CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE CDFA HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

Updated: April 19, 2023

CDFA has identified eligible conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs, and improve soil health, for funding through the Healthy Soils Program (HSP). To be included in HSP and supported by Incentive grants, a practice must meet two criteria: achieving net GHG reduction benefits that can be estimated through a quantification methodology and having established implementation standards. As for practices that do not meet both criteria but have potentials to achieve net GHG benefits and/or improve soil health, CDFA may designate them for support by HSP Demonstration research grants. Currently, CDFA lists 27 practices for funding through HSP Incentive Grants, the HSP Block Grant Pilot and HSP Demonstration Type B Grants, and 11 innovative practices funding through HSP Demonstration Type A Research Grants.

Eligible practices are categorized based on agricultural systems where they can be implemented. They are divided into three categories below.

PRACTICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING THROUGH HSP INCENTIVE GRANTS

I. Cropland

1. Alley Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 311)
2. Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
    - Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
    - On-farm Produced Compost
3. Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS 327)
4. Conservation Crop Rotation (USDA NRCS 328)
5. Contour Buffer Strips (USDA NRCS CPS 332)
6. Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
7. Field Border (USDA NRCS CPS 386)
8. Filter Strip (USDA NRCS CPS 393)
9. Forage and Biomass Planting /Pasture and Hay Planting (USDA NRCS 512)
10. Grassed Waterway (USDA NRCS CPS 412)
11. Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
12. Herbaceous Wind Barrier (USDA NRCS CPS 603)
13. Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
14. Multi-story Cropping /Forest Farming (USDA NRCS CPS 379)
15. Nutrient Management (USDA NRCS CPS 590) (15% reduction in fertilizer

application *only*)
16. Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
17. Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
18. Riparian Forest Buffer (USDA NRCS CPS 391)
19. Riparian Herbaceous Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 390)
20. Strip Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 585)
21. Tree/Shrub Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 612)
22. Vegetative Barriers (601) (USDA NRCS CPS 601)
23. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)

II. Orchard or Vineyard

1. Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
    - Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
    - On-farm Produced Compost
2. Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS 327)
3. Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
4. Filter Strip (USDA NRCS CPS 393)
5. Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
6. Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
7. Nutrient Management (USDA NRCS CPS 590) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
8. Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
9. Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
10. Whole Orchard Recycling (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
11. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)

III. Grazing Land

1. Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
    - Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
    - On-farm Produced Compost
2. Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
3. Prescribed Grazing (USDA NRCS CPS 528)
4. Range Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 550)
5. Riparian Forest Buffer (USDA NRCS CPS 391)
6. Silvopasture (USDA NRCS CPS 381)
7. Tree/Shrub Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 612)
8. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)

PRACTICES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING THROUGH HSP DEMONSTRATION RESEARCH GRANTS

Because GHG quantification methodologies or implementation standards are not currently available for these practices, projects proposing any of the

practices are required to conduct scientifically appropriate and statistically sound field studies to fulfill the following priorities and to inform development of implementation standards for the practices in the long-term:

(i) Demonstrate carbon sequestration and GHG reduction potential of the practice in diverse California climate types, soil types and crop types, through collection of data including but not limited to field measurements of GHG emissions and soil health indicators.

(ii) Address knowledge gaps regarding environmental and eco-system impacts and co-benefits from implementation of these practices at field-scale.

(iii) Develop and/or standardize methodology for practice implementation, and formulation and characterization of material(s) needed for implementation of practices including but not limited to vermicompost and microbial inoculation with compost tea.

I. Cropland, Orchard and/or Vineyard

1. Anaerobic Digestate Application: Application of solids generated from anaerobic digestion of organic materials.
2. Microbial Inoculation with Compost Tea: Application of diluted compost steeped or brewed in water with aeration/stirring (i.e. compost tea).
3. Mycorrhizal Application: Incorporating soil with fungi that form a symbiotic relationship with roots of crop plants.
4. Nutrient Management (CPS 590) (Replacing Synthetic N Fertilizer with Soil Amendments such as beef feedlot manure, chicken broiler manure, chicken layer manure, other manure, dairy manure, sheep manure and swine manure).
5. Nutrient Management (CPS 590) (Use of Nitrification Inhibitors).
6. Nutrient Management (CPS 590) (Use of Slow-Release Fertilizers).
7. Vermicompost Application: Application of compost produced from organic materials using various species of worms.
8. Biochar Application: Application of biochar produced from organic materials to soil.
9. Food Waste Hydrolysate Application: Application of hydrolysate product produced from food waste treatment to soil.
10. Re-Saturating Delta Peat Soils through Rice Cultivation (Cropland only)

II. Grazing Land

1. One-Time Compost Application with Higher Rates for Grazed Grasslands: Application of compost to grazed grasslands at rates higher than currently supported by Healthy Soils Program once every ten years.