



*California Department of Food and Agriculture – HSP Block Grant Recipient*

# American Olive Oil Producers Association Healthy Soils Program Grant Guidelines

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## Table of Contents

<b>AOOPA Checklist for Grant Applications</b> .....	4
<b>Definitions</b> .....	5
<b>About the Program</b> .....	6
Background and Purpose .....	6
Funding and Duration .....	6
Grant Recipient and Project Eligibility .....	6
Eligibility Requirements .....	7
Project Requirements and Guidelines .....	7
Eligibility and Exclusions .....	8
Project Implementation Requirements .....	8
Eligible Agricultural Management Practices .....	9
<b>Grant Application Process</b> .....	10
Technical Assistance .....	10
How to Apply .....	10
<b>Review and Selection Process</b> .....	11
Review Process .....	11
Selection Process .....	11
Rubric .....	11
<b>Notification</b> .....	13
Disqualifications .....	13
<b>Award Process</b> .....	13
Pre-Project Consultation .....	13
Grant Agreement .....	13
<b>Project Implementation</b> .....	14
Project Duration .....	14
Project Verifications .....	14
Progress Reporting .....	14
Project Changes and Terminations .....	15

Post-Project Completion Requirements .....	15
Soil Organic Matter Reporting Requirements .....	15
<b>Invoicing and Payments</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Reimbursement .....	16
Advance Payments .....	17
<b>State Audit and Accounting Requirements</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Audit and Critical Project Review Requirements .....	17
Accounting Requirements .....	17
Records Retention .....	17
<b>Appendix A: Technical Specifications for Estimation of GHG Benefits</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Appendix B: Practice Payment Scenarios, Rates, Requirements, and Implementation Guidelines</b> .....	<b>23</b>

# **AOOPA Checklist for HSP Grant Applications**

## **Grant Overview**

The objectives of the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) grant are to increase statewide implementation of conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gasses (GHGs) by:

1. Providing financial incentives to California growers and ranchers to implement agricultural management practices that meet the program objectives;
2. Funding on-farm demonstration projects that conduct research and/or showcase conservation management practices that mitigate GHG emissions and improve soil health.

## **Maximum Award Amount**

\$200,000 per on-farm project

## **Grant Period**

October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2027

## **Timeline**

The application period begins July 29, 2024. The deadline to submit a grant application is August 26, 2024, at 5:00 pm Pacific Standard Time. No exceptions will be granted for late submissions. The timeline provided below is subject to change.

**July 24, 2024:** AOOPA Grant Guidelines Available

**July 24, 2024:** Recommended Virtual Workshop, Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems (CRARS)

**July 29, 2024:** AOOPA Grant Application Opens at 8:00 am PST

**August 26, 2024:** Grant Application Deadline (submit by 5:00pm PST)

**September 2024 (tentative):** Applicant notification of awards

**October/November 2024 (tentative):** Grantee Virtual Convening with AOOPA

## **Eligible Counties**

Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tulare, and Yolo Counties.

## **On-Farm Project Application Requirements\***

**\*Applications must include all components listed below to be eligible for review by AOOPA and the Technical Review Committee.**

- Completed Healthy Soils Program Application through WizeHive platform
- Completed RePlan Tool Files (PDF and Excel)
- Landowner Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If your project is selected, you will be required to provide a soil sample, following CDFA Soil Sampling Protocol, at baseline and annually for the project duration.

## Definitions

Below is a reference list of terms found within the Grant Guidelines:

- **First-time applicant:** The Healthy Soils Program defines a “first-time applicant” as an applicant who has not been awarded a grant and implemented practices for that grant through the Healthy Soils Program in past solicitations. Please see the [grant recipient eligibility](#) requirements for additional criteria.
- **Priority Populations:** [SB 535](#) and [AB 1550](#) define Priority Populations. The [CDFA HSP RePlan Tool](#) automatically identifies projects benefiting Priority Populations based on project location and predetermined net criteria air pollutant emission reductions.
- **Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher (SDFRs):** The [Farmer Equity Act of 2017 \(AB 1348\)](#) defines an SDFR as a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. A “socially disadvantaged group” means a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender discrimination. **Neither the [USDA definition](#) nor the Farmer Equity Act include gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation in their covered groups.** The covered groups include the following: African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.
- **Project Field:** A project field is defined as the area in which Healthy Soils Program funded practices will be implemented. Applicants will draw these fields using the RePlan Tool. Project fields can consist of multiple APNs. Multiple project fields, each with distinct proposed practices, can exist on a single APN. Awardees cannot add new APNs after the application is approved for funding.

## About the Program

### Background and Purpose

The American Olive Oil Producers Association (AOOPA) is pleased to announce funding availability for Healthy Soils Program Incentive Grants through the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Block Grant Recipient Program. Applications will be reviewed, evaluated, and assessed on the [grant scoring rubric](#), and the solicitation period will be open for four weeks.

The Healthy Soils (HS) Program Incentive Grants are a part of the Healthy Soils Program (HSP), which 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.

### Funding and Duration

AOOPA was awarded two million dollars from the California Department of Food and Agriculture to support on-farm projects in November 2023. As this is a highly competitive and overprescribed funding opportunity, it is anticipated all funds will be awarded in the first round of applications by October 2024.

- The grant term is October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2027.
- The maximum award is \$200,000 per project.
- All activities must occur within the grant term. Costs incurred outside of the grant term will not be reimbursed.
- AOOPA reserves the right to offer an award amount different from the amount requested.
- Awardees can use matching funds or in-kind contributions during the grant term, but AOOPA does not require or prioritize them.
- AOOPA, in line with CDFA, does not allow HSP funds to be used to support the same practice(s) on the same field(s) that other funds support, such as funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). However, HSP funds may be combined with other such funds within a broader farm plan, supporting different practice(s) on the same field(s), or the same practice(s) on different field(s).
- Awardees cannot use HSP Incentives awards as cost share for any other awards made through the HS Program Incentive Grants, HS Demonstration Program, or the HS Block Grant Pilot Program.
- The Healthy Soils Program quantifies the GHG emission reductions and carbon sequestration of all awarded projects and practices and reports them to the California Climate Investments. Therefore, no implementation of an agricultural practice incentivized by HSP should be used to create credits for any regulatory compliance or voluntary carbon markets.

### Grant Recipient and Project Eligibility

AOOPA's HS Program Incentive Grants are designed to incentivize farmers and ranchers to implement conservation management practices in Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tulare, and Yolo Counties that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs, improve soil health, and provide co-benefits. The program's primary goal is to promote long-term and widespread adoption of these practices throughout the state.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

All applicants are encouraged to complete the AOOPA HS Program Incentive Grant Eligibility Quiz through WizeHive prior to starting an application. For applications to be considered, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant is a California olive oil producer (A producer is any individual or business entity that is actively engaged in the domestic growing of olives for the production of olive oil.)
- Project must be located on agricultural operations in Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tulare, and Yolo Counties
- The practices within the proposed project must be selected from the Orchard or Vineyard Agricultural Systems category of Appendix B of the HSP Guidelines and implemented within or adjacent to olive orchard acreage to benefit the production of olive oil.
- Grant recipients must be at least 18 years old.
- Previous CDFA Healthy Soils grant recipients are not eligible to receive funds for implementing the same practice on the same field funded within the last calendar year. However, a new landowner or lessee may be eligible to implement the same practice on the same field previously funded.
- Awards are limited to one per agricultural operation using a unique tax identification number per round of funding. If a unique tax identification number is used for multiple applications, only one can be funded.

Additionally, proposed projects must meet the following requirements:

- Grant funds cannot be used for projects that use potted plants and plant growth media other than soil.
- Grant funds cannot be used for research and product development activities.
- All entities receiving grant funds must have a physical California business address.
- Each project can request up to \$200,000. The payment rate for each practice must not exceed amounts listed in [Appendix B](#).

## **Project Requirements and Guidance**

Project designs must be completed using the [CDFA HSP RePlan Tool](#). Approval of an on-farm project for grant funding does not imply that the project complies with all local, State, and Federal regulations. The Grant Recipient is responsible for observing and complying with all applicable local, State, and Federal laws and regulations.

Eligibility:

- Projects must implement at least one of the practices listed under [Eligible Agricultural Management Practices](#).
- Projects may include multiple practices within the same field (except for [Non-Overlapping Practices](#)).
- Projects may include multiple fields within the same agricultural operation.

Exclusions:

- Previous HSP Grant Recipients are not eligible to receive funds for implementing the same practice on the same field funded within the previous calendar year. However, a new landowner or lessee is eligible to implement the same practice on the same field previously funded.
- Awardees cannot transfer practices to different APNs during the grant term.
- Annually implemented practices cannot be moved to different fields during the grant term.

- University and research farms, and city community gardens are not eligible for funding through this program. These entities may apply for the Healthy Soils Demonstration Program.
- HS Program Incentive Grants funds cannot be used to implement practices that are not listed under [Eligible Agricultural Management Practices](#) in this document. Awardees must follow requirements for practice implementation whenever applicable.
- Compost Application and Whole Orchard Recycling: HSP will not incentivize these practices on APNs where soil organic matter content is greater than 20 percent by dry weight in the top 20 cm (or 8 inch) depth.

HSP will not incentivize practices on lands or crop types that are not suitable based on [the United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\) Conservation Practice Standards \(CPS\)](#) or the [2023 NRCS California Scenarios](#).

### **Project Implementation Requirements**

- Grant Recipients must implement the proposed practices on the same total acreage throughout the grant term unless otherwise approved by AOOPA.
- Contracts will require awardees to submit quarterly reporting to AOOPA on project status, to allow AOOPA to effectively report overall project status to CDFA. Awardees will also be required to advise AOOPA of any potential project changes; significant changes will be subject to review by the Technical Review Committee and if a producer does not meet contractual obligations, could result in the termination of the grant contract.
- Projects must result in net GHG benefits (i.e., net reductions of GHG emissions) from eligible agricultural management practices (See [Technical Specifications for Estimation of GHG Benefits](#)).
- Fields where agricultural management practice(s) will be implemented should be named by Field (e.g., Field 1, Field 2, Field 3, etc.) and outlined clearly on the RePlan map.
- **Applicants must lease, own, or otherwise control the fields where project activities are proposed to occur for the entirety of the project duration.**
  - If leasing land, applicants must provide written approval from the landowner. If the lease term is shorter than the grant term, lessees should provide a written statement from the landowner that lease renewal will be discussed in good faith.
- HSP reimburses implementation of eligible management practices at the payment rates provided in [Appendix B](#). To receive reimbursements, awardees must follow specific implementation and verification requirements noted in [Appendix B](#) for each practice.
- Applicants must submit the following baseline data at the time of application using the RePlan Tool:
  - Cropping history of previous year for all fields included in the application.
  - Declare whether the proposed practice was implemented in the previous year on the field(s).
  - Provide the proposed plan of crops for all fields included in the project during the next three years.
- CDFA strongly encourages applicants to enhance on-farm biodiversity by utilizing plant species (in applicable management practices) that support pollinator habitat and help meet the goals identified in the [California Biodiversity Action Plan](#).



## **Eligible Agricultural Management Practices**

CDFA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) have identified eligible agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs, and improve soil health. Applicants must use RePlan Tool to develop on-farm project proposals, which include the specific locations and boundaries of the field(s) where the eligible management practice(s) will be implemented. The on-farm projects may include multiple practices on the same APN, or the same practice on multiple APNs. Some practices may not be implemented on the exact same field; refer to [Non-Overlapping Practices](#) for details. The Healthy Soils Program incentivizes two types of practices based on implementation timelines:

1. **Annually implemented practices:** Grant Recipients must implement these once in each project year and a total of three times during the grant term (e.g., Compost Application and Cover Crop.) AOOPA may not reimburse Grant Recipients who do not implement them once in each project year.
2. **One-time implemented practices:** These practices are implemented only once in the grant term, but Grant Recipients must maintain them for the project lifespan (e.g., Hedgerow Planting and Conservation Cover).

CDFA and CARB selected the following management practices for incentives support. HS Program Incentive Grants are required to be implemented in accordance with their respective requirements in the [California-based USDA NRCS Conservation Practice Standards \(CPS\)](#), [2023 NRCS California Scenarios](#), [CDFA Compost Application White Paper](#) and [CDFA Whole Orchard Recycling Report](#). The updated CPS for each practice can also be found at: [List of Agricultural Management Practices Eligible for Funding Through the CDFA HSP](#). Refer to the Program Requirements and [Appendix B](#) for more details.

All eligible practices are presented by the agricultural system below. Applicants must choose practices from the “Orchard or Vineyard” category below.

### **Orchard or Vineyard**

1. Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
  - a. Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
  - b. On-farm Produced Compost
2. Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 327)
3. Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
4. Filter Strip (USDA NRCS CPS 393)
5. Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
6. Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
  - a. Nature Materials (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
  - b. Wood Chips (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
7. Nutrient Management (USDA NRCS CPS 590) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
8. Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
9. Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
10. Whole Orchard Recycling (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
11. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)

# Grant Application Process

## Application Assistance and Support

During the application period, AOOPA and CSU Chico Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems (CRARS) will host one informational workshop/webinar to provide an overview of program guidelines and application materials. Visit the [AOOPA HSP Website](#) for more information and to register for the webinar. A recording of the webinar will be available on the AOOPA website.

General questions regarding the solicitation process may be submitted to [industryrelations@aoopa.org](mailto:industryrelations@aoopa.org).

## Technical Assistance

CRARS will provide technical assistance, free of cost, to all potential applicants, in Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tulare, and Yolo Counties. AOOPA strongly encourages applicants to seek technical assistance to support their applications. Technical Assistance Providers (TAP) can be invited to collaborate on the application within the WizeHive platform.

## How to Apply

AOOPA will use an online application platform, WizeHive, to manage Healthy Soils Incentive Grant applications. Applicants can access the application from the AOOPA HSP webpage or by using the following link:

[AOOPA](#)  
[HSP](#)  
[Application](#)

**Applicants must create a user account to submit a grant application.** All applications, supporting documents and submissions may be subject to public disclosure through the Public Records Act.

Applicants are encouraged to complete the Eligibility Quiz to confirm their eligibility for the AOOPA HSP grant program and gather all required application components (RePlan Tool files, Landowner Lease Agreement, etc.) before the application deadline.

The AOOPA application includes the following sections: 1) General Information, 2) Project Specific Information, 3) Budget and 4) Attestation and Certification. Applicants will also have to submit the following documents, in addition to completing the application questions through the WizeHive platform:

- CDFA HSP RePlan Report (pdf)
- CDFA HSP RePlan Report (excel)
- Landowner Lease Agreement (if applicable)

## **Review and Selection Process**

### **Review Process**

AOOPA will conduct an administrative review of the applications to determine whether program requirements are met. Applications will be reviewed for completion in the administrative review, first, then will be reviewed by the Technical Review Committee for feasibility and merit. The review process may extend past the close of the solicitation period.

### **Selection Process**

Applications that pass the administrative review are then reviewed for feasibility and merit based on the criteria listed below. In an effort to reach AOOPA's goal of allocating at least 25% of on-farm project funding to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs) applicants, AOOPA will award SDFR grants based upon their rubric score, until the 25% goal is realized. AOOPA will award all remaining grants based upon the rubric score. In the event of a tie, the order in which applications were submitted based upon the timestamp may be considered by the review committee.

### **Rubric**

All applications will be evaluated using the following rubric. Applications must have at least 30 out of 50 points to be considered.

Criteria	Maximum Points
<p><b><u>Completed Application</u></b>  Applicants successfully completed and submitted an application through the WizeHive platform before the deadline.* Applicants must create an account in WizeHive to complete all questions and the Statement of Need. Applicants uploaded HSA RePlan Tool PDF, Excel files and Landowner Lease Agreement (if applicable); and submitted all information through the WizeHive platform.  *In the event of a tie, the order in which applications were submitted based upon the timestamp may be considered by the review committee.</p>	5
<p><b><u>Statement of Need</u></b>  Statement of Need includes clearly defined objectives and project outcomes. Project outcomes align with HSP objectives and follow the RePlan Tool Project Design. (Word count is limited to 1,500.)</p>	20
<p><b><u>Qualification of Applicant</u></b>  Applicant meets eligibility criteria listed in the application and is located in the counties serviced by AOOPA within this grant. Applicant is in Priority Population (see RePlan Project Design). Projects with greater GHG Reductions from RePlan Project Design will be ranked accordingly. Farms that are &lt;500 Total Farm Acres align with CDFA prioritization.</p>	15
<p><b><u>Active AOOPA Member</u></b>  Applicant is an Active AOOPA producer member in good standing.</p>	7
<p><b><u>Provided Letter of Support</u></b>  Applicant provided a letter in support of AOOPA's grant application submitted to CDFA's Healthy Soils Program Block Grant Pilot program.</p>	3

## **Notification**

AOOPA will notify all applicants by email regarding the status of their grant application, whether it is disqualified, awarded, or remains unawarded at the end of the award allocation process.

### **Disqualifications**

An application can be disqualified for any of the following reasons:

- Projects don't meet program requirements.
- Applicants don't meet applicant eligibility.
- Application funding request exceeds the maximum allowable funding of \$200,000.
- Applications are incomplete: applications with one or more unanswered questions necessary for administrative review, missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments.
- Applications include activities outside the grant term.
- Applicants that are not located in Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tulare, and Yolo Counties.
- Applicant is not a California olive oil producer (A producer is any individual or business entity that is actively engaged in the domestic growing of olives for the production of olive oil.)

## **Award Process**

Awarded applicants will receive instructions regarding the award process via email. Following grant agreement execution, AOOPA will post an updated list of awarded projects on the AOOPA program webpage. In accordance with Public Records Act requirements, certain information in applications may be disclosed. AOOPA reserves the right to offer an award amount different from the amount requested in the application.

### **Pre-Project Consultation**

After receiving notification of award, AOOPA may contact the awardee via email/phone to conduct a pre-project consultation. The purpose of the pre-project consultation is to ensure that practices and implementation methods in the funded project are compliant with the program requirements. Please be sure to provide accurate contact information in the application.

### **Grant Agreement**

AOOPA will initiate the Grant Agreement process with awardees selected to receive a grant award. The process of executing a grant agreement may take up to 2-4 months. Following a pre-project consultation (if needed), awardees will receive a Grant Agreement package via email with specific instructions regarding award requirements, including information on project implementation, project reporting, verification, and payment process. During the grant execution process both parties will communicate primarily via email. AOOPA reserves the right to rescind an award due to lack of response from an awardee. Grant Recipients should sign time-sensitive documents from AOOPA staff within five (5) business days. Email correspondence from AOOPA will indicate the due dates for signed documents.

## Project Implementation

### Project Duration

The official grant start date for an individual awarded grant is either the date of grant agreement execution, or the grant term start date on the first page of the agreement, whichever date is later. The timeline for funding expenditures of awarded grants is provided in the table below.

Project Year	Estimated Duration of the Project Year
1	Date of grant agreement execution – 9/30/2025
2	10/1/2025 – 9/30/2026
3	10/1/2026 – 9/30/2027

Implementation should not begin prior to grant agreement execution, or the grant term start date on the first page of the agreement, whichever date is later. CDFA encourages the implementation of some eligible management practices, such as cover cropping, prior to December 31 in each project year, to allow adequate time for plant establishment and biomass accumulation.

Grant Recipients (Awardees) are responsible for the overall management of the awarded project to ensure all project activities are completed as identified in the grant agreement. Failure to do so may result in CDFA withholding all or any portion of the grant funding or terminating the Grant Agreement.

### Project Verification

All awarded projects will be subject to verification to ensure that Grant Recipients are implementing their incentivized agricultural management practices in a manner consistent with the USDA NRCS CPS guidelines and Healthy Soils Program Requirements ([Appendix B](#)). Grant Recipients are required to collect and submit all documents listed in Appendix B during the verification process. AOOPA will conduct verifications, which may include field visits, and/or remote evaluations via phone, video conferencing, or emails during the grant term. AOOPA may request any or all documents listed in Appendix B to successfully complete the project verification. Grant Recipients must assist in completing verifications every year in order to receive their annual incentive funds. Grant Recipients must retain verification documents three (3) years after the grant agreement expiration date.

### Progress Reporting

Awardees are required to maintain communication via email with AOOPA throughout the award cycle. Awardees are required to submit progress reports quarterly to AOOPA. Data will be shared with CDFA to allow AOOPA to effectively report overall project status. Awardees are required to notify AOOPA of any potential project changes; significant project changes will be subject to review by the HSP Technical Review Committee and if a producer does not meet contractual obligations, could result in the termination of the grant contract.

### **Project Changes and Terminations**

Grant Recipients should communicate with AOOPA staff promptly with any concerns regarding grant implementation. It is the Grant Recipient's responsibility to report to AOOPA no later than 10 days prior to the occurrence of any changes related to their grants. If Grant Recipients need a grant extension, and it is available within fund liquidation deadlines, Grant Recipients must request an extension no later than sixty (60) days prior to the end date of the existing grant agreement. AOOPA cannot guarantee that it will be able to grant extensions. Neither Grant Recipients nor AOOPA can transfer grant awards to a different individual or agricultural operation. If a Grant Recipient would like to terminate their grant, a termination request must be sent via email to AOOPA staff explaining the need for the termination.

Funding is no longer available to the Grant Recipient once they have submitted their termination request to AOOPA. If the Grant Recipient expended funds on the terminated grant for work not performed, they may be required to repay funds within thirty (30) days of the termination request. Any remaining funds in terminated grants will revert back to AOOPA.

### **Post-Project Completion Requirements**

Grant Recipients must maintain implementation of practices incentivized through this program throughout the term of the grant agreement. However, most benefits from implementation of practices accrue over the long term, and Grant Recipients are encouraged to continue and/or expand these practices on their operations to achieve long-term benefits. Grant Recipients must agree to post-project completion requirements which require them to take soil samples and provide a soil organic matter analysis report after the third year of initial implementation. *This soil analysis will occur outside the grant term and therefore should be covered by the Grant Recipient's funds as a cost share.* Additionally, Grant Recipients must maintain documentation related to their HSP-funded projects for three (3) years after completion of the project.

AOOPA will consider a Grant Recipient's failure to provide the necessary project-related documentation, including the post-project soil organic matter analysis reports, as non-performance, and that may impact consideration of the Grant Recipient's future applications for funding. AOOPA may take any action deemed necessary to recover all or any portion of the grant funding.

The State of California has the right to review project documents and conduct audits during the project life. CDFG, or its designated representative, may contact a subset of awarded AOOPA Healthy Soils projects to collect data including, but not limited to, eligible agricultural management practice implementation and GHG emissions reduction estimates, for three (3) years after project completion.

### **Soil Organic Matter Reporting Requirements**

Awardees are required to take soil samples right before starting practice implementation and within the grant term for accurate soil organic matter (SOM) evaluation. Additionally, Grant Recipients are required to sample SOM content annually, prior to each year's practice implementation. For accurate results, this should be done in the same month as the baseline soil sample and should be tested with the same method by the same laboratory. Expenses of soil samples (including sample collection and analysis) may be reimbursed on a flat-rate basis (\$50 per SOM analysis) if they were incurred within the grant term.

However, if the soil samples are outside the grant term (generally the final soil sample), the Grant Recipients must pay out of pocket for these analyses (see table below).

Each submission of SOM data should contain a laboratory report for each field’s sample(s). The laboratory can be from one of the accredited [soil analytical laboratories recommended](#), but laboratories used do not have to be recommended by CDFA. CDFA strongly recommends sending soil samples for the same project to the same soil analytical laboratory throughout the grant term to reduce errors due to different laboratory operational procedures. The soil sampling protocol provided in [HSP Soil Sampling Protocol for Soil Organic Matter Analysis](#) must be followed when collecting soil samples.

Sample Year	Inside Grant Term	Reimbursable by AOOA
Year 1 - prior to implementation	Yes	Yes
Year 2	Yes	Yes
Year 3	Yes	Yes
Year 4 – post grant term	No	No

## Invoicing and Payments

### Reimbursement

Grant payments for the AOOA HS Program Incentives Grants follow a flat-rate reimbursement system, through yearly invoicing, **following yearly practice verification**. Reimbursement rates are provided in [Appendix B](#). After project verification, AOOA will send a Grant Recipient an invoice for signature and processing. Processing for invoice reimbursement takes 45 days minimum after the Grant Recipient’s signature and department approval.

For projects implementing compost application, the estimated payments provided by the CDFA HSP Comet-Planner tool are based on the maximum allowable application rate for compost. In cases where Grant Recipients apply compost at a lower rate, AOOA will adjust the reimbursement amount to be consistent with tons of compost applied as part of the project. In the case of projects applying on-farm produced compost, C:N ratio(s) and application rate(s) must be consistent with those provided in the grant application. If a finished compost has a different C:N ratio, AOOA may adjust its application rate to be consistent with allowable application rates for the HSP. This may result in a change in estimated payments and in the project budget. Please refer to the compost application table under [Practice Implementation Requirements](#) for more details.

AOOPA will consider Grant Recipients to be in non-performance if they fail to provide necessary project-related documentation to AOOA or its designees. If AOOA determines through a quarterly progress report or check in that the grant project is not meeting milestones, and is unlikely to meet them, AOOA has the right to terminate the Grant Agreement pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement. Termination may result in forfeiture of funds by the Grant Recipients.

It is the Grant Recipient’s responsibility to follow up with AOOA on issues related to reimbursement within the grant term. Reimbursement will not be possible after the project has been closed out (November 30, 2027).



### **Advance Payments**

Grant Recipients may be eligible for an advance payment of up to 25 percent of the total grant award to begin project implementation, subject to the provisions of section 316.1 “Advance Payments” of the [California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 5](#). The remaining funds will be allocated following the reimbursement guidelines mentioned above.

## **California State Audit and Accounting Requirements**

In addition to Healthy Soils program requirements, awarded projects are subject to State Audit and Accounting Requirements listed below.

### **Audit and Critical Project Review Requirements**

Projects are subject to audit annually and for three (3) years following the final payment of grant funds. If the project is selected for an audit, AOOPA will contact Grant Recipients in advance. The audit shall include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of the Grant Recipients, as they relate to the project. All project expenditure documentation should be available for an audit, whether paid with grant funds or other funds.

The Grant Recipients must have project records, including source documents and evidence of payment, readily available and must provide an employee with knowledge of the project to assist the auditor. The Grant Recipients must provide a copy of any document, paper, record, etc., requested by the auditor.

### **Accounting Requirements**

The Grant Recipients must maintain an accounting system that:

- Accurately reflects fiscal transactions, with the necessary controls and safeguards.
- Provides a good audit trail, including original source documents such as purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, employee pay stubs and timecards, evidence of payment, etc.
- Provides accounting data so the total cost of each individual project can be readily determined.

### **Records Retention**

Grant Recipients must retain records for a period of three (3) years after final payment is made by the State, or as specified in closeout notification from AOOPA. Grant Recipients must also retain all project records for at least three (3) years following an audit.

## Appendix A: Technical Specifications for Estimation of GHG Benefits

### Expected Life of Practices

To estimate the net GHG benefits due to a practice implementation, the expected life of the practice is as follows:

Eligible Agricultural Management Practice	Expected Life of Practice*
Practices that involve planting of woody cover (trees and shrubs)	10 Years
All other practices	3 Years

\*Expected Life of Practice for the HSP may be different from that required by USDA-NRCS.

### GHG Emissions Estimates

An estimation of the reduction in GHG emissions from the selected [Eligible Agricultural Management Practices](#). CARB and CDFA developed the [QM and calculator tool](#) (CDFA HSP COMET-Planner) using the USDA-NRCS COMET-Planner methodology. The COMET-Planner Report explains the scientific approaches that the quantification methodology has utilized to estimate greenhouse gas reduction benefits for the CDFA HSP, and is available at: <https://comet-planner-cdfahsp.com/>. Each project's GHG emission reductions are automatically estimated by the CDFA HSP RePlan Tool.

### Practice Implementation Requirements

CDFA and CARB evaluated and synthesized technical information from the GHG Emission Estimate documents listed above to develop the [Program Requirements](#) and [Appendix B](#).

- **Riparian Forest Buffer and/or Riparian Herbaceous Cover:** Fields where implementation of these practices is proposed must be adjacent to and upgradient from water courses or water bodies. Please refer to the USDA NRCS CPS 390 and 391 for more information.
- **Conservation Crop Rotation:** Projects proposing to implement this practice must provide a detailed plan for crop rotation, listing all cash crops and/or cover crops to be planted in the correct sequence as part of the Work Plan.
- **Cover Crops:** Projects proposing to implement this practice may not claim post-termination cover crop residue as mulching practice with natural materials to prevent overestimation of GHG reductions achieved
- **Establishment of Permanent Woody Cover:** Projects proposing to implement these practices must take into consideration wildlife and pollinator needs when selecting tree or shrub species. Increasing species diversity, including use of native species, and avoiding species with invasive potential should be considered. Projects may not exclusively plant cash crop trees.
- **Compost Application:** Recipients must implement this practice following the requirements below.

- HSP does not incentivize the application of compost to soils with Soil Organic Matter greater than 20%.
  - Compost Application Rates eligible for funding are provided in the table below. Practices must be from the Orchard/Vineyard category to be eligible for review for the AOOA HSP Grant Opportunity.

Agricultural System	Compost Type	Tons/Acre*
Cropland	Higher N (C: N ≤ 11)	3 – 5
	Lower N (C: N > 11)	6 – 8
Orchard/Vineyard	Higher N (C: N ≤ 11)	2 – 4
	Lower N (C: N > 11)	6 – 8
Grazing Land	Lower N (C: N > 11)	6 – 8

\*CDFA developed the compost application rates eligible for funding through this program under the guidance of the [Environmental Farming Act – Science Advisory Panel \(EFA-SAP\)](#) and published a supporting white paper report titled “Compost Application Rates for California Croplands and Rangelands for a CDFa Healthy Soils Incentives Program”.

- Compost used cannot be vermicompost.
- **If Recipients will purchase compost:**
  - a. Compost must be produced by a facility permitted or otherwise authorized by state and local authorities that can demonstrate compliance with all state regulations. The composting facility must comply with the state minimum standards set forth in [California Code of Regulations Title 14 \(14 CCR\) 14 CCR, Division 7, Chapter 3.1, Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9](#). Grant Recipients must ensure that the composting facilities are listed on one of the following websites:
    - CalRecycle SWIS/Site Search website with facility’s site regulatory status being “Permitted” or “Notification”  
<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Search>
    - CDFa -OIM Certified Facilities (Only Dry Compost Eligible)  
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldr/pdfs/RegisteredOrganicInputMaterial2022.pdf>
    - STA Certified Compost Participants (California Only)  
<https://www.compostingcouncil.org/page/participants#CA>
  - b. Recipients must submit a report of laboratory analysis on compost C:N ratio, measured within 6 months prior to compost application.
- **If Recipients will produce compost on-farm:**

- Recipients must maintain a log to document the composting process. Recipients should use the Compost Log Template that CDFA provides on the [HS Program Incentive Grants webpage](#), or one that lists the same information in a similar format.
- Recipients must compost plant and animal materials through the processes outlined below. They can obtain a portion of the feedstocks from off-site locations (e.g., municipal greenwaste).
- Recipients can implement On-Farm Compost production in either of the following two scenarios:
  - a. A single entity can produce on-farm compost in one location, with materials from their own operation, and distribute it to other fields in different locations, if those fields are under ownership by the same entity.
  - b. Multiple HSP Grant Recipients can share a compost site; however, they should only use the generated compost on their own farms. Input materials supplied to the shared facility by each Recipient should be roughly proportional to the amount of compost taken back to the Recipient's operation to be applied. If more than [1,000 cubic yards](#) of compost are generated annually, the compost producer(s) should communicate with a CalRecycle LEA for further questions on requirements.
- Sources of compost eligible for funding must meet the following requirements.
  - ***In-vessel or Static Aerated Pile System:*** Maintain a temperature between 131°F and 170°F for 3 consecutive days.
  - ***Windrow Composting:*** Maintain a temperature between 131°F and 170°F for 15 consecutive days. The materials must be turned a minimum of 5 times.
- Recipients or producers must verify the C:N ratio of the compost to be applied, through laboratory testing before application. Type(s) of material(s) used for composting must be documented. Lab analysis of C:N ratio remains valid for up to 6 months prior to compost application.
- Recipients of on-farm compost awards must produce the compost at the agricultural operation where the project is located.
- CDFA does not reimburse Recipients for applying free or donated on-farm compost from another compost producer.
- **Whole Orchard Recycling:** Implementation of this practice must meet the following requirements below:
  - Only orchards with trees at least ten years of age are eligible.
  - Recipients must chip and incorporate orchards in place on the field in which they were grown, without exporting chips off-site or to new fields.
  - HSP does not incentivize this practice in soils with Soil Organic Matter greater than 20%.
  - Recipients must evenly distribute the wood chips throughout the orchard. If a service provider is contracted, their commitment to spread the wood chips must be in the contract/invoice for verification purposes.
  - Recipients or service providers must incorporate the chips into the soil to at least 6 inches depth.

- **Effective Practice Implementation Acreage in orchards and vineyards:** The HS Program considers not the total acreage of these systems, but the acreage of alleys within them, to be the effective practice implementation acreage for cover crop, conservation cover, reduced-till, and no-till practices in orchards and vineyards. Effective practice implementation acreage is considered to be 70% of the whole field acreage for orchard alleys, and 60% for vineyard alleys.

### Non-Overlapping Practices

The HSP will not incentivize practices listed in the same groups below on the same land area, i.e., they cannot “overlap.” The CDFA HSP Re-Plan Tool prevents applicants from combining non-overlapping practices on the same land area.

- Group I:
  - Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
  - Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (USDA NRCS CPS 328)
  - Strip Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 585)
  - Mulching: Wood Chip (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
- Group II: Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808): Compost must either be:
  - Purchased from a Certified Facility, or
  - On-farm Produced Compost
- Group III:
  - Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
  - Whole Orchard Recycling (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
- Group IV
  - Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 327)
  - Contour Buffer Strips (USDA NRCS CPS 332)
  - Field Border (USDA NRCS CPS 386)
  - Filter Strip (USDA NRCS CPS 393)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting/Pasture and Hay Planting (USDA NRCS 512)
  - Grassed Waterway (USDA NRCS CPS 412)
  - Herbaceous Wind Barrier (USDA NRCS CPS 603)
  - Range Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 550)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 390)
  - Vegetative Barriers (601) (USDA NRCS CPS 601)
  - Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
  - Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
- Group V
  - Alley Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 311)
  - Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
  - Multi-story Cropping/Forest Farming (USDA NRCS CPS 379)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (USDA NRCS CPS 391)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 612)

- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)
- Silvopasture (USDA NRCS CPS 381)
- Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
- Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
- Group VI
  - Any herbaceous planting practice listed in Group IV and mulching.

*Note:* There may be practices (individual or combination), in addition to those listed above, that should not overlap for a specific project. These may be evaluated by CDFA on a case- by-case basis and addressed during pre-project consultation.

### **California Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry**

[SB 27 \(Chapter 237\)](#) requires the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to establish and maintain a Registry for the purposes of identifying and listing projects in the state that drive climate action on the state’s natural and working lands, and which sought funding from state agencies or private entities but went unfunded. Projects that sequester carbon on natural and working lands and meet minimum California Climate Investment program requirements but did not receive funding due to the limited availability of funds, may be listed on the Registry.

If CDFA has insufficient funding to meet the demand for on-farm projects, CDFA may offer unfunded applicants the opportunity to have their projects listed on the Registry (offers may be extended after several months of solicitation). If the applicant chooses to be listed, CDFA will facilitate the signing of a consent letter authorizing CDFA to share project-relevant data to CNRA or its affiliates, to be published on the Registry. The project-level data may include, but is not limited to applicant name, project description, project budget, estimated GHG and co-benefits, project location, and applicant contact information.

The Registry is expected to be accessible online by 2024. Funding offers, project monitoring, and verification expectations may vary from what the Healthy Soils Incentives Program supports. An applicant’s project listing will be removed from the Registry after one year unless the applicant chooses to renew it.

## Appendix B: Practice Payment Scenarios, Rates, Requirements, and Implementation Guidelines

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	HSP Practice	Practice Implementation	Payment Scenario	Payment Unit	Payment Rate (\$/Unit)	Number of Years to be Paid	Required Document /Information at Application	Implementation Guidelines	Verification Requirements
Orchard or Vineyard	Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment (NRCS CPS 380)	Plant 1 Row of Woody Plants on Border of Orchard/Vineyard	1-row, trees, containers, hand planted, with tree protected	Ft	\$1.66	1	Tree and/or shrub species	(1) Container seedlings at 15-20 cubic inches or bare root seedlings at 2-3 years old before transplanting (2) Plant protection and irrigation are required; (3) ≥200 live plants/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs taken at both ends & middle of the tree line. (2) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (3) Species and number of live plants; (4) Tree protection and irrigation; (5) Plant maintenance during the project term.
			1-row, trees and/or shrub, with wind protection fence	Ft	\$2.68	1		(1) Container seedlings at 15-20 cubic inches or bare root seedlings at 2-3 years old before transplanting (2) A wind-protection fence and irrigation are required; (3) ≥200 live plants/acre.	
Orchard or Vineyard	Compost Application (NRCS CPS 808)	Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, On-farm produced compost	2 tons/Acre	Ac	\$128.64	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	(1) Application rate must be between 2-4 tons/acre; (2) Compost materials, method and Composting process must be documented. (3) Feedstocks may include green materials, food materials, wood waste, yard trimmings, agricultural materials or biosolids as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852 ( <a href="https://www.law.comell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852">https://www.law.comell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852</a> ).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and ground right after compost is applied; (2) A composting log including raw materials, method, and temperatures during composting process; (3) Estimated total tonnage of compost applied; (4) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.
			3 tons/Acre	Ac	\$192.96	3			
			4 tons/Acre	Ac	\$257.28	3			
		Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, Purchased compost	2 tons/Acre	Ac	\$128.64	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	Application rate must be between 2-4 tons/acre	
			3 tons/Acre	Ac	\$192.96	3			
			4 tons/Acre	Ac	\$257.28	3			

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	HSP Practice	Practice Implementation	Payment Scenario	Payment Unit	Payment Rate (\$/Unit)	Number of Years to be Paid	Required Document /Information at Application	Implementation Guidelines	Verification Requirements
Orchard or Vineyard	Compost Application (NRCS CPS 808)	Compost (C:N > 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, On-farm produced compost	6 tons/Acre	Ac	\$385.92	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	(1) Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acre; (2) Compost materials, method and Composting process must be documented. (3) Feedstocks may include green materials, food materials, wood waste, yard trimmings, agricultural materials or biosolids as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852 ( <a href="https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852">https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852</a> ).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and ground right after compost is applied; (2) A composting log including raw materials, method, and temperatures during composting process; (3) Estimated total tonnage of compost applied; (4) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.
			7 tons/Acre	Ac	\$450.24	3			
			8 tons/Acre	Ac	\$514.56	3			
		Compost (C:N > 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, Purchased compost	6 tons/Acre	Ac	\$385.92	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acre	
			7 tons/Acre	Ac	\$450.24	3			
			8 tons/Acre	Ac	\$514.56	3			
Orchard or Vineyard	Conservation Cover (NRCS CPS 327)	Convert Idle Land near Orchard/ Vineyard to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume cover	Introduced species	Ac	\$403.70	1	Introduced perennial species	(1) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established plants (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased including species names; (3) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Introduced species with foregone income	Ac	\$555.82	1		(1) Seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	
			Native species	Ac	\$350.34	1	Mix of native perennial species	(1) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	
			Native species with foregone income	Ac	\$660.34	1			



Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	HSP Practice	Practice Implementation	Payment Scenario	Payment Unit	Payment Rate (\$/Unit)	Number of Years to be Paid	Required Document /Information at Application	Implementation Guidelines	Verification Requirements
Orchard or Vineyard	Conservation Cover (NRCSCPS 327)	Convert Idle Land near Orchard/Vineyard to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume cover	Monarch species – mix species	Ac	\$1,404.68	1	Mix of native perennial grass & forbs including native milkweeds for wildlife, pollinators, or ecosystem restoration	(1) At least 4% native milkweeds ( <i>Asclepias</i> spp.) and less than 50% grasses; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established plants (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased including species names; (3) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Monarch species – mix species with foregone income	Ac	\$1,443.92	1			
			Pollinator species	Ac	\$1,138.96	1	Mix of native perennial grasses, legumes, and forbs to provide habitat for pollinators	(1) Mixed native species with less than 50% grasses; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Plant protection from animal damage and good maintenance.	
			Pollinator species with foregone income	Ac	\$1,134.30	1			
		Plant Permanent Grass or Grass/Legume Cover in Orchard/Vineyard Alleys	Orchard or Vineyard Alleys	Ac	\$271.80	1	Perennial species	(1) Inoculate legumes at planting time if legume species is used, and (2) Maintain permanent vegetation	
Orchard or Vineyard	Cover Crop (NRCSCPS 340)	(1) Add Legume or Non-Legume Cover Crop to Orchard/Vineyard Alleys	One species	Ac	\$122.46	3	Cover crop species	(1) Single or multiple species cover crop is planted without fertilizer. (2) Cover crop is allowed to grow to produce as much biomass as possible. (3) Cover crop biomass/residue should not be removed to other places.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing established cover crops in the field (≥60% coverage), (2) Receipts of cover crop seeds purchased, (3) Cover crop species name and seeding rate.
			Multiple species	Ac	\$153.32	3			

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	HSP Practice	Practice Implementation	Payment Scenario	Payment Unit	Payment Rate (\$/Unit)	Number of Years to be Paid	Required Document /Information at Application	Implementation Guidelines	Verification Requirements
Orchard or Vineyard	Filter Strip (NRCSCPS 393)	Convert Idle Land Near Orchard/Vineyard to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Introduced species	Ac	\$371.66	1	Introduced perennial species	(1) Introduced perennial species; (2) Seeding rate at ≥60 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Maintain plant growth.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established filter strip (>60% plant coverage); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Plant species name and seeding rate; (4) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Native species	Ac	\$407.92	1	Native perennial species	(1) Native perennial species; (2) Seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Maintain plant growth.	
Orchard or Vineyard	Hedgerow Planting (NRCSCPS 422)	Plant 1 Row of Woody Plants on Border of Orchard/Vineyard	Single Row	Ft	\$11.82	1	Hedgerow species	(1) Pollinator-friendly trees, shrubs, and perennial wildflowers; (2) Plant density at ≥200 live plants/acre; (3) Average height at ≥3 feet and extend 15 feet wide at maturity; (4) Plant protection & irrigation.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs taken at both ends & middle of the hedgerow line. (2) Receipts of plants purchased; (3) Plant species name and number of live plants; (4) Maintain plant growth in the project term.
Orchard or Vineyard	Mulching (NRCSCPS 484)	Add Mulch to Orchard or Vineyard	Natural Materials	Ac	\$518.38	3	Natural materials	(1) Materials produced off site; (2) ≥70% of the acreage covered by mulch materials at 1-3 inches thickness or 1-2 tons/acre if using straw. (3) Natural materials include chipped brush, bark, wood shavings, sawdust, leaves, leaf mold, pine needles, grass hay, rice hulls, grasses, grass clippings, crop residues, straw, almond/walnut shells, cocoa bean hulls or coconut fiber. Provide name(s) of natural material(s).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing mulching is completely implemented including thickness measured by a ruler and mulch coverage, (2) Receipts of materials purchased, or donated with proof documents.
			Wood Chips	Ac	\$4,385.44	1	Wood chips	(1) Materials produced off site (2) Wood Chips are characterized as chemically untreated, woody material that is ¾ -2 inches in diameter, without leaves and hardy enough to last for several years; (3) Mulch thickness at 2-4 inches; (4) Application rate at ≥40 cubic yards/acre or ≥10 tons/acre.	

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	HSP Practice	Practice Implementation	Payment Scenario	Payment Unit	Payment Rate (\$/Unit)	Number of Years to be Paid	Required Document /Information at Application	Implementation Guidelines	Verification Requirements
Orchard or Vineyard	Nutrient Management (NRCS CPS 590)	Improved N Fertilizer Management on Orchard/Vineyard - Reduce Fertilizer Application Rate by 15%	Basic nutrient management	Ac	\$17.80	3	An eligible field(s) is where synthetic nutrient fertilizers have been applied annually	(1) A nutrient management plan for each field/crop based on soil test analysis and University of California or CDFA recommended rates. (2) A farming log records all fertilization activities (fertilizer name, nitrogen content, application rate & date) during each project year.	(1) Crop name(s) and age or yield target; (2) the farming log must demonstrate that nitrogen application rate is 15% less than what was used in the past 3 years or UC recommended rate; (3) Receipts of nitrogen fertilizers purchased as applicable; (4) Verification is at the end of the project year or end of fertilization cycle as applicable.
Orchard or Vineyard	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (NRCS CPS 329)	Convert Tillage to No Till in Orchard/Vineyard Alleys	No-Till or Strip-Till	Ac	\$32.96	3	Tillage implemented prior to application deadline	(1) No tillage; (2) all planting methods are no-till drill or broadcast if applicable. (3) Residues are kept on soil surface and not burned or removed; (4) A farming log recording all field activities.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photos showing field operations, field floor and overview of the whole field at end of project year; (2) A farming log; (3) verification at the end of project year.
Orchard or Vineyard	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (NRCS CPS 345)	Convert Tillage to Reduced Till in Orchard/Vineyard Alleys	Reduced- Till	Ac	\$40.74	3	Conventional tillage implemented prior to application deadline	(1) Tillage methods (Mulch/vertical tillage, chiseling, or disking) that limit soil disturbance, or (2) Fewer tillage operations. (3) Plant residue covering soil surface during winter- spring period; (4) A farming log recording all field activities related to soil disturbance dates of activities and equipment used.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photos for each field showing field operations (including equipment used), field floor and overview of the whole field at end of each project year. (2) A farming log to demonstrate implementation requirements are met; (3) Verification by the end of the project year.
Orchard	Whole Orchard Recycling (NRCS CPS 808)	Whole Orchard Recycling	Whole Orchard Recycling	Ac	\$861.42	1	Age of trees at application	(1) Only orchards with trees at least ten years of age at application are eligible; (2) Orchard trees should be chipped and incorporated on the field where they were grown, not to export to new fields.; (3) Chips must be evenly distributed throughout the orchard and incorporated into the soil to at least 6 inches depth.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing tree removal, chipping, spreading and incorporation of wood chips; (2) A farm log including chipping details (e.g., tons of chips, size); (3) Before and after pictures of orchard; (4) Verification is when chips are incorporated.