

CDFA's Climate Smart agriculture incentive programs

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The California Department of Food and Agriculture has three Climate Smart Agriculture incentive programs — The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET), the Healthy Soils Program (HSP), and the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) that financially assist California farming operations to adopt on-farm practices and technologies that produce tangible benefits for farmers, consumers, and the environment.

The CDFA's incentive programs are key to California's climate strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2045 relative to 1990 levels.

For farming operations interested in applying for HSP or AMMP, the 2020 solicitation period is just around the corner. Both the 2020 HSP and AMMP solicitation periods are anticipated to open at the end of January or early February and will run until March 2020.

The Healthy Soils Program funds California implementation of conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequesters carbon, and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases. HSP is a competitive grant with the maximum award of \$100,000 that funds 28 eligible soil management practices, such as cover crops, compost application, and nutrient management, just to name a few.

The Alternative Manure Management Program is geared towards commercial dairy and livestock operations that would like to adapt technologies and manage-

ment practices that reduce their methane emissions. These practices included pasture-based management, alternative manure treatment and storage, solid separation, and conversion from a flush to scrape manure collection system. CDFA will fund a maximum AMMP grant award of \$750,000 per project.

For more information about these individual grants please visit the CDFA's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oeffi/>.

The Imperial County Farm Bureau in partnership with the University of California Cooperative Extension - Imperial County will be offering HSP and AMMP workshops during the month of February to provide technical assistance to agriculture operations that are interested in applying for these grants. These workshops are an opportunity to learn about practices that comply with the incentive programs, understand how to complete the online grant application process and receive one-on-one technical assistance.

If you have any questions about the HSP and/or AMMP grant or would like to know more information about the workshops, please contact: Brea Mohammed, Imperial County Farm Bureau, at brea@icfb.net; Oli Bachie (HSP) at obachie@ucanr.edu; Brooke Latack (AMMP) at bclatack@ucanr.edu, or Kristian Salgado, community education specialist, at kmsalgado@ucanr.edu.

Potential applicants are encouraged to attend one or more of the scheduled workshops. Detailed announcements will follow.