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Source: USDA NIFA

- Science and research arm of the California Farm Bureau
- Non-profit 501(c)3
- Focus on agricultural science and research
- **Science and Research**
 - **Fund** agriculture science and research studies
 - **Lead** with grant application submissions
 - **Collaborate** (FB divisions, County FBs, academia, NGOs, farmers, ranchers, and timber producers in California)
- **Data**
 - **Inform** California agriculture and support policy
 - **Educate** stakeholders and the general public
 - **Support and Advocate** farmers, ranchers, and timber producers

Healthy Soils Block Grant - \$4,977,823 (\$5 Million)



20-45 citrus growers funded
On-farm HSP and/or
pollination services
Reduce sediment erosion
Carbon sequestration
Buyer sustainability needs
\$4.25 million to citrus growers



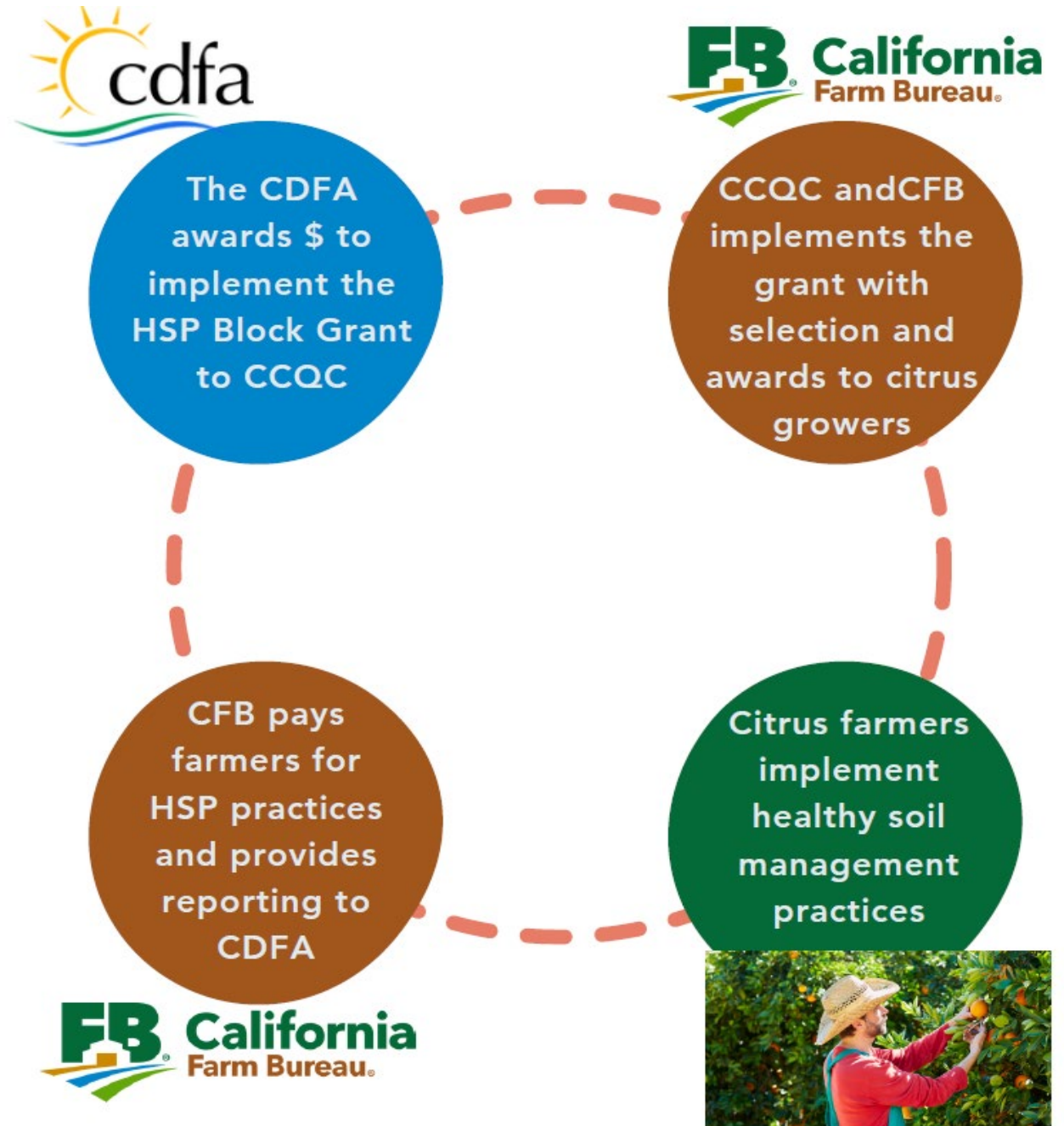
CDFA HSP
Block
Grant Pilot
Program

Healthy Soils Block Grant



<http://www.cbf.com/cbf>

Go to: Programs and Services



Healthy Soils Block Grant

What...

- Citrus growers may like to implement one or more of 11 (eleven) healthy soils management practices.
- Effort will further on-farm environmental stewardship and meet buyer/consumer sustainability requests.
- The management practices build carbon on farms, contribute directly to carbon sequestration, help reduce climate-warming greenhouse gases, and provide multiple other benefits (e.g., increased soil organic matter results in great water-holding capacity that can help during droughts).



Healthy Soils Block Grant – Compost

- Compost application increases soil organic matter and provides multiple benefits (e.g., nutrients, soil structure)
- Compost payments based on:
 - C:N ratio (>11 = woody material; <11 = food/yard material)
 - On-farm produced or purchased
 - Tons/acre (ranges from 2 to 8 tons/acre)
 - Payments from \$128.64 to \$514.56/acre
 - Must be applied for three consecutive years
 - Geotagged photos of compost pile and being spread, receipts, and C:N analysis required for reporting.



Healthy Soils Block Grant – Cover Crops

- Cover crops (legume) can fix nitrogen, increase water infiltration and build soil organic matter
- Cover crop payments based on:
 - Legume verses non-legume
 - One species or multiple species
 - Must be grown for three consecutive years
 - Payment from \$122.46/acre to \$153.32/acre
 - Geo-tagged photographs showing established cover crop in the field at >60% coverage, receipts, cover crop name, and seeding rate required for reporting



Healthy Soils Block Grant – Hedgerow Planting

- Hedgerows help with above-ground carbon sequestration, pollinator habitat and native plants.
- Hedgerow payments based on:
 - Single row of plants (native pollinator-friendly trees, shrubs, and perennials)
 - Must be protected during early growth and irrigated
 - One-time implementation
 - \$11.82/foot
 - Geotagged photographs taken at end and middle of hedgerow planting, receipts, plant species names, and number of live plants required for reporting.



Healthy Soils Block Grant – Whole Orchard Recycling

- Whole Orchard Recycling (WOR) for trees that are at least ten years old allows for carbon sequestration in soils.
- WOR payments based on:
 - Removal, grinding, mulching and incorporation of trees on a citrus orchard at trees end of life and reapplied on same site as tree removed
 - One time implementation
 - \$861.42/acre
 - Geotagged photographs taken showing tree removal, chipping, spreading, and incorporation, farm logs for chipping, before and after photos, and verification



Healthy Soils Block Grant

Where and When...

- Citrus growers in eleven counties are eligible to apply;

Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Riverside, San Bernadino, Santa Barbara, Tulare, San Diego, Placer, and Ventura (primary citrus-producing counties in California)

- January 2024 to November 2027.
 - Fall management practices (cover crops) must start in 2024.
 - Three-year practices (compost) – Summer 2025, 2026, and 2027
 - One-time practices (hedgerows) – Anytime except 2027
- The anticipated start date for signing up is Spring/Summer

Healthy Soils Block Grant

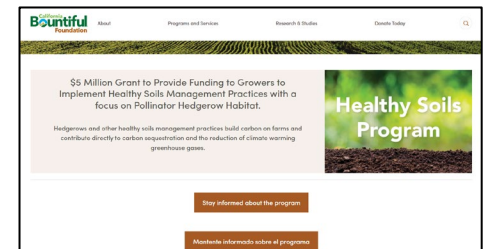
How...

1. Have a simplified application process with a scoring matrix to lower the burden of entry (compared to existing direct-to-grower CDFA application)
 - First-come, first-served
 - Scoring matrix and minimum score
 - 25% of funds for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers
2. Application review and project selection - committee
3. Foundation will inform you if selected for projects
4. Foundation will collect farm and other project information
 - One-on-one assistance from Foundation
 - Approval from CDFA
5. Project implementation begins



Questions...

- Is the funding specific to citrus growers? Are you taking away from other crops?
 - Yes.
 - No, other block grants and CDFA offer grants to citrus and non-citrus farmers and ranchers
- How is this grant different from the \$12 million offered directly by CDFA's Healthy Soils Incentive Program?
 - CDFA grant is direct to growers and not block grants
- Why does the citrus industry need to pursue these efforts?
 - Buyer and consumer pressures for greater environmental and pollinator sustainability on farms
- What is the best way to stay informed?
 - Please sign up via the website
 - <https://www.californiabountifulfoundation.com/programs-and-services/healthy-soils-program>





An aerial photograph showing a vast agricultural landscape. In the foreground, there are several distinct sections of land. On the left, a large area is covered with rows of light-colored, possibly flowering or young, plants. To the right of this, there's a section of dark, rectangular plots, which could be flooded or irrigated. Further right, there's a dense area of green trees or shrubs. The background shows a mix of different colored fields, some brown (possibly fallow or harvested), and some green, with a few small buildings and structures scattered throughout. The overall scene depicts a large-scale farming operation.

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