

# Healthy Soils Block Grant Program 2<sup>nd</sup> Webinar– March 26, 2024



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# Introduction to Today's Webinar

- Overview of the California Bountiful Foundation
- CDFA HSP vs. CAFB Healthy Soils Block Grant Program
- CAFB tasks
- Program goals
- Eligible practices
- Practice requirements
- Application process
- Scoring system and criteria
- Questions





- Science and research arm of the California Farm Bureau
- Non-profit 501 (c)3
- Focus on agricultural science and research
- **Science and Research**
  - **Lead** with grant application submissions
  - **Fund** agriculture science and research studies
  - **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** farmers, ranchers and timber producers in California
  - **Advocate** for farmers, ranchers and timber producers in California

# CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP) vs. CAFB HSP Block Grant Program

## CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP)

- CDFA administering the program
- Incentive and Demonstration
- CDFA's application
- Entire state
- To any farmers and ranchers
- Funding up to \$100,000
- Various practices
- Appendix A
- Third party Technical Assistance
- Complete Replan, implementation, and verification on your own.
- 3-year project term

## CAFB HSP Block Grant Program

- CAFB administering the program
- Partners: California Citrus and Quality Council, the California Farm Bureau (CAFB) and the Xerces Society.
- CAFB's application
- 11 counties
- Citrus growers
- Funding 20-45 projects (up to \$200,000)
- 11 eligible orchard practices
- Appendix A
- One-on-one in-house technical assistance with Replan, implementation, and verification.
- 3- year project term

# California Bountiful<sup>®</sup> Foundation

## Tasks:

- Reimbursements and administration
- Field visits
- Assist with all activities related to on-farm project implementation and verification of project.
- Assist with soil sampling and geotagging photos.
- Communicate with vendors.
- Assist with farm design and budget revisions.
- Collect implementation documents, invoices, plant records, and receipts.
- Follow up



Source: Canva stock image

## **The program aims to:**

1. Support citrus growers in meeting environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts.
2. Offer financial incentives for specific management practice standards that reduce greenhouse gases, enhance soil and water retention, and support native plants and pollinators.
3. Approximately 25% of funding has been reserved to support veterans, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs), and women.



# Eligible Orchard Practices

Any time before 2027

## One-time practices

- Conservation cover
- Filter strip
- Hedgerow planting
- Mulching (wood chips)
- Whole orchard recycling
- Windbreak/shelterbelt establishment

Summer 2025-2027

## Annual practices for 3-years

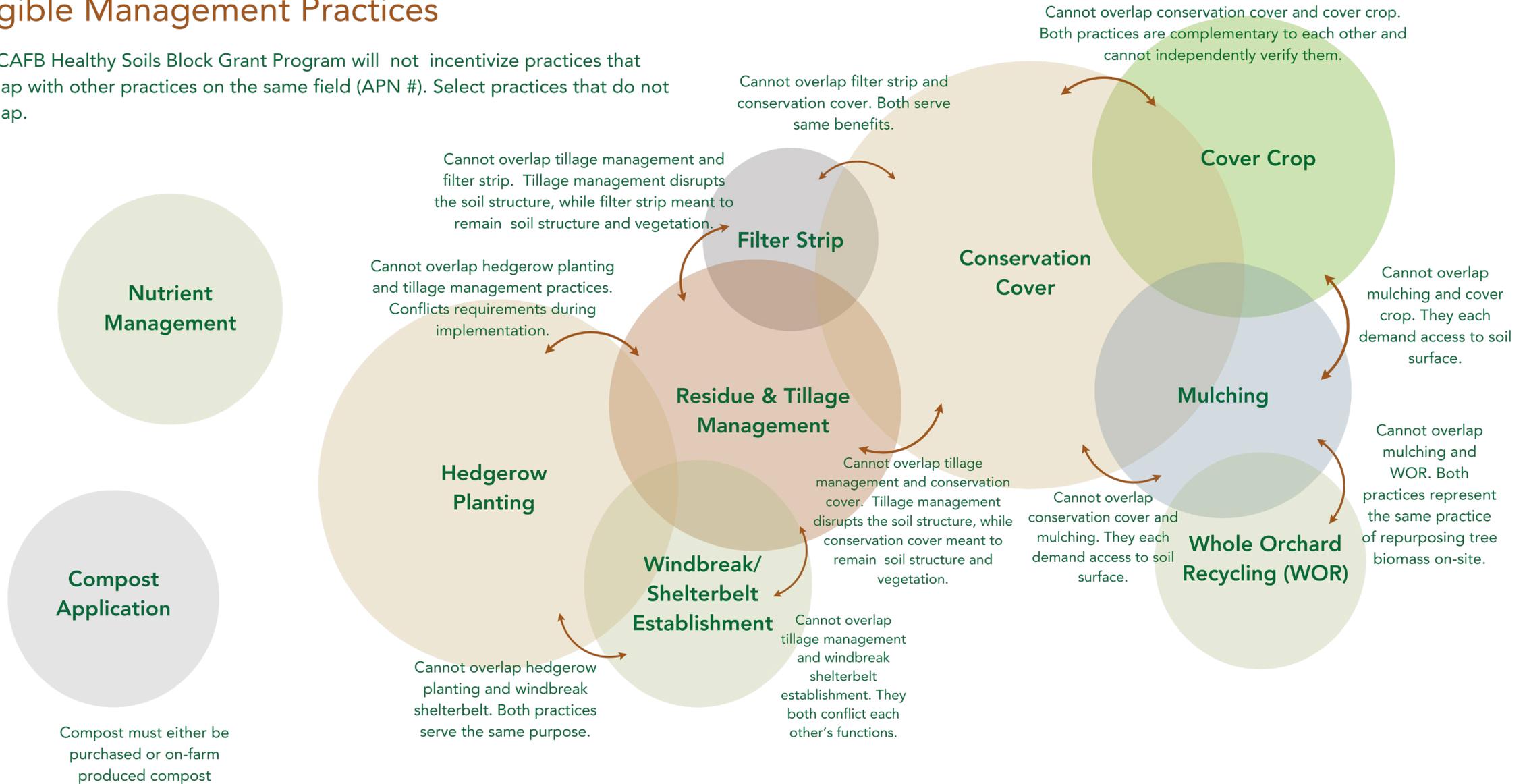
- Compost application (purchased or produced)
- Cover crop *Starting in Fall 2024*
- Mulching (natural materials)
- Nutrient management
- No-till
- Reduced-till

Quick guide of each practices can be found at the bottom of the website: [www.Cfbf.com/HSP](http://www.Cfbf.com/HSP).

# CAFB Healthy Soils Block Grant Program

## Eligible Management Practices

The CAFB Healthy Soils Block Grant Program will not incentivize practices that overlap with other practices on the same field (APN #). Select practices that do not overlap.



# Example of Practice Implementation

Projects 1 and 2 represent individual citrus farms, each with a selection of practices.

Project 1	Compost Application	Nutrient Management	Hedgerow Planting	Windbreak/Shelterbelt	Tillage Management	Filter Strip	Conservation Cover
Field 1		✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Field 2	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Field 3	✓		✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Project 2	Compost Application	Nutrient Management	Tillage Management	Conservation Cover	Cover Crop	Mulching	Whole Orchard Recycling (WOR)
Field 1	✓		✓	✗		✗	✓
Field 2		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	

## Guidelines:

Projects must implement at least one of the practices listed under Conservation Management Practices.

Projects may include multiple practices within the same field (APN #) except for overlapping practices.

Projects may include multiple fields within the same agricultural operation.

# Hedgerow planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422) :

- One-time practice
- Perennial wildflowers, shrubs, or tree species.
- Planted along orchard border
- Payment rate: \$11.82 per Ft (Appendix A)



Source: CAFB's UC Arboretum



Source: CAFB

## Benefits and co-benefits

- Increase water conservation through improved surface water infiltration and groundwater recharge
- Enhance carbon sequestration
- Support pollinators and biodiversity
- Reduce pests
- Serve as natural windbreak

# Application Process:

## 1 Enroll

Applicants must submit their application via the California Bountiful Foundation website.

[www.cfbf.com/HSP](http://www.cfbf.com/HSP)



## 2 Review

Applications are assessed on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis, considering grade scores and giving priority to veterans, SDFRs, and women.



## 3 Pre-Selection

Pre-selected applicants will receive individualized assistance to complete a Replan report.



## 4 Approval

The CDFA will evaluate the submitted RePlan report and additional information administrated by the California Farm Bureau.



## 5 On-Board

Awarded applicants will be informed on-farm project verification requirements and the plan for implementation by the California Farm Bureau via Zoom or in-person.



## 6 Implement

Awarded applicants can start on their healthy soils conservation management practice(s).



# Application Criteria:

- Citrus growers
- 11 counties: Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Tulare, San Diego, Placer, and Ventura.
- One application per farm or farmer.
- Awarded grants are nontransferable.
- Max funding is \$200,000
- Choose management practices not previously implemented.
  - a) A previously used management practice is acceptable if it is applied to a different field(APN).

# Scoring System and Criteria

- **First-come, first-served basis** according to submission timestamp.
- Priority consideration for SDFRs, veterans, and women.
- Application reviewed and scored.
- Minimum score is 70
- Complete, relevant, and clear.

Criteria	Maximum Points
<b>Qualification of Applicant</b> 1. Full completion of personal questionnaires. 2. Full completion of business questionnaires. 3. Full completion of on-farm project questionnaires	10
<b>Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs), Veterans and Women</b> 1. Applicant identify as either African Americans/ Black, Alaskan Natives, Asian/ Asian Americans, Hispanic/Latinx/Spanish, Native American Indians, Native Hawaiians/other Pacific Islanders. 2. Applicant served in the military. 3. Applicant identify as a female.	10
<b>Statement of Interest</b> 1. Explanation of interest in the program (10 points) 2. Reasoning for choice of agricultural management practice(s) (10 points)	20
<b>Project Plan</b> 1. Detailed response addressing project criteria including site acreage, field, labor, suitability, field, resources, technical assistance, timeline, and additional information (20 points) 2. Detailed plan for each chosen practice, including multiple practices if applicable (10 points)	30
<b>Statement of Project Practice and Impact</b> 1. Clear description of the potential impact on soil health and environment (10 points). 2. Identification of benefits and co-benefits of practices (5 points).	15
<b>Experience and Capacity</b> 1. Relevant experience or objectives in soil management practices (15 points)	15
<b>Total:</b>	100 points



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## Questions?

For more information about our program,  
please visit our website at [www.cfbf.com/HSP](http://www.cfbf.com/HSP)

