CPS 391)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 612)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)

IV. Grazing Lands (Grasslands, Rangelands and/or Pastures)[2]

- Compost Application to Grassland
  - Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
  - On-farm Produced Compost
- Prescribed Grazing (USDA NRCS CPS 528)
- Range Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 550)
- Silvopasture (USDA NRCS CPS 381)

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR ESTIMATION OF GHG BENEFITS

Expected Life of Practices:

To estimate the net GHG benefits due to a practice implementation, the expected life of the practice is as follows:

Eligible Agricultural Management Practice	Expected Life of Practice*
Soil Management Practices	3 Years
Cropland to Herbaceous Cover Practices	3 Years

[2] **Grazing land**: Land used primarily for production of forage plants maintained or manipulated primarily through grazing management.

Grassland: Land where the vegetation is dominated by grasses and other herbaceous (non-woody) plants, such as forbs.

Rangeland: Land on which the potential plant cover is composed principally of native grasses, grass-like plants, forbs or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing, and introduced forage species that are managed like rangeland.

Pasture is a land use type having vegetation cover comprised primarily of introduced or enhanced native forage species that is used for livestock grazing. Pasture receives periodic renovation and cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. Pasture vegetation can consist of grasses, legumes, other forbs, shrubs or a mixture. Pasture differs from range in that it primarily produces vegetation that has initially been planted to provide preferred forage for grazing livestock.

Grazing Lands Practices, except Silvopasture	3 Years
Woody Cover Establishment Practices and Silvopasture	10 Years

*Expected Life of Practice for the HSP is different from that required by USDA-NRCS, and distinct from the grant duration.

In addition to the NRCS CPS requirements, 2019 NRCS California Practice Scenarios and the table provided above, the following scientific documents were used to establish requirements for implementation of practices:

1. White paper titled 'Compost Application Rates for California Croplands and Rangelands for a CDFA Healthy Soils Incentives Program', available at: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/CompostApplicationRate_WhitePaper.pdf
2. California Air Resources Board (CARB) Healthy Soils Quantification Methodology (QM) available at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cci-quantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials.
3. COMET-Planner Report: This report explains the scientific approaches that the quantification methodology has been utilized to estimate greenhouse gas reduction benefits for the CDFA HSP and is available at: http://bfuels.nrel.colostate.edu/health/COMET-Planner_Report_Final.pdf
4. CDFA's Draft Report on Whole Orchard Recycling https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/efasap/docs/WORforPublicCommentReport.pdf.

Technical information from these documents was evaluated and synthesized to develop Program Requirements and Appendix A.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Submitted applications must meet all applicable requirements in this section to be considered for funding.

- Eligible agricultural management practices can be implemented alone or in combinations, except where specified, on one APN or several APNs. Specific fields within each APN where agricultural management practice(s) will be implemented should be named by Field (Such as Field 1, Field 2, Field 3, etc.).
    - Each field must be outlined clearly on the APN map.
    - All fields must have the selected agricultural management practices implemented each year for the duration of the project term.
    - Implementations must begin prior to the end (i.e. December 31) of each project year.
    - Multiple management practices may be included within the same APN

(except for Non-Overlapping Practices), and multiple APNs within the same agricultural operation may be included in the project.
  - Once awarded, recipients may not change the APNs included in the grant application through the duration of the project.
  - Implementation of eligible management practices will be incentivized based on payment rates provided in Appendix A.

- Projects proposing to implement Prescribed Grazing must be located on grazing lands (i.e. rangelands, grazed grasslands and pastures). Applications for prescribed grazing projects must include a Grazing Management Plan prepared by a professional Certified Rangeland Manager.

- Projects fields where implementation of Riparian Forest Buffer and/or Riparian Herbaceous Cover practices is proposed must be adjacent to and upgradient from water courses or water bodies.

- Projects proposing to implement Conservation Crop Rotation must provide a detailed plan for crop rotation, listing all cash crops and/or cover crops to be planted in the correct sequence as part of the Work Plan.

- Implementation of Compost Application practices must meet the requirements below.

  - Compost Application Rates eligible for funding are provided in the table below.

Crop Type	Compost Type	Tons/Acre*
Annual Crops	Higher N (C:N ≤ 11)	3 – 5
	Lower N (C:N > 11)	6 – 8
Tree / Perennial	Higher N (C:N ≤ 11)	2 – 4
	Lower N (C:N > 11)	6 – 8
Rangeland	Lower N (C:N > 11)	6 – 8

*Compost application rates eligible for funding through this program were developed under the guidance of the Environmental Farming Act – Science Advisory Panel (EFA-SAP) and are published in a white paper report titled "Compost Application Rates for California Croplands and Rangelands for a CDFA Healthy Soils Incentives Program" (abbreviated as Compost Application White Paper) by CDFA.

  - Sources of compost eligible for funding must meet the following requirements.
    - <u>If compost is purchased</u>:

a. Compost must be produced by a facility permitted or otherwise authorized by state and local authorities that can demonstrate compliance with all state regulations. STA (US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance Program) or CDFA-OIM (Organic Input Material) Program certified compost is recommended. Applicants may look up certified composting facilities at the CalRecycle SWIS/Site Search website here.
b. A report of laboratory analysis on compost C:N ratio is required.

- If compost is produced on-farm:
  a. Plant and animal materials must be composted through the processes outlined below and a farm log must be maintained to document the process.
     - ***In-vessel or Static Aerated Pile System*:** Maintain a temperature between 131°F and 170°F for 3 days;
     - ***Windrow Composting*:** Maintain a temperature between 131°F and 170°F for 15 days. The materials must be turned a minimum of five times.
  b. C:N ratio of the compost to be applied must be verified through laboratory testing before application. Type of material(s) used for composting must be documented.
  c. Compost used in this practice must be produced at the agricultural operation that the project is located on. Externally sourced compost must be purchased from a certified facility.
  d. Compost used in this practice cannot be vermicompost.

- Implementation of the Whole Orchard Recycling (WOR) practice must meet the following requirements below:
  - Mature orchards should be chipped in place without exporting chips off-site or to new fields.
  - WOR practice shall not be implemented in soils with Soil Organic Matter greater than 20%.
  - WOR can be repeated no more than once every ten years for an APN or field.
  - Chips must be evenly distributed throughout the orchard. When a service provider is contracted, their commitment to distribute the wood chips must be in the contract/invoice for verification purposes.

  - Chips must be incorporated into the soil to at least 6 inches depth.
  - Land where WOR is implemented can be replanted with new tree crops or fallowed after incorporation of wood chips.

- *Non-Overlapping Practices*: For the purposes of the HSP, practices in the same group cannot be implemented on the exact same land area or field, i.e., cannot overlap or be on top of each other, as noted below. as noted below. If proposed together, only one practice may be funded.
  - Group I:
    - Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
    - Conservation Crop Rotation (USDA NRCS CPS 328)
    - Strip Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 585)
  - Group II:
    - Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
    - Residue and Tillage Management − Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
  - Group III: Compost Application: Compost must either be
    - Purchased from a Certified Facility, or,
    - On-farm Produced Compost
  - Group IV:
    - Alley Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 311)
    - Multi-story Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 379)
  - Group V:
    - Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
    - Whole Orchard Recycling
  - Group VI
    - Two or more practices listed under the category of Herbaceous Cover Establishment on Annual Cropland
  - Group VII
    - Two or more practices listed under the category Woody Cover Establishment on Annual Cropland
  - Group VIII
    - Herbaceous Cover Establishment practices and mulching

  Note: There may be practices (individual or combination) in addition to those listed above that may not overlap for a specific project. These may be evaluated by CDFA on a case-by-case basis and addressed during pre-project consultation.

- Requirements noted in Appendix A must be followed for all HSP practices.

- Assistance in selecting species to be planted when implementing cover crop, herbaceous, and woody cover establishment practices is available through the USDA NRCS California eVegGuide at https://www.calflora.org/nrcs/.

- CDFA strongly encourages applicants to enhance on-farm biodiversity through utilizing plant species (in applicable management practices) that support pollinator habitat and help meet the goals identified in the California Biodiversity Action Plan.

- *Applicant ID*: An agricultural operation can only submit one grant application using a unique tax identification number. If an agricultural operation does not have a unique tax identification number, that operation should only use the last four digits of their social security number (e.g., 000-00-1234) as their unique business identification number in their grant application.

  An agricultural operation must use the operation's legal business name and associated tax identification number in their application. The business name provided in the application is the entity to which CDFA will extend a Grant Agreement if the project is selected for an award. (See: Award Process).

- *Project Duration and Cost Sharing*: The HSP Incentives Program will provide funds for the grant duration beginning [Date TBD] until [Date TBD]. Though not required, applicants are encouraged to provide cost share to the project through the grant duration. Cost sharing can be in the form of matching funds or in-kind contributions. Matching funds refers to a dollar amount committed to a project from a source other than the HSP Incentives Program. An in-kind contribution is the estimated dollar value of any time, property, or supplies donated to a project, including costs associated with labor for work involved in the implementation of the proposed project. Applicants are required to certify that cost-share, if provided, has been secured at the time of application submission.

  Timeline for implementation of awarded projects is provided below:

Project Year	Duration of Project Year	Implementation Must Begin No Later Than
1	[Dates TBD]	December 31, 2020
2	[Dates TBD]	December 31, 2021
3	[Dates TBD]	December 31, 2022

- *Baseline Data:* Applicants must submit the following baseline data at the time of application.
    - Cropping history in the past three years (January 2017 – January 2020) in all APN(s) included in the application.
    - Management practice history in the past three years (January 2017 – January 2020) in all APN(s) included in the application.

  Applicants proposing to include Compost Application Practices in their projects must use the [CDFA application input tool – TBD] to check if the project site is eligible for compost application. Compost Application is not allowed on an APN that has soil organic matter content greater than 20 percent by dry weight for a 20 cm (or 8 inch) depth.

- *GHG Reduction Estimation*: An estimation of the reduction in GHG emissions from the selected Eligible Agricultural Management Practices must be calculated using the Quantification Methodology (QM) and calculator tools developed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The QM and calculator tool are adapted from the USDA-NRCS COMET-Planner methodology. The calculator tool used for HSP is available at http://comet-planner-cdfahsp.com/

  COMET-Planner Report will be generated upon completion of the calculation, which must be included as part of the application, and is required for all eligible agricultural management practice(s) selected. Projects eligible for HSP funding must achieve net GHG reductions, i.e., GHG reductions estimated using the QM and calculator tool must be positive in consideration of all the practices selected.

TIMELINE

The application period begins [Date TBD]. The deadline to submit a grant application is [Date TBD] by 5:00 p.m. PT. No exceptions will be granted for late submissions.

Activity	Date
Invitation to Submit Grant Applications	TBD
CDFA Grant Application Workshops	TBD
Applications Due	TBD
Review Period	TBD
Award Announcement	TBD

WORKSHOPS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CDFA will conduct four workshops on the 2020 HSP grant application process and program requirements. All workshops will be remotely accessible through live webinar.

CDFA cannot assist in the preparation of grant applications; however, general questions may be submitted to cdfa.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov. CDFA will conduct two rounds of Questions and Answers (Q&A) to address general questions about the application submission process and program requirements. Responses to all questions received during the workshops and webinars or by email will be posted to CDFA's HSP Incentives Program website according to the schedule below.

Questions Received by	Answers Provided by
TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD

In addition, CDFA-funded Technical Assistance (one-to-one on-demand assistance) across the state will be provided free of cost to all potential applicants. These technical assistance providers (TAPs) consist of experts in agricultural management practices from California academic Research Institutions, Resource Conservation Districts, and non-profit organizations. TAPs should not charge any additional fees or subsequent commitments (financial or otherwise) to help submit applications. Assistance may include technical aspects of the application process such as GHG calculation requirements, practice selection, project design, availability of a computer and internet to prepare the application. CDFA strongly encourages applicants to obtain technical assistance when developing a grant application.

Information about CDFA-conducted workshops and CDFA-funded Technical Assistance is available at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/technical/.

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW TO APPLY

The 2020 HSP Incentives Program is a web-based application [link TBD] process. The grant application is a series of questions in one or more of the following formats: a drop-down menu; a check box; a text box with predetermined character limitations; or as a document attachment. Responses to all questions must be submitted in the manner and format required by the application questionnaire electronically without exception. Preview of application questions is available in the Preview of Application Questions.

Applicants are encouraged to gather all required information using information provided

under Required Application Documents to facilitate effective and timely submission of the grant application.

APPLICATION PERIOD

The 2020 HSP Incentives Program will accept and award applications on a rolling basis starting [date TBD] and continue for up to 4 months, or until available funds are expended, whichever is earlier. Upon submission during this time-frame, a submitted application will be evaluated and decision to award grants funds will be made according to the Review and Evaluation process. Evaluation process for an application will be conducted in the order it was received during the application period.

APPLICATION SECTIONS

The 2020 HSP Application consists of the following sections available within the online questionnaire:

Applicant Information: This section includes names and contact information of the applicant organization, applicant, primary contact person(s) and collaborators for the project.

Project Overview: This section includes an overview of project, i.e., a brief description and total project cost.

Project Logistics: This section includes details of the proposed project, such as APNs on which practices will be implemented, number of proposed practices, associated acreage and project baseline data.

Project Design: This section includes a schematic of the project design with a map that includes APNs on which project will be implement, with a detailed layout of practices to be implemented, total acreage of each practice and plant species to be planted on each field (if applicable).

Project Work Plan: This section must be completed within the template provided by CDFA. Follow instructions provided in the online questionnaire and template. The work plan must include each activity necessary to implement practices and complete the project throughout the project term. Each activity must be associated with a specific project year and have a start and end date associated with it.

Project Budget: This section must be completed within the worksheet (Excel file) provided by CDFA. Follow instructions provided in the online questionnaire and worksheet. Acreage associated with various proposed practices must be consistent with

those provided in Project Logistics and Project Design.

GHG Emission Reduction Estimation: GHG emission reduction must be estimated using the CDFA HSP COMET-Planner tool. Follow instructions provided in the CARB Greenhouse Gas Quantification Methodology for CDFA Healthy Soils Program and online questionnaire.

Conservation Plan: Providing a Conservation Plan is optional, however, applications that include a qualified conservation plan with the application will receive additional points during review (See: Evaluation Criteria). A conservation plan is a plan of broad environmental/ecological impacts and solutions for the whole farm and is prepared by an NRCS specialist, an NRCS-trained individual or entity, a certified Crop Advisor, a certified Professional Soil Scientist, or a certified Professional Agronomist. A Conservation Plan should include, at a minimum:

- An aerial photo or diagram of project fields.
- A list of current management decisions.
- The location of and schedule for applying new conservation practices.
- Resource Assessment: inventory of resources and resource concerns, soils information, topographic maps, plan maps showing location of property, existing practices, structures, planned practices, soils, water features and other environmentally sensitive areas, and environmental assessment.
- Information explaining how to carry out specific management decisions.
- A plan for operation and maintenance of the management practice(s).

Benefits to Socially Disadvantaged Groups and/or AB 1550 Priority Populations: This section consists of a series of multiple-choice questions which must be answered to determine if the project must be prioritized on the basis of providing benefits to Socially Disadvantaged Groups and/or AB 1550 Priority Populations. Supporting documentation to support claimed benefits must be provided as necessary.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION PROCESS

REVIEW PROCESS

CDFA will conduct multiple levels of review during the grant application process. The first level review is an administrative review to determine whether application is complete, program requirements were met and if applicable, assess an applicant's past grant performance. All required documentation must be submitted to avoid disqualification. Projects that do not pass the first level review will not be moved to the second level review.

The second level review is a technical review to evaluate the feasibility and overall

likelihood of project success, including selection of HSP practices associated with suitable crop/land type, a clear and proper project design, a reasonable implementation timeline (work plan), and, the correct estimation of GHG emission reductions and carbon sequestration. The technical review committee comprises of academic researchers, extension specialists, and farm advisors affiliated with the University of California and California State University systems.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria (see Detailed Scoring Criteria for additional information). An application must score a minimum of 40 points to be considered for funding.

Criteria	Score
Project Logistics	10
Project Design	10
Project Work Plan	10
Project Budget	10
GHG Emission Reduction Estimation	10
Conservation Plan (if applicable)	10
Total	**60**

FUNDING PRIORITY

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the funds available for HSP Incentives Program will be awarded to the following applicants and/or projects:

- **Benefits to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers**[3]
  CDFA will ensure the inclusion of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers in all programs, including HSP, consistent with the Farmer Equity Act of 2017.

- **Benefits to Priority populations**
  SB 535 established statutory requirements that a minimum of 25 percent of California Climate Investments is allocated to projects that provide benefits to disadvantaged communities, and of that 25 percent, a minimum of 10 percentage

[3] "Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher" means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. "Socially disadvantaged group" means a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups include all of the following:
(1) African Americans (2) Native Indians (3) Alaskan Natives (4) Hispanics (5) Asian Americans (6) Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

points is allocated to projects that are also located within disadvantaged communities. AB 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016), amended these requirements by increasing the percent of funds for projects located in disadvantaged communities from 10 to 25 percent and added a focus on investments in low-income communities and households. Collectively, these communities are referred to as 'priority populations'. AB 1550 investment minimums apply to the overall appropriations of monies from the GGRF, not the individual agency programs. However, all California Climate Investments programs including the HSP are encouraged to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities, low-income communities and low-income households.

Priority populations can be identified using the mapping tools provided by CARB at www.arb.ca.gov/cci-resources. Projects are not required to provide benefits to priority populations. However, the projects that are determined to be providing benefits based on their responses to the application questions will be prioritized for funding.

To be considered as providing benefits to Priority Populations, applicants must provide answers to questions in the "Benefits to Severely Disadvantaged Communities, Socially Disadvantaged Groups and/or Priority Populations" Section of the electronic application and supporting documentation verifying that the projects meet the requisite criteria.

NOTIFICATION AND FEEDBACK

All applicants will be notified by email regarding the status of their grant application. Applicants may expect to receive feedback on their grant application within 6 weeks of submission.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

The following will result in the disqualification of a grant application:

1. Incomplete grant applications: applications with one or more unanswered questions necessary for administrative or technical review.
2. Incomplete grant applications: applications with missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments.
3. Applications requesting funding for more than the maximum award amount.
4. Applications with unallowable costs or activities not necessary to complete the project objectives.
5. Applications that do not comply with Eligibility and Exclusions or do not meet

Program Requirements.

APPEAL RIGHTS: Any discretionary action taken by the Office of Grants Administration (OGA) may be appealed to CDFA's Office of Hearings and Appeals within ten (10) days of receiving a notice of disqualification from CDFA. The appeal must be in writing and signed by the responsible party named on the grant application or his/her authorized agent. It must state the grounds for the appeal and include any supporting documents and a copy of the OGA decision being challenged. The submissions must be sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Hearings and Appeals, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or emailed to CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov. If submissions are not received within the time frame provided above, the appeal will be denied.

AWARD PROCESS

PRE-PROJECT CONSULTATION

After receiving notification of award, each recipient will be contacted by CDFA via email to conduct a pre-project consultation. In some cases, a phone call with grant recipient may be necessary. A CDFA environmental scientist will discuss with the recipient the project work plan, including management practice(s), APN, field number, acreage, materials and/or plant species (if applicable) associated with practice implementation, and budget. The purpose of the pre-project consultation is to ensure that practices and implementation methods in the funded project are compliant with 2020 HSP Incentives Program requirements and to allow CDFA to schedule verification site visits.

GRANT AGREEMENT

CDFA will initiate the Grant Agreement process with applicants selected to receive a 2020 HSP Incentives Program grant award. Applicants with projects selected for an award of funds will receive a Grant Agreement package with specific instructions regarding award requirements including information on project implementation, verification, and payment process.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Once a Grant Agreement is executed, the grant recipient may begin implementation of the project. Recipients are responsible for the overall management of the awarded project to ensure all project activities are completed as identified in the Grant Agreement.

Implementation must begin on or after [Date TBD] but no later than December 31, 2020. Failure to implement the project prior to December 31, 2020 may result in all or any portion of the grant funding withheld or termination of the Grant Agreement. Implementation of

soil management practices in years 2 and 3 must begin prior to December 31 in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

PROJECT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Recipients are required to report annually soil organic matter content for each APN/ Field where HSP Management Practices are implemented. For this purpose, soil samples must be taken once prior to project implementation, one year and two years following initial project implementation.

Each submission should contain a laboratory report of soil organic matter content for each APN from any of the accredited soil analytical laboratories recommended by CDFA[4]. The soil sampling protocol provided in HSP Soil Sampling Protocol for Soil Organic Matter Analysis must be followed when collecting soil samples.

PAYMENT PROCESS

Grant payment for the 2020 HSP Incentives Program is a flat-rate payment system on a reimbursement basis through yearly invoicing upon practice verification.

Note: CDFA is currently evaluating USDA-NRCS EQIP payment rates for 2020 in efforts to better align the HSP with EQIP. CDFA is currently using 2018 payment rates and is in discussion with USDA-NRCS on the new payment rates for California. CDFA HSP payment rates will cover 100% of the project cost (i.e., double the amount of the USDA-NRCS EQIP payment rates).

CDFA will provide the grant recipient with the necessary grant award and invoicing documents (See: Project Verification)

ADVANCE PAYMENTS

If selected for funding, recipients may be eligible for advance payments of up to 25 percent of the grant award, subject to the provisions of section 316.1 “Advance Payments” of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 5.

PROJECT VERIFICATION

Recipients will be subjected to verification that the eligible agricultural management practices are implemented in a manner consistent with the USDA NRCS CPS guidelines, Program Requirements and Appendix A. Verification will be conducted by CDFA environmental scientists who will conduct field evaluations by APN to verify program

[4] CDFA recommended soil analytical labs are listed in HSP Soil Sampling Protocol for Soil Organic Matter Analysis.

compliance during the grant agreement term. CDFA will be responsible for the expense of verification.

The purpose of project verification is to determine whether and when deliverables are being met and evaluate project progress to ensure the eligible agricultural management practice(s) are completed within the grant agreement term. Recipients may be required to submit financial records and project related documentation (such as receipts for payment of services/goods) to ensure HSP Incentives Program funds are used in compliance with the Grant Agreement terms and conditions. Specific verification requirements for each practice are noted in Appendix A and will be provided in the Grant Awards Procedures manual. The verification must be completed by [date TBD].

The State of California has the right to review project documents and conduct audits during project implementation and over the project life.

POST-PROJECT COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Execution of the Grant Agreement is conditional upon agreement to post-project completion requirements. Recipients are required to maintain implementation of practices incentivized through this program through the term of the grant agreement. However, benefits from implementation of practices are expected to be achieved in the long term. Recipients are encouraged to continue and/or expand these practices on their operations to achieve long-term benefits. Additionally, grant recipients are required to maintain, three years after completion of project, documentation related to their HSP funded projects, including records documenting maintenance of the agricultural management practice(s) and any soil testing reports for the project APNs, to keep records of actual benefits achieved from the project.

Failure to work with CDFA to provide the necessary project-related documentation will be considered non-performance. In the event of non-performance, CDFA may take any action deemed necessary to recover all or any portion of the grant funding.

CDFA will contact a subset of awarded projects to collect data including, but not limited to, eligible agricultural management practice implementation and GHG reduction estimates, for three years after project completion.

STATE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS

In addition to HSP program requirements, awarded projects may be subject to State Audit and Accounting Requirements listed below.

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

Projects are subject to audit by the State annually and for three (3) years following the final payment of grant funds. If the project is selected for audit, Grantee will be contacted in advance. The audit shall include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of Grantee, as they relate to the project. All project expenditure documentation should be available for an audit, whether paid with grant funds or other funds.

Grantee must have project records, including source documents and evidence of payment, readily available and must provide an employee with knowledge of the project to assist the auditor. Grantee must provide a copy of any document, paper, record, etc., requested by the auditor.

ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS

Grantee must maintain an accounting system that:

- Accurately reflects fiscal transactions, with the necessary controls and safeguards.
- Provides a good audit trail, including original source documents such as purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, employee paystubs and time cards, evidence of payment, etc.
- Provides accounting data so the total cost of each individual project can be readily determined.

RECORDS RETENTION

Records must be retained for a period of three (3) years after final payment is made by the State. Grantee must retain all project records at least one (1) year following an audit.

DETAILED SCORING CRITERIA

CRITERIA	MAX POINTS
1. PROJECT LOGISTICS • Proposed practice not implemented in the field currently or last year? • For practice expanding to new acres: only new acres are eligible for funding? • Proposed practice implementation methods must be consistent with the requirements in the corresponding NRCS CPS documentation and/or with the requirements in the CDFA Compost Application White Paper.	**10**

2. PROJECT DESIGN • Project design schematic (map) including proposed practices is provided, accessible and readable. • The schematic includes all fields/APNs and landmarks. • All HSP practices to be implemented are identifiable on the map. • The total acreage or length for each practice to be implemented is provided. • Plant species in the project if applicable (e.g., for Cover Crop) is provided. • Compost Application: C:N ratio and application rate are indicated and within eligible range.	**10**

3. PROJECT WORK PLAN
• Tasks necessary to accomplish implementation of each proposed practice are feasible and all necessary tasks for each of the Project Year are included.
• Timeline for completing all tasks is reasonable and achievable.
• Please check:
  ○ All practices must be implemented/maintained each year for three years.
  ○ Soil samples must be taken prior to, one, two and three years after practice implementation.
	10

4. PROJECT BUDGET • Only HSP payment rates are allowed. • Acres/feet in the budget is only for new practice(s) and/or new acres of existing practice(s). • For a same practice in the same field if different materials/plant species are to be used, acreage/feet in the budget worksheet can be entered only once.	**10**
5. GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS • GHG Reductions Estimation Report from COMET-Planner is provided. • Input data (county, practice and acreage) is consistent with what is provided in the project design. • Acreage to calculate GHG reductions is only for each new practice or new acreage of expanded existing practice(s). • For cover crop practice implementation where legume and non-legume species are to be used in the same field, only acreage for legume species should be entered**.**	**10**
6. CONSERVATION PLAN • Documents: meet minimum requirements for the conservation plan.	**10**

TOTAL POINTS	60

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

All required application documents must be submitted by the deadline specified in this solicitation. In addition to the mandatory and optional attachments each applicant will provide, applicants must download, complete and upload the templates provided on this page: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/incentivesprogram.html.

- Project Work Plan Template

The mandatory and applicable attachments include:

- Report generated by the integrated application input tool
- COMET-Planner Report
- Landowner Agreement (if applicable).
- A Conservation Plan for Riparian Herbaceous Cover and/or Riparian Forest Buffer practices (if applicable).
- A Grazing management plan for Prescribed Grazing Practice (if applicable).
- Supporting Documents showing that the project provides benefits to AB 1550 Priority Populations (if applicable).

APPENDIX A
2020 HSP Incentives Program: Payment Rates, Requirements and Implementation Guidelines

Note: CDFA is currently evaluating USDA-NRCS EQIP payment rates for 2020 in efforts to better align the HSP with EQIP. CDFA is currently using 2018 payment rates and is in discussion with USDA-NRCS on the new payment rates for California. CDFA HSP payment rates will cover 100% of the project cost (i.e., double the amount of the USDA-NRCS EQIP payment rates).

Application Phase							Implementation Phase	
HSP Agricultural Management Practice Name	**Land/Crop Type***	**Practice Implementation Name* (COMET-Planner)**	**Payment Scenario Name**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years that Practice will be Paid**	**Required Document or Information at Time of Submission of Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Conservation Crop Rotation (NRCS CPS 328)	Annual or Perennial Croplands	Decrease Fallow Frequency or Add Perennial Crop to Rotations	Basic rotation	$19.62/Ac	3	A rotation plan including all crops in the sequence with at least one annually planted crop.	Effective implementation of the rotation to add higher residue and/or perennial crops to reduce erosion and increase other benefits.	(1) Rotation plan has been followed; (2) Acreage implemented.
			Specialty crops	$52.34/Ac				
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (NRCS CPS 329)	Annual or Perennial Croplands	Intensive Till to No Till or Strip Till on Irrigated Cropland	No-Till or Strip-Till	$30.18/Ac	3	Tillage implemented prior to application deadline	(1) No tillage; (2) Planting method is no-till drilling or hand planting. (3) All crops are seeded/planted with a no-till drill or no-till/strip-till planter. residues are to be maintained on the soil surface in a uniform distribution over the entire field and not burned or removed.	Any time of the year with minimum soil disturbance
		Intensive Till to No Till or Strip Till on Non-Irrigated Cropland						

Cover Crop (NRCS CPS 340)	Annual or Perennial Croplands	Add Non-Legume Seasonal Cover Crop to Irrigated Cropland	One species	$126.44/Ac	3	Information to be provided: (1) APN/field and acres; (2) Name(s) of cover crop species to be used; (3) Seeding rates and percent combination if multiple species; (4) Planting date and method; (5) Termination date and method; (6) Other information as needed.	(1) After harvest, fields are planted with single species cover crop (legume or non-legume). (2) No additional fertilizer is applied with the cover crop. (3) Cover crop should be allowed to grow to produce as much biomass as possible without delaying planting of the following crop. (4) Cover crop biomass/residue should not be removed to other places.	(1) Receipts of cover crop seeds purchased. (2) Cover crop is visible in the field at verification.
		Add Non-Legume Seasonal Cover Crop to Non-Irrigated Cropland						
		Add Legume Seasonal Cover Crop to Irrigated Cropland						
		Add Legume Seasonal Cover Crop to Non-Irrigated Cropland						
		Add Legume Seasonal Cover Crop to Irrigated Cropland	Multiple species	$147.00/Ac			(1) After harvest, fields are planted with two or more species including a small grain, a legume, and/or other species such as radishes and buckwheat. (2) No additional fertilizer is applied with the cover crop. (3) Cover crop should be allowed to grow to produce maximin biomass without delaying planting the following crop. (4) Cover crop biomass/residue should be kept in place.	
		Add Legume Seasonal Cover Crop to Non-Irrigated Cropland						
Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (NRCS CPS 345)	Annual or Perennial Croplands	Intensive Till to Reduced-Till on Irrigated Cropland	Reduced-Till	$32.06/Ac	3	Conventional tillage implemented prior to application deadline	(1) Mulch or vertical tillage, chiseling or disking to limit soil disturbance, or (2) Fewer tillage operations. (3) All residue shall be uniformly spread or managed over the surface throughout the critical erosion period(s) and not burned or removed. (4)	Must meet depth, frequency or percent area of soil disturbance as described/proposed in the project scope of work.
		Intensive Till to Reduced-Till on Non-Irrigated Cropland						

							Maintain 60 percent residue cover on the soil surface throughout the year.	
Mulching (NRCS CPS 484)	Annual or Perennial Croplands	Add Mulch to Croplands	Natural Materials	$385.70/Ac	3	Cropland condition where mulch to be implemented, mulch materials and source	1-3 inches thickness of straw or other natural materials	(1) ≥ 60% soil surface covered; (2) 1-3" thickness of mulch materials; (3) Receipts of materials if purchased.
			Wood Chips	$1712.14/Ac			2-3 inches thickness of wood chips	(1) Tree rows (≥ 4' radius) covered; (2) 2-3" thickness of mulching; (3) Receipts of wood chips if purchased.
Strip Cropping (NRCS CPS 585)	Annual or Perennial Croplands	Add Perennial Cover Grown in Strips with Irrigated Annual Crops	Wind and water erosion control	$2.64/Ac	1	Strip design: diagram on the APN where strips are located, number of strips, and width & length of each strip. Determine the maximum width of each strip using the current erosion prediction tool(s). Adjust strip widths to be multiples of the width of the planting equipment.	(1) Two or more strips are required; (2) ≥ 50% vegetation cover must be perennial and erosion resistant crops. (3) Do not include erosion-susceptible crops in adjacent strips at the same time during the year.	(1) Number, width & length of strips; (2) species (perennial and erosion resistant); (3) strip plants at verification
		Add Perennial Cover Grown in Strips with Non-Irrigated Annual Crops						
Nutrient Management (NRCS CPS 590)	Annual or Perennial Croplands where synthetic nutrient fertilizers have been	Improved N Fertilizer Management on Irrigated Cropland - Reduce Fertilizer Application Rate by 15%	Basic nutrient management	$14.26/Ac	3	Nitrogen application rate and associated crop(s) in the past 3 years.	A nutrient management budget will be developed for each field(s) based on soil test analysis and university of California recommendation rates or crop removal rates. Nutrient management plan will be developed by a professional	Receipts and farm log of nitrogen fertilizers showing application rates is 15% less than what was used in the past 3 years or UC recommended rates.

	applied annually	Improved N Fertilizer Management on Non-Irrigated Cropland – Reduce Fertilizer Application Rate by 15%					agronomist, forester or biologist.	
Compost Application to Annual Crop (CDFA)	Annual Croplands	Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application to annual crops	Compost from a certified composting facility	$ 50.00/ton	3	(1) APNs where compost application to be implemented should have soil organic matter content less than 20% by dry weight; (2) Compost C:N ratio range and (3) Application rate	Application rate must be between 3-5 tons/acres	(1) Receipts for total compost purchased; (2) conversion factor for compost measured in volume to weight; (3) compost C:N ratio analysis report; (4) verification is when compost is spread or visible.
		Compost (C:N > 11) application to annual crops					Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acres	
Compost Application to Perennials, Orchards and Vineyards (CDFA)	Perennial Croplands	Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application to annual crops					Application rate must be between 2-4 tons/acres	
		Compost (C:N > 11) application to annual crops					Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acres	
Compost Application to Annual Crop (CDFA)	Annual Croplands	Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application to annual crops	On-farm produced compost				Application rate must be between 3-5 tons/acres	(1) A farm log including materials, method and temperatures during composting process; (2) conversion factor for compost measured in volume to weight; (3) compost analysis report on C:N ratio; (4) verification is when compost is spread or visible.
		Compost (C:N > 11) application to annual crops					Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acres	
Compost Application to Perennials, Orchards and Vineyards (CDFA)	Perennial Croplands	Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application to annual crops					Application rate must be between 2-4 tons/acres	
		Compost (C:N > 11) application to annual crops					Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acres	

Whole Orchard Recycling (WOR)	Perennnial Croplands (orchards)	Whole Orchard Recycling			1	Provide type and age of trees being recycled.		(1) A farm log including materials, time of application; (2) Before and after pictures of orchard; (3) verification is when chips are incorporated.
Conservation Cover (NRCS CPS 327)	Annual Cropland	Convert Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Grass/ Legume cover	Introduced species	$203.16/Ac	1	(1) Introduced perennial or selected using CalFlora, (2) seeding rate & planting method	(1) Inoculate legumes at planting if legume species is used (2) Maintain plant growth in good condition to reduce soil erosion, runoff and dust emissions; (3) Protect from animal damage.	(1) Receipts of seeds purchased including species names; (2) plants are visible & in good condition at verification.
			Introduced species with foregone income	$607.74/Ac				
	Annual Cropland	Convert Irrigated or Non-irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Grass/ Legume Cover	Monarch species – mix species	$2,222.26/Ac	1	(1) Plant species must be mix of native grass and forbs for specialized purposes (wildlife, pollinators or ecosystem restoration); (2) Species may not be readily available and/or difficult to produce; (3) seeding rate & planting method	(1) Maintain plant growth in good condition to reduce soil erosion, runoff and dust emissions; and (2) Protect from animal damage.	
			Monarch species – mix species with foregone income	$2,465.00/Ac	1			
	Annual Cropland	Convert Irrigated or Non-irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Grass/ Legume Cover	Native species	$280.74/Ac	1	(1) Plant species must be mix of native perennial, (2) seeding rate & planting method	(1) Inoculate legumes at planting if legume species is used; (2) Maintain plant growth in good condition to reduce soil erosion, runoff and dust emissions; (3) Protect from animal damage.	
			Native species with foregone income	$701.98/Ac	1			

	Annual Cropland	Convert Irrigated or Non-irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Grass/ Legume Cover	Pollinator species	$1,571.88/Ac	1	(1) Perennial species includes mix of native grasses, legumes, and forbs to provide habitat for pollinators, (2) seeding rate & planting method	(1) Inoculate legumes at planting if legume species is used; (2) Maintain plant growth in good condition to reduce soil erosion, runoff and dust emissions; (3) Protect from animal damage.	
			Pollinator species with foregone income	$1,993.12/Ac	1			
	Perennial Cropland	Convert Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Grass/ Legume Cover	Orchard or Vineyard Alleyways	$142.72/Ac	1	Plant species, seeding rate and planting and maintenance methods	(1) Inoculate legumes at planting time if legume species is used, and (2) Maintain permanent vegetation	(1) Receipts of seeds purchased; (2) alley covered
Contour Buffer Strips (NRCS CPS 332)	Productive Annual Cropland on hill slopes	Convert Strips of Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Unfertilized Grass/Legume Cover	Introduced species, foregone income	$620.10/Ac	1	Introduced perennial species, seeding rate, planting method	(1) Width of strips: (a) at least 15 feet wide when using grass or at least 50% grass if mixture of grass-legume/ forbs; (b) at least 30 feet wide when legume/forbs are used alone, or legumes consist of more than 50% of the stand. (2) Inoculate legumes at planting time if legume species is used; and (3) Maintain plant growth in good condition.	(1) Strips and plants are visible & in good condition at verification; (2) Receipts of seeds purchased.
			Native species, foregone income	$615.08/Ac	1	Native perennial species, seeding rate, planting method		
			Wildlife Pollinator, foregone income	$832.26/Ac	1	Three or more native perennial species that are pollinator friendly species, seeding rate, planting method		
Field Border (NRCS CPS 386)	Annual Croplands along perimeter	Convert Strips of Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Permanent Unfertilized Grass/Legume Cover	Introduced species	$136.64/Ac	1	Field border widths and lengths based on local design criteria. Introduced perennial species, seeding rate, planting method	(1) Inoculate legumes at planting time if legume species is used; (2) Maintain plant growth in good condition; (3) Disturb no more than 1/3 of the field border; (4) Do not burn the field border.	(1) Plants are visible & in good condition at verification; (2) Receipts of seeds purchased.

			Native Species	$184.88/Ac	1	Field border widths and lengths based on local design criteria. Untreated native perennial species; seeding rate; planting method	(1) Inoculate legumes at planting time if legume species is used; (2) Maintain plant growth in good condition; (3) Disturb no more than 1/3 of the field border; (4) Do not burn the field border.	
			Pollinator Species	$1,510.22/Ac	1	Field border widths and lengths based on local design criteria. Mixed species & native forb that are pollinator friendly; seeding rate; planting method	(1) Minimum width is 30 feet. Maintain plant growth in good condition. (2) Disturb no more than 1/3 of the field border. (2) Do not burn the field border.	
Filter Strip (NRCS CPS 393)	Annual Croplands, specifically sensitive area with a slope of 1% or greater	Convert Strips of Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Grass/Legume Cover	Native species	$248.54/Ac	1	A map showing an environmentally sensitive area (riparian zone, wetland, habitats of concern, erosion control, and karst areas); Native perennial grass. Length, width (width refers to flow length through the filter strip), and slope of the filter strip to accomplish the planned purpose(s).	Native warm season perennial species are recommended.	Plants are visible & in good condition at verification; (2) Receipts of seeds purchased.

			Introduced species	$268.16/Ac	1	A map showing an environmentally sensitive area; introduced perennial grass and/or legume mix. Length, width (width refers to flow length through the filter strip), and slope of the filter strip to accomplish the planned purpose(s).	Introduced cool season perennial species are recommended.	
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (NRCS CPS 390)	Annual Cropland areas near a stream	Convert Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/legume Cover Near Aquatic Habitats	Broadcast Seeding	$3,481.40/Ac	1	Area of practice implementation must be upgradient from and adjacent to water courses or water body.	Plant site adapted species of grasses, legumes, and/or forbs by broadcast and/or no-till (or range drill) or plus planting seeding methods as necessary to accomplish the intended purpose(s).	(1) Receipts for materials purchased and (2) Established riparian zone - an adapted, diverse vegetative plant community that is under close management to ensure long term survival & ecological succession.
			Plug Planting	$40,689.76/Ac				
			Combination Broadcast Seeding and Plug Planting	$21,662.22/Ac				
			Pollinator Cover	$4,764.60/Ac				
Grassed Waterway (NRCS CPS 412)	Annual Cropland areas where peak runoff is expected, and erosion control is needed.	Convert Strips of Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Base Waterway	$2,164.42/Ac	1	A plan including a design schematic, plant species and planting method	Follow the detailed requirements in the guidelines and the submitted plan. Planting area should be measured from top of bank to top of bank. For "Base waterway with checks", fabric or stone checks installed every 100 feet along the waterway perpendicular to waterflow and 2/3 the waterway top width to reduce maintenance and provide temporary protection until vegetation is established. Fabric Checks are installed 18"	(1) Success of grassed waterway with suitable vegetation; (2) Receipts of materials purchased.
			Base waterway with checks	$3,372.00/Ac				

							deep with 12" laid over on the surface.	
Forage and Biomass Planting (NRCS CPS 512)	Annual Croplands suitable to the establishment of species for forage or biomass production	Conversion of Annual Cropland to Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Grass/Legume Forage/Biomass Crops	Nonnative, high seeding rate, no lime	$313.28/Ac	1	Plant species, seeding rate, plantinfg method, and irrigation availability	Seeding rate of 30 lb/acre pure live seed (PLS)	(1) Plants are visible & in good condition at verification; (2) Receipts of seeds purchased.
			Nonnative, standard seeding rate, no fertilizer	$152.00/Ac			Seeding rate of 9 lb/acre PLS	
			Nonnative, standard seeding rate with fertilizer	$218.50/Ac			Seeding rate of 9 lb/acre PLS	
			Nonnative, high seeding rate, with lime	$428.20/Ac			Seeding rate of 30 lb/acre pure live seed (PLS)	
Vegetative Barrier (NRCS CPS 601)	Annual Croplands where sheet or rill erosion is of concern	Convert Strips of Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Vegetative Planting	$1.34/Ft	1	Plant species that meets stiffness index and is tolerant to soil erosion, seeding rate and method	Permanent strips of stiff, dense vegetation established along the general contour of slopes. Broadcast or drill seeds in a strip at least 3 feet wide .	(1) Plants are visible & in good condition at verification; (2) Receipts of seeds purchased.
Herbaceous Wind Barriers (NRCS CPS 603)	Annual Croplands	Convert Strips of Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Cool Season Perennial Species	$0.14/Ft	1	Design schematic, plant species that is tolerant to soil deposition and stiff, seeding rate and method	Width of the Herbaceous Wind Barrier must be at least 2 feet	(1) Plants are visible & in good condition at verification; (2) Receipts of seeds purchased.

Alley Cropping (NRCS CPS 311)	Annual Croplands	Replace 20% of Annual Cropland with Woody Plants	Tree-planting, single row	$6,652/acre	1	Species and number of trees. Minimum of 200 trees/acre are required.	Potted or balled and burlapped hardwood tree at size of 2-3 gal to be used.	(1) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (2) species and number of live plants; (3) Tree protection and irrigation
Multistory Cropping (NRCS CPS 379)	Annual Croplands	Replace 20% of Annual Cropland with woody plants	Free trees or shrubs	$1,040/acre	1	Plant species and number of each species. Minimum of 200 trees/acre are required.	For enhancement of multi-story agroforests or improvement of overstory on existing cropland.	(1) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (2) species and number of live plants; (3) Tree protection and irrigation
			Native shrub planting	$1,972/acre			Seedling size is no less than 1 qt.	
			Native tree planting	$1,972/acre			Seedling size is no less than 1 qt.	
			Non-native shrubs	$1,548/acre			(1) Bare root shrub size is 6-18" tall, band pots of common species, or (2) seedling containerized size is ≥ 10 cu. in..	
			Non-native tree planting	$1,548/acre			(1) Bare root tree size 6-18" tall, band pots of common species, or (2) Seedling containerized size is ≥10 cu. in..	
Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment (NRCS CPS 380)	Annual Croplands or Grazing Lands	Replace a Strip of Cropland or Grassland with 1 Row of Woody Plants	1-row, trees, containers, hand planted, with tree protected	$ 1.22/Ft	1	Length to plant, Plant species and number of each species	(1) Minimum width of tree row is 8 feet; (2) Plant protection is required; (3) ≥200 plants/acre.	(1) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (2) species and number of live plants; (3) Tree protection and irrigation
			1-row, tree or shrub, with wind protection fence	$1.78/Ft			(1) Minimum width 8 feet for tree row and 4 feet for shrubs; (2) Plant protection is required; (3) ≥200 plants/acre.	
Hedgerow Planting (NRCS CPS 422)	Annual Croplands or Grazing Lands	Replace a Strip of Cropland or Grassland with 1 Row of Woody Plants	Single Row	$8.58/Ft	1	Length to plant, Plant species and number of each species	(1) Inclusion of pollinator-friendly shrubs/perennial wildflowers; (2) Combination of cool & warm season perennial species; (3) ≥200 plants/acre; (2) Row width ≥ 8 feet; Average height ≥ 3 feet at maturity; (4) Planting protection.	(1) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (2) species and number of live plants; (3) Tree protection and irrigation

Riparian Forest Buffer (NRCS CPS 391)	Annual Croplands or Grazing Lands near a stream	Replace a Strip of Cropland or Grassland Near Watercourses or Water Bodies with Woody Plants	Bare-root, hand planted	$2,367.00/Ac	1	Area of practice implementation must be upgradient from and adjacent to water courses or water body.	(1) Bareroot shrubs and trees are hand planted at a density of 35 or more plantings per acre; (2) Size of seedlings must be: (a) Hardwood trees: 18-36" tall; (b) Conifer trees: 1-1 (2 years old); (3) Planted tree are protected.	(1) Receipts for different sizes of seedlings/cuttings purchased; (2) proof of planting method; (3) Species and number of live trees/shrubs; (4) Tree protection (fence or other protection means, and irrigation as needed).
			Bare-root, machine planted	$2,223.16/Ac			(1) Bareroot shrubs and trees are machine planted at density of 35 or more plants per acre; (2) Size of seedlings must be (a) Hardwoods: 18-36" tall; (b) Conifer: 1-1 (2 yrs old). (3) Planted trees are protected	
			Cuttings, Small to Medium Size	$2,784.48/Ac			(1) Cuttings are hand planted at a density of 35 or more plants per acre; (2) Size of cuttings are no less than 1/4"-1" in diameter and 24-48"long. (3) Planted trees are protected.	
			Cuttings, Medium to Large Size	$7,183.68/Ac			(1) Cuttings are hand planted at a density ≥ 35 plants per acre; (2) Size of cuttings ranges from 1/4-1" in diameter & 24-48" long to 2-6” in diameter & 6' long. (3) Plants are protected.	
			Small container, hand planted	$3,749.36/Ac			(1) Seedlings are hand planted at a density of 35 or more plants per acre; (2) Container size is ≥ 1 quart. (3) Planted trees are protected.	
			Small container, machine planted	$3,238.12/Ac			(1) Seedlings are machine planted at a density ≥ 35 plants per acre; (2) Planted trees are protected; (3) Container size is ≥ 1 quart.	
			Large container, hand planted	$9,427.38/Ac			(1) Seedlings are hand planted at a density ≥ 35 plants per acre; (2) Container size is about 2-3 gal. (3) Planted trees are protected.	

Tree/Shrub Establishment (NRCS CPS 612)	Annual Cropland or Grazing Lands	Conversion of Annual Croplandor Grassland to a Farm Woodlot	Conservation, hand planted, browse protection	$ 915.30/Ac	1	Plant species and number of each species	(1) Seedlings are hand planted at a density ≥ 150 trees per acre. (2) Bareroot hardwood seedling or transplant side: shrubs are 6-18" tall and trees are 18-36" tall. (3) Plants are protected.	(1) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (2) species and number of live plants; (3) Tree protection and irrigation.
Prescribed Grazing (NRCS CPS 528)	Grazing Lands	Grazing Management to Improve Irrigated Pasture Condition or Rangeland or Non-Irrigated Pasture Condition	Pasture, basic	$22.06/Ac	3	A grazing management plan by a certified range manager or equivalent professional	To enhance rangeland health & ecosystem function; optimize efficiency & economic return through monitoring & record.	Documents at verification: (1) Records of grazing dates and stubble height after grazing; (2) short term monitoring- photos and forage production; (3) sensitive area protection.
			Range, basic	$5.00/Ac				
Range Planting (NRCS CPS 550)	Rangelands	Seeding forages to improve rangeland condition	Native species broadcast	$575.56/Ac	1	Plant species, seeding/planting rate, planting method	(1) Native adapted perennial species (native forb, cool season and native perennial grass); (2) Seeding rate is 18 lb/acre PLS.	(1) Receipts of seeds purchased; (2) Species, seeding/planting rate; (3) Documentation of planting method (farming log and photos); (4) visible plants at verification.
			Native species high forb drilled	$526.38/Ac			(1) Native adapted perennial species (native forb, cool season and perennial grass); and (2) No-till or range drill.	
			Native species low forb drilled	$351.22/Ac			(1) Predominately native adapted perennial species (native forb, cool season and native perennial grass); (2) no-till or range drill.	
			Nonnative species broadcast	$212.90/Ac			(1) Three Species Mix - cool season and introduced perennial grass; (2) Seedbed preparation; (3) Seeding rate:18 lb/acre PLS.	
			Nonnative species drilled	$169.90/Ac			(1) Three Species Mix - cool season and introduced perennial grass; and No-till drill plant.	
			Shrub plugs	$2,578.46/Ac			(1) Shrub seedling or transplant, bareroot shrubs 3 to 5 feet tall; (2) Density: 1000 plants/acre.	

Silvopasture (NRCS CPS 381)	Grazing Lands	Tree/Shrub Planting on Grazed Grasslands	Establish trees, existing grasses	$193.90/Ac	1	Plant species and number	(1) Plant density is 20 plants or more per acre; (2) Tree protection (fence and irrigation, etc.)	(1) Live trees/shrubs. (2) Receipts of seedlings purchased.
Compost Application to Grassland (CDFA)	Grazing Lands	Compost (C:N > 11) application to grazed, irrigated pasture or grazed rangeland	Compost purchased from a certified composting facility	$50.00/ton	3	APNs where compost application to be implemented should have soil organic matter content less than 20% by dry weight; Compost source; C:N ratio and application rate	Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/Acres	(1) Receipts for total compost purchased; (2) conversion factor for compost measured in volume to weight; (3) compost analysis report; (4) verification is when compost is spread or visible.
			On-farm produced compost				Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/Acres	(1) A farm log includes materials, method and temperatures during composting process; (2) conversion factor for compost measured in volume to weight; (3) compost analysis report; (4) verification is when compost is spread or visible.

Definition of Land/Crop Type

* **Annual or perennial cropland**: land where the crop(s) grown is identified as annual or perennial crop according to the Annual and Perennial Crop List for the Purpose of Conservation Compliance under the Food and Security Act of 1985, as amended or is determined as annual or perennial by the local USDA NRCS if it is not included in the list.

Grazing land: Land used primarily for production of forage plants maintained or manipulated primarily through grazing management.

Grassland: Land where the vegetation is dominated by grasses and other herbaceous (non-woody) plants, such as forbs.

Rangeland: Land on which the potential plant cover is composed principally of native grasses, grass-like plants, forbs or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing, and introduced forage species that are managed like rangeland.

Pasture is a land use type having vegetation cover comprised primarily of introduced or enhanced native forage species that is used for livestock grazing. Pasture receives periodic renovation and cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. Pasture vegetation can consist of grasses, legumes, other forbs, shrubs or a mixture. Pasture differs from range in that it primarily produces vegetation that has initially been planted to provide preferred forage for grazing livestock.

Foregone Income: Reduced revenue that is generated mainly from reduced production because the land area used for growing cash crop(s) will be converted to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Grass/ Legume Cover. A payment scenario name that includes Foregone Income has higher payment rate because it takes consideration of both the reduced revenue and the expense for implementing the conservation management practice.

APPENDIX B: CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The California Public Records Act (Government Code sections 6250, et seq.) and related statutory definitions of "confidential or proprietary information" (also known as "trade secrets") determine what information provided by the applicant is exempt from public disclosure. The following describes how questions are resolved regarding what information is confidential, the legal protections for confidential information, and internal and program procedures to maintain confidentiality.

What is "confidential?"

The California Public Records Act prevents the disclosure of confidential or proprietary information including, but not limited to:

- Confidential Business and financial information, including volume of business, costs and prices, customers, financial condition, trade secrets, and similar information obtained under an express or implied pledge of confidence. (Ev. Code § 1060 and Gov. Code § 6254).
- Personal data including tax information prohibited from disclosure. (Gov. Code § 6254 and Rev. & Taxation Code § 19542.
- Information Practices Act of 1977 (Civ. Code section 1798 et seq.)

Applicants are directed to clearly marked, on each page, “confidential/proprietary information” those documents they feel contain confidential or proprietary information. However, the mere marking of documents as "confidential/proprietary information" will not result in their being treated as confidential if they are not exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

What if there is a question about what is confidential?

The CDFA Legal Office will review the records and make a determination as to whether or not the records are exempt from disclosure.

What program procedures will keep information confidential?

Financial information will be analyzed, on a need-to-know basis, by staff from the CDFA, kept confidential, and will be maintained with restricted access. Grantee businesses will agree to provide specific key financial information for three years to develop benchmarks to evaluate the program. The records will be kept for the amount of time set forth in CDFA’s Internal Record Retention Policy.