

HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

Request for Proposals: Consideration of New Management Practices for Funding through the Healthy Soils Program

Release date: June 29, 2020

Proposals Due: August 28, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. PT by email to

CDFA.HSP_tech@cdfa.ca.gov

Late submissions will not be considered.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Healthy Soils Program is part of [California Climate Investments](#), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Background

The [Healthy Soils Program](#) (HSP) stems from the California Healthy Soils Initiative, a collaboration of state agencies and departments that promotes the development of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands. The program has two components: the [HSP Incentives Program](#) and the [HSP Demonstration Projects](#). Objectives of the HSP are to build soil organic carbon and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs) by (1) providing financial incentives to California growers and ranchers for agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health, (2) funding on-farm demonstration projects that showcase conservation management practices that mitigate GHG emissions and increase soil health, and (3) creating a platform promoting widespread adoption of conservation management practices throughout the state. The HSP Incentives Program addresses Objective 1 and the HSP Demonstration Projects addresses Objectives 2 and 3. The HSP is currently funded by the [California Climate Investments \(CCI\)](#).

As part of the program development process, CDFA identified specific management practices¹ that would be eligible for funding through the HSP and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in coordination with United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) developed the quantification methodology (QM) to calculate GHG emissions reduction achieved through the implementation of these practices. This Request for Proposals outlines the requirements and process for consideration of additional agricultural management practices for the HSP.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

All interested parties must submit proposals that adhere to the following guidelines:

- The submission must include the full name, organizational affiliation (if applicable) and contact information (phone number and email at a minimum) of the submitting individual or entity.
- Practices proposed for consideration must not be proprietary or involve the usage of exclusive, proprietary products, materials or equipment.
- Proposals must include peer-reviewed and publicly available research literature in support of the practice(s) being proposed, demonstrating that implementing these practices will:
 - Improve soil health; and,

¹ A list of practices eligible for funding through the HSP can be found on pages 5-7 of the [Request for Grant Applications for the HSP Incentives Program](#) and on pages 7-9 of the [Request for Grant Applications for the HSP Demonstration Projects](#).

- Provide GHG benefits, including carbon sequestration, carbon dioxide emission reductions or nitrous oxide emission reductions.
- Field study design and research findings submitted in support of the practice must be statistically sound and significant (e.g. randomized design with minimum three replicates).
- CDFA encourages submissions to include additional published peer-reviewed data to demonstrate environmental co-benefits of proposed practices, if available.
- In case of proposed practices involving addition of soil additives and/or amendments, proposals must include an analysis of environmental impacts and materials' safety, waste management and disposal procedures.
- The proposal must be submitted in PDF format, single-spaced with font size of 11 or larger, and maximum three pages, excluding supporting information such as research papers and data.
- All proposals must be emailed to no later than 5:00 p.m. PT on Friday, August 28, 2020 to cdfa.HSP_tech@cdfa.ca.gov.

Evaluation Process

There will be a multi-step evaluation process. A technical sub-committee of academic experts, state and federal agency subject matter experts will evaluate the proposals. Recommendations made by the sub-committee will be evaluated by CDFA and CARB staff and presented to the [Environmental Farming Act – Science Advisory Panel](#) (EFA-SAP) and publicly available on the EFA SAP website. Upon consideration and approval of recommendations by the EFA-SAP, additional opportunity for public comments will be provided. Practices for inclusion under the HSP and QM development will be finalized after evaluation of public comments by CDFA. QM development will take place in coordination with CARB and USDA-NRCS. Updates related to the process will be provided at public meetings of the EFA-SAP. An approximate timeline for this process is outlined below:

Activity	Tentative Dates (subject to change)
Request for Proposals released	June 2020
Proposals due	August 2020
Establish Technical Sub-Committee and Evaluation of Proposals by Technical Sub-Committee	September 2020 – January 2021
Agency Review	February 2021
Public Comment Period	March – April 2021
Finalize Recommendations and QM Development	May 2021