

Healthy Soils Program



cdfa
The Office of
Agricultural Resilience
& SUSTAINABILITY

Healthy soils sustain agriculture by boosting productivity, resilience, and nutrient efficiency. Decades of extractive farming have depleted many soils, but healthy soils practices improve water retention, crop performance, and reduce synthetic inputs. They also increase biological activity and biodiversity, helping crops withstand pests and diseases. Additionally, healthier soils enhance workability and resistance to extreme weather. Supporting soil health ensures sustainable food production and long-term farm viability.

Since 2017, the CDFA Healthy Soils Program has implemented state funding to help farmers and ranchers integrate sustainable agricultural practices—improving soil health, reducing GHG emissions, sequestering carbon, and increasing farm resilience. Your support ensures that California remains a leader in climate-smart agriculture, securing food production and economic growth for future generations.

Project Types

Incentive Grants

- Support on-farm practices such as:
 - Compost Application
 - Cover Crop Planting
 - Biomass Mulching
 - Hedgerow Planting
 - No-till or Reduced-Till
 - Range Planting
 - Whole Orchard Recycling
 - Windbreak / Shelterbreak Planting
- Provide free technical assistance to support the application process and help farmers execute projects successfully

Block Grants

Facilitate incentive grants and technical assistance through regional and specialized organizations.

Demonstration Grants

- Showcase healthy soils practices for farmer outreach
- Measure environmental benefits and address research gaps

Since 2017, CDFA has:

held **7** grant solicitations

awarded **2,340** PROJECTS

and distributed more than
\$162.8 MILLION

These Incentives have reduced
1.6 MILLION CO₂ equivalent GHG emissions over the expected lifespans of the projects

and built soil health on

190K ACRES
equivalent to removing

370K
cars from the road for a year.

MORE INFO

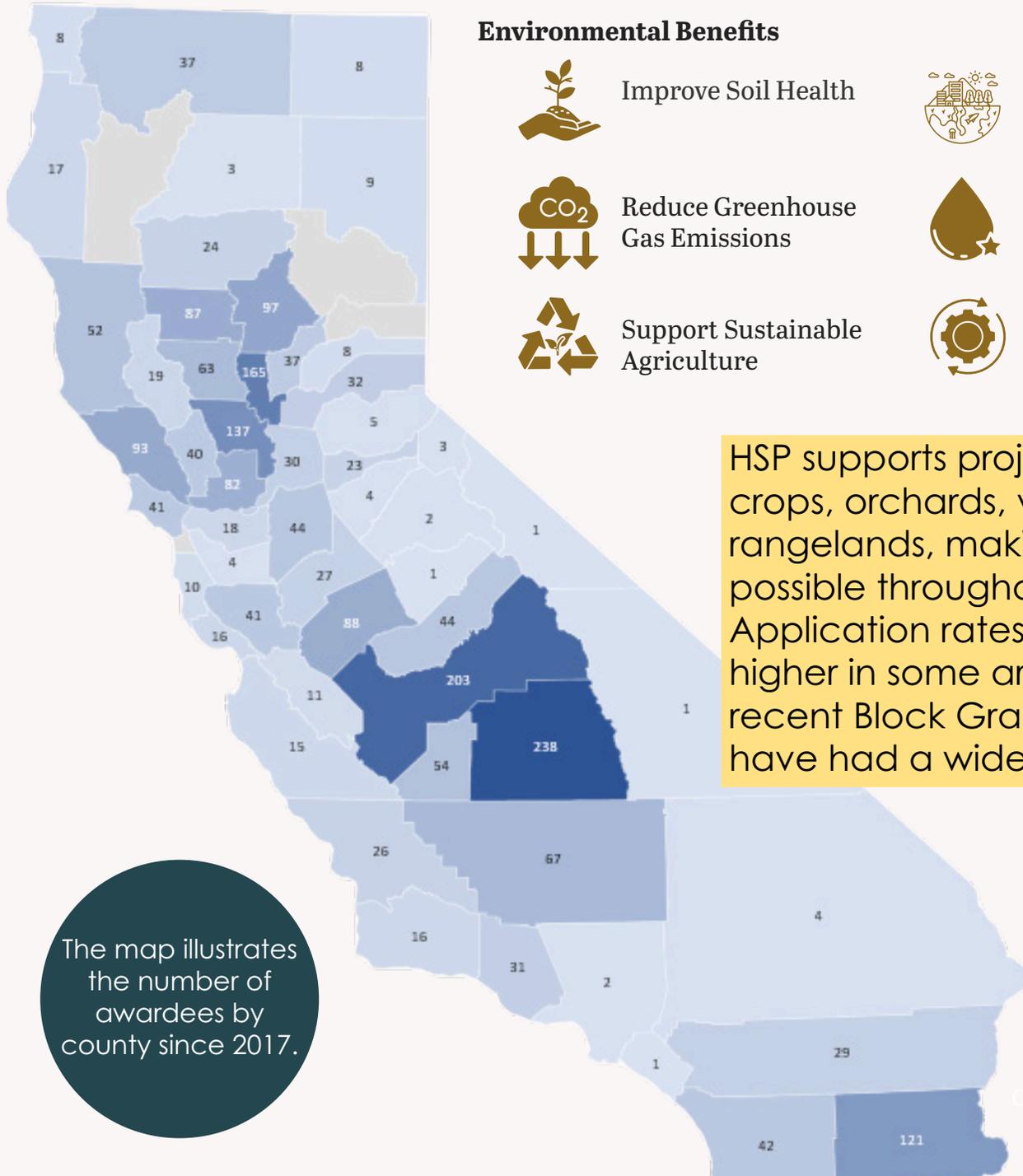
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Healthy Soils Program Impact



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Environmental Benefits



Improve Soil Health



Increase biodiversity



Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Conserve Water



Support Sustainable Agriculture



Boost Farm efficiency

HSP supports projects in annual crops, orchards, vineyards, and rangelands, making awards possible throughout the state. Application rates have been higher in some areas, but the recent Block Grant awards have had a wider distribution.

The map illustrates the number of awardees by county since 2017.

CDFA has awarded grants through both competitive and first-come-first-served processes. In 2023, CDFA began funding block grant awards. Block Grantee organizations have regional and/or commodity-specific expertise and partnerships that allow them to prioritize funding according to community needs and provide tailored technical assistance. CDFA requires Block Grantees to set goals for funding and assisting socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

MORE INFO

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