

## ABOUT OARS

The Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability (OARS) works to build a sustainable future for California's farmers and ranchers. Nearly 90% of California farms are family-owned, producing over 400 crops that supply much of the nation's fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

As climate change brings challenges like drought, extreme heat, and rising costs, OARS partners with the agricultural community to deliver practical, science-based

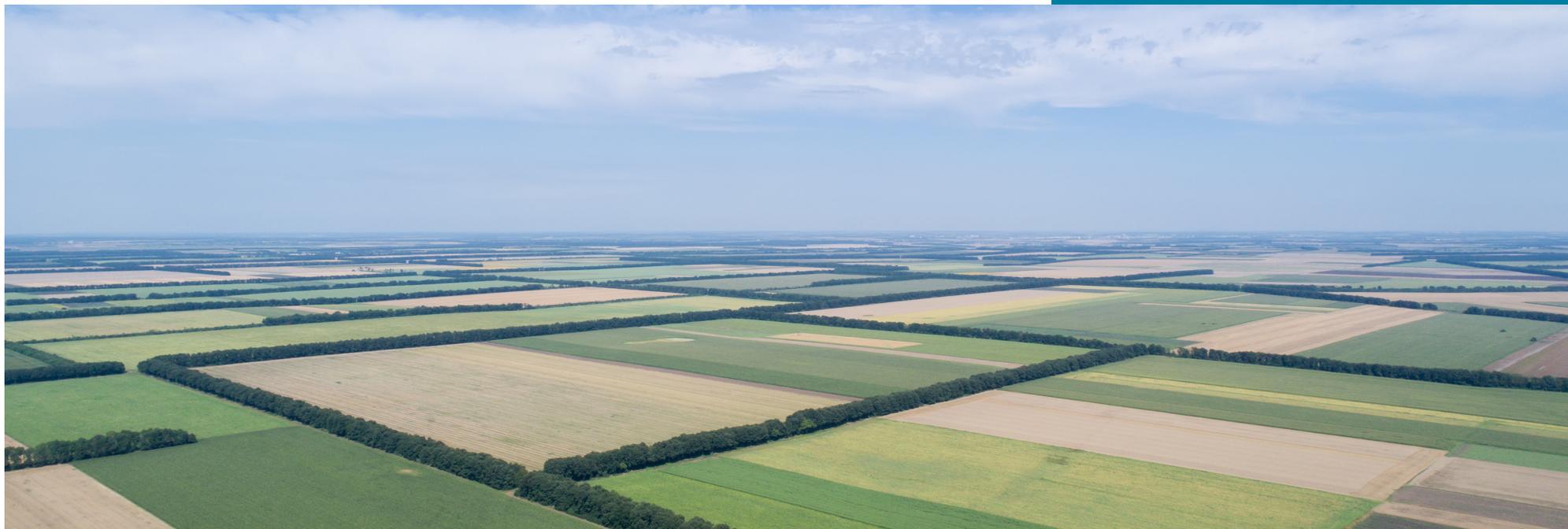
solutions that strengthen environmental and economic sustainability across working lands.

## Incentivizing Climate-Smart On-Farm Practices

OARS supports programs that help farmers and ranchers adopt practices that conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen long-term farm viability—ensuring California agriculture remains resilient in a changing climate.

# Investing in Climate-Smart Agriculture

2026



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Learn More



# Proposition 4: The Climate Bond

In November 2024, California voters approved Proposition 4, a \$10 billion Climate Bond designed to protect communities and natural resources from the impacts of climate change.

Through Proposition 4, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) received funding to support agricultural climate solutions, including support for three programs in OARS:

- \$40 million for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET)
- \$65 million for sequestration, including the Healthy Soils Program (HSP)
- \$15 million to establish a new Regional Farm Equipment Sharing Program.

**We will implement SWEET and HSP through Block Grants.**

## What is a Block Grant?

Block Grants allow CDFA to fund trusted regional partners—known as Block Grant Recipients (BGRs)—who work directly with farmers and ranchers.

BGRs:

- Provide local, hands-on technical assistance
- Run regional application processes
- Recommend projects for funding
- Support project implementation and reporting



### State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET)

SWEET helps California farmers conserve water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through climate-smart irrigation improvements.

Funded projects may include:

- Efficient irrigation systems
- Pump and energy upgrades
- Irrigation scheduling tools

By reducing water use and energy demand, SWEET helps growers build drought resilience while lowering operational costs. Regional Block Grant Recipients deliver technical assistance and resources directly to local communities.

#### PRODUCER NOTE

Producers will submit their applications for funding directly to Block Grant Recipients, and the specific timing for these applications may differ.

Once the BGRs are awarded, an updated list will be available on our website for reference.



### Healthy Soils Program (HSP)

Since 2018, the Healthy Soils Program has supported farmers and ranchers in adopting practices that:

- Build soil organic carbon
- Reduce land-based greenhouse gas emissions
- Improve water retention, soil structure, and biodiversity

The program currently supports 28 eligible practices, including compost application, cover crops, hedgerows, windbreaks, and whole orchard recycling, with biochar soon joining as an approved practice. HSP also invests in research and local outreach to expand adoption of soil-health practices statewide.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Through the block grants, technical assistance providers can support producers with:

- Project design
- Funding coordination
- Practice implementation support
- Training and demonstration