



# Farm Bureau at work

California Farm Bureau's government affairs team is at the Capitol, advocating for farmers, ranchers and agriculture's future. Here are some key issues Farm Bureau is focused on this week.

**September 22, 2023**

## Pesticides

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is updating its strategic plan with action-oriented, measurable goals to guide priorities over the next five years. Released today for public feedback, DPR's draft 2024 Strategic Plan lays the groundwork for a streamlined, transparent, accountable department that centers its work around human health, equity and environmental justice, broad environmental protections, support for agriculture and community well-being, and economic vitality. The department's updated strategic plan reflects its sustainable pest management approach to the full scope of its work. The updated plan also strengthens and reaffirms the department's commitment to equitably protect all Californians and advance environmental justice.

**Updated DPR Mission:** We protect human health and the environment by fostering sustainable pest management and regulating pesticides.

**Updated DPR Vision:** A California where pest management is safe, effective, and sustainable for everyone.

The department's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) will also be reflected in its updated strategic plan. The goals outlined in the [draft 2024 Strategic Plan, PDF](#) will advance the department's mission, vision and commitment to equity and environmental justice. The draft is available on DPR's website in English and [Spanish, PDF](#). DPR encourages feedback from all stakeholders on its draft 2024 Strategic Plan.

### Opportunity for Public Comment

DPR will accept written comments on the draft 2024 Strategic Plan via mail or email from Sept. 19 through Oct. 20, 2023. Comments are accepted online through [DPR's public comment portal](#) in English or Spanish. Written comments can be mailed to DPR at 1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015, Sacramento, CA 95812-4015.

### Public Meetings on October 2, 3, 4 and 6, 2023

DPR will host four public meetings – two virtually and two in-person – to receive live feedback on the goals outlined in the draft 2024 Strategic Plan. All four public meetings will be facilitated and offer simultaneous interpretation in Spanish. The meetings will each include brief remarks from DPR leadership on the draft updated mission, vision, DEI statement and goals included in the draft 2024 Strategic Plan, and then attendees will have two minutes per person to provide public comment. No registration is required to attend.

#### **Monday, October 2**

When: 4-6:30 p.m.

Where: [Held virtually, join via Zoom](#)

#### **Tuesday, October 3**

When: 4-6:30 p.m.

Where: Meitzenheimer Community Center, 830 S. Blackstone Street, Tulare, CA 93274

#### **Tuesday, October 4**

When: 4-6:30 p.m.

Where: Civic Plaza Community, 275 Main Street, Room A&B, Watsonville, CA 95076

**Friday, October 6**

When: 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. PDT

Where: [Held virtually, join via Zoom](#)

## ✦ ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **CDFA ANNOUNCES AWARDS FOR CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

CDFA's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) is pleased to announce \$3.7 million in grants to 24 organizations for technical assistance in climate-smart ag programs. Awarded organizations support producers that apply to or implement funding from CDFA's Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP), the Healthy Soils Incentive Program (HSP), or the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) in the upcoming year, with an emphasis on Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs) as defined by the Farmer Equity Act of 2018. This focus is critical to CDFA's goal of ensuring that programs are accessible for all farmers, including those that have historically been underserved by CDFA grant programs.

This year's program encourages technical assistance providers to provide bilingual support through an increased maximum award for translation and interpretation as well as supporting training opportunities for organizations to build expertise in climate smart agriculture. "Technical assistance, which includes one-on-one application support in languages other than English, are critical elements of addressing equity in CDFA grant programs," said CDFA Farm Equity Advisor Thea Rittenhouse. "Funding local trusted organizations to help farmers and ranchers apply to CDFA programs was a key [recommendation in our Farmer Equity Report](#), and OEFI continues to build and strengthen the elements of equity throughout its programs."

To view a list of the awarded organizations, visit the Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance webpage at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/technical/>. "This is absolutely essential work as we adapt to a changing climate," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "These grants build upon our previous investments in technical assistance and help us attain our goal of reaching every farmer and every acre in California with encouragement and support for at least one climate-smart practice!" Once grant agreements are executed, CDFA will post the lists of technical assistance providers and their contact information on the, [AMMP](#), [HSP](#) and [SWEEP](#) webpages so that producers can identify technical assistance available in their area.

## ✦ ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

### **GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is now accepting grant applications for its Proactive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Solutions Program, administered by the Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis (OPCA). The goal of the Proactive IPM Solutions Program is to anticipate which exotic pests are likely to arrive in California and/or spread from isolated local populations and to develop and test low impact management strategies--especially biological solutions--that can be quickly implemented if these pests become established in the state. Having tested systems in place can lead to a reduction in the long-term use of broad-spectrum pesticides, a key goal of the [Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap](#).

"CDFA's proactive IPM program is extremely forward-looking and innovative, and sponsored research is putting California in a very strong position to quickly respond to invasive pests that threaten our agricultural, wilderness, and urban areas," said Mark S Hoddle, Ph.D., professor of Extension in Biological Control at University of California, Riverside. "This is something every Californian benefits from."

CDFA is responsible for preventing and mitigating the establishment of new invasive pests and controlling

the spread of locally established invasive pests within the state. Techniques resulting from this proactive approach allow for rapid deployment of management plans focused on the lowest impact approaches. A total of \$325,000 is available in this grant cycle. Funds for the current Request for Proposal (RFP) come from an annual General Fund appropriation. The application period will extend from September 15, 2023, until October 11, 2023. Applications will be due on Oct. 11, 2023, no later than 5 p.m. PST. Detailed information on the Proactive IPM Solutions Program, including the application process, and application requirements, is available at the IPM website at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/opca/proactive-ipm.html>