

Climate Smart Newsletter – December 2022

In this issue:

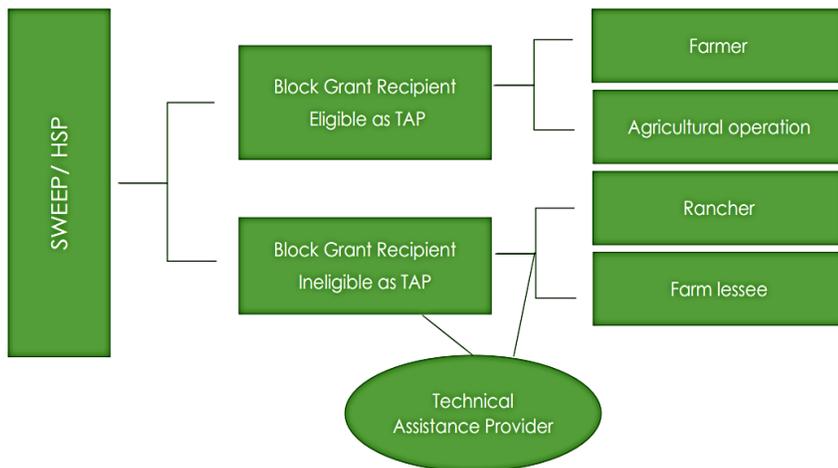
- ✓ CDFA is currently accepting public comments on 2023 HSP and SWEEP block grants
- ✓ Happy Healthy Soils Week!
- ✓ FREP Grant Program
- ✓ The 2022 Census of Agriculture is here

CDFA is currently accepting public comments on 2023 HSP and SWEEP block grants

Send your comments on the new pilot programs by Dec 15th



A few months ago, CDFA announced new pilot programs for the Healthy Soils Program and SWEEP, using the structure of block grants. Through the block grant pilot programs, qualified organizations across the state may apply for funding and then disburse funds to eligible farmers/ranchers or ag operations for on-farm irrigation projects and healthy soils practices.



Stakeholders are encouraged to read the CDFA presentation and RGAs on the new pilot programs, and send their comments.

Public comments must be submitted to the following email inboxes by 5 PM December 15, 2022.

SWEEP:

cdfa.sweeptech@cdfa.ca.gov



HSP:

cdfa.hsp_tech@cdfa.ca.gov



Events at a Glance

December 6, 2022

10:00 AM

Facebook LIVE with the UC Master Gardener Program - Healthy Soil: In Nature Sometime Less Is More

Speaker: Mike Corby, UC Master Gardener Volunteer Contra Costa County.

[Join here](#)

December 7, 2022

11:00 AM

NRCS Webinar: Web Soil Survey Presentation

This is a presentation on WSS and other Soil Web Tools for gathering soils information and maps.

[Register here](#)

December 9, 2022

09:00 AM – 03:00 PM

Healthy Soils Program Demonstration Field Day in Salinas

Demonstrations with UCCE, California State University, Monterey Bay, and the resource conservation districts of Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, Central Coast Water Board.

[Register here](#)

Happy Healthy Soils Week!



Join the California Department of Food and Agriculture and our many partners in highlighting soil health!

Healthy soil is the foundation of sustainable food, water, air, and biodiversity. Restoring and preserving healthy soil results in:

- Improved plant health and yields
- Increased water infiltration and retention
- Sequestered carbon and reduced greenhouse gases (GHGs)
- Reduced sediment erosion and dust
- Improved water and air quality
- Improved biological diversity and wildlife habitat

For the full calendar of events, visit

<https://www.cdafa.ca.gov/healthysoilweek/>

FREP Grant Program

Accepting pre-proposals until Dec 19th

The Fertilizer Research and Education Program, better known as FREP, is soliciting proposals for its 2023 grant cycle. Funding of \$75,000 per year for up to three years is available for outreach, education, demonstration, and/or research projects related to the environmentally safe and agronomically sound use and handling of fertilizing materials. Proposals may originate from outside of California, but all project work must be relevant to California agriculture.

- [2023 Grant Timeline](#)
- [2023 FREP Request for Proposals](#)



The 2022 Census of Agriculture is here

Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mailed survey codes to all known agriculture producers across the 50 states with an invitation to respond online to the 2022 Census of Agriculture at agcounts.usda.gov. If you missed it or prefer paper, the paper questionnaires will follow in December.

The ag census is the nation's only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county, and territory. By completing the survey, producers across the nation can tell their story and help generate impactful opportunities that better serve them and future generations. It is a powerful voice for U.S. agriculture.

All responses are due Feb. 6, 2023. Farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, are included in the ag census.

Happy Holidays! – Felices fiestas!

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