Agricultural Resilience Incentive (ARI) Grant Program

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Program Overview

The **Agricultural Resilience Incentive** Grant Program provides grants to farmers and ranchers in Santa Clara County to assist with adopting improved agricultural resource management practices.

These practices improve soil health over time and have water and nutrient management benefits.

Simple 2 page application

How much funding can I receive?

- You can receive funding for up to **$30,000** for compost and mulch application, and 25 other practices that improve soil health

- Free technical assistance from UC Cooperative Extension

Who is eligible?

- **All managers and owners of agricultural operations** within Santa Clara County are eligible to apply

- No acreage minimum or maximum

- Renters have to have written approval of the property owner

Can I apply even if I lease my land?

Yes, even if the land is publicly or privately owned and you lease the land, you can still apply for ARI funding.
You will need to provide written approval from the property owner (i.e. landowner agreement letter is required).

Am I eligible for the ARI program if I am a non-profit organization?

Yes, as long as you are a rancher or grower in Santa Clara County, and either own the land,

or

have written approval from the property owner if you are leasing the land.

Am I Eligible if I Share an APN?

- Yes, you are able to apply for the ARI program but when filling out the application, you must complete **property owner information** on additional sheets provided and attach to your application.

- A map including APNs will be required to delineate specific areas for each practice, prior to grant agreement execution. Technical assistance will be available to support the preparation of these maps.

Current CDFA Healthy Soils Program Recipients Are Not Eligible

Healthy Soils Program

- For folks who are currently enrolled in the CDFA Healthy Soils Program, you won't be able to receive ARI funding concurrently.

- But if you finished your HSP funding period, then you can apply for ARI!

What information should I gather if I am interested in applying?

- Show that your agricultural land is within Santa Clara County
- Choose practices you wish to apply for
- History of crops on site
- History of conservation practices,
- APN numbers for the fields
- If you lease land – need to have written approval of the property owner

What is needed to fill out the application?

- Choose at least one of the 27 approved management practices, such as:
    - Compost application
    - Mulch application

- Project Scope

- Total Cost Estimate

- Grant Project Bid

Annual Cropland Approved Management Practices

	Practice	Initial Implementation Timeline[9]	Estimated Sequestration Timeline[10]
1.	Alley Cropping	18 months	10 years
2.	Conservation Cover	18 months	3 years
3.	Compost Application*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
4.	Conservation Crop Rotation*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
5.	Contour Buffer Strips	18 months	3 years
6.	Cover Crop*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
7.	Field Border	18 months	3 years
8.	Filter Strip	18 months	3 years
9.	Forage and Biomass Planting	18 months	3 years
10.	Grassed Waterway	18 months	3 years
11.	Hedgerow Planting	18 months	10 years
12.	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	18 months	3 years
13.	Mulching*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
14.	Multistory Cropping	18 months	10 years
15.	Nutrient Management*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
16.	No-Till*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
17.	Reduced-Till*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
18.	Riparian Forest Buffer	18 months	10 years
19.	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	18 months	3 years
20.	Strip-Cropping	18 months	3 years
21.	Tree/Shrub Establishment	18 months	10 years
22.	Vegetative Barriers	18 months	3 years
23.	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	18 months	10 years
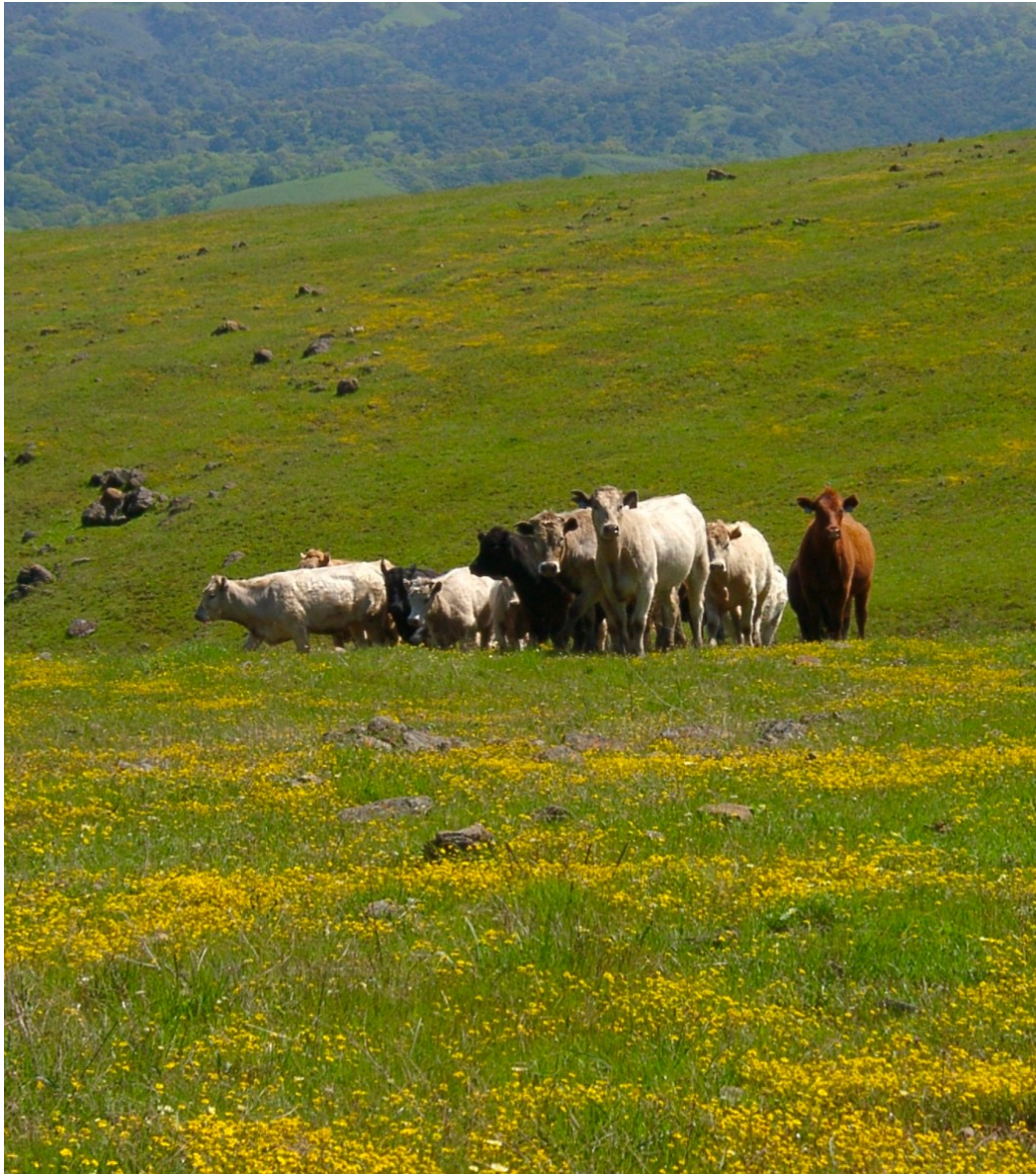
Grazing Land Approved Management Practices

	Practice	Initial Implementation Timeline[7]	Estimated Sequestration Timeline[8]
1.	Compost Application*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
2.	Hedgerow Planting	18 months	10 years
3.	Prescribed Grazing*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
4.	Range Planting	18 months	10 years
5.	Riparian Forest Buffer	18 months	10 years
6.	Silvopasture	18 months	10 years
7.	Tree/Shrub Establishment	18 months	10 years
8.	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	18 months	10 years

Perennial Cropland (i.e. Orchards and Vineyards)

	Practice	Initial Implementation Timeline[11]	Estimated Sequestration Timeline[12]
1.	Compost Application*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
2.	Conservation Cover	18 months	3 years
3.	Cover Crop*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
4.	Filter Strip	18 months	3 years
5.	Hedgerow Planting	18 months	10 years
6.	Mulching*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
7.	Nutrient Management*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
8.	No-Till*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
9.	Reduced-Till*	1 - 3 years	1 - 3 years
10.	Whole Orchard Recycling	18 months	3 years
11.	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	18 months	10 years

Can I apply to implement multiple practices?

Many of the 27 pre-approved practices can be implemented concurrently. Multiple practices per application are encouraged and each practice requires its own total cost estimate.

Project Scope

Example of Annual Cropland Application

Management Practice[3]	Acreage[4]	Years[5]	Total Cost Estimate	Bid
Compost Application	15	3	37,575	30,000

Only one application per parcel or multiple parcels per year is allowed

Total Grant Project Bid[6] $ 30,000

Total Cost Estimate

- Applicants must provide an estimate of the total cost of their chosen practice(s)
- Reverse auction: name your own price
- Funding is upfront, not a reimbursement

Grant Project Bid

- Advantageous to have a bid amount lower than the Total Cost Estimate
    - Successful project bids are unlikely to be greater than the total cost estimates

- Recommended to use **CDFA COMET** planner's estimate as a guide for your bid amount

CDFA Comet Planner

- http://comet-planner-cdfahsp.com/

What is the grant selection process?
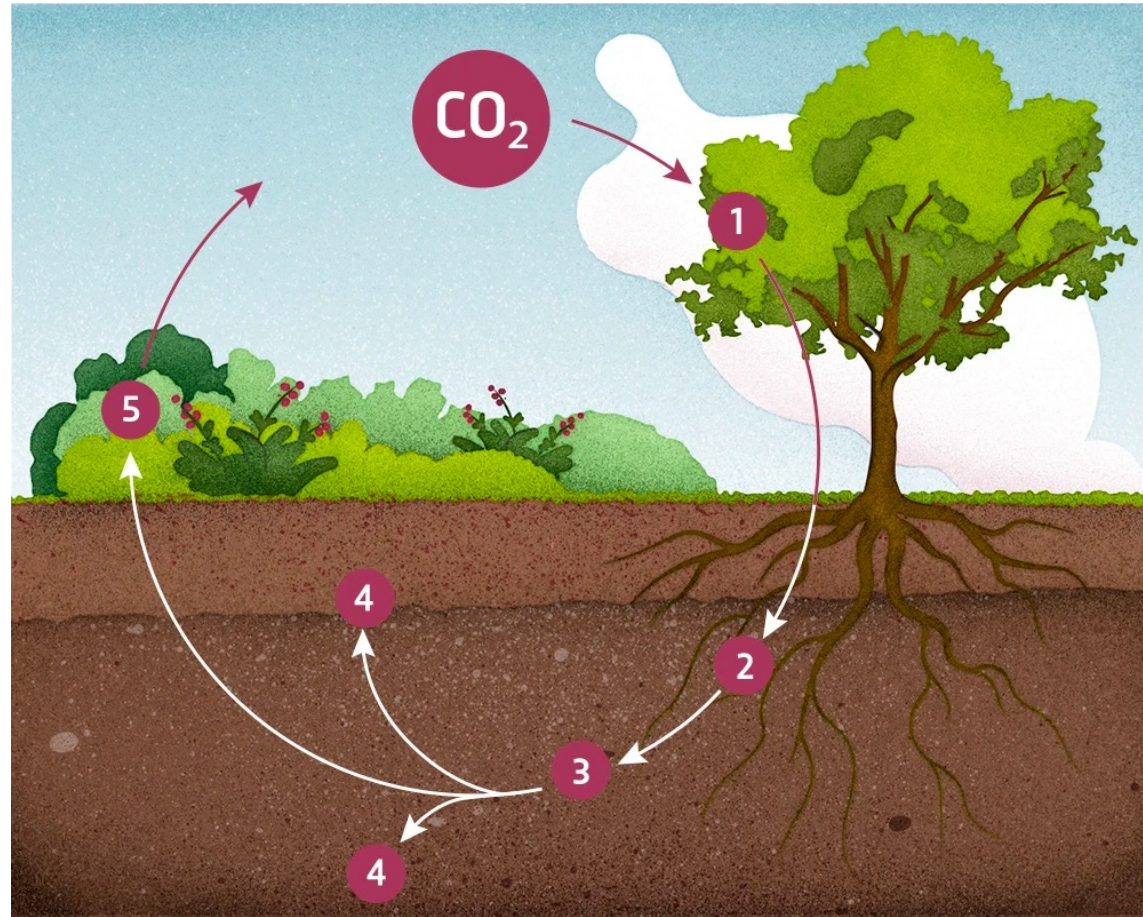
Grants win by being the **most cost-competitive means** of sequestering atmospheric carbon by improving soil health or increasing woody biomass

Grant Selection Process

Grant Applications Submitted to County of Santa Clara

Applications will be sorted by operation size into one of two categories, either (a) up to 40 acres, or (b) over 40 acres, unless more than 75% of applications fall into one category. These two categories will be ranked separately in order to ensure that smaller farms are not definitively ruled out of competition due to scale.

All applications will be reviewed and ranked using the provided information to calculate a soil and woody biomass carbon sequestration estimate, using the USDA's online tool **COMET Planner,** and with the support of technical experts. Applicants are not required to estimate carbon sequestration themselves.

Grant Selection Process Continued

Projects will be recommended for funding according to rank, drawing alternately from the large and small categories, starting with the **most cost-effective.**

Preference in ranking will be given to project proposals with additional ecosystem values and co-benefits. Preference will be conferred using points that lift an application's ranking. The effect of these points will only impact the outcome of those projects with a ranking **near the funding allocation cut-off.**

The Department's funding recommendations will reflect the final ranking of projects. The Board of Supervisors will make final approval and execute the grant agreements. The Board is not required to follow the Department's funding recommendations.

After award of the grant and prior to disbursement of funds, the grantee will execute the County's grant funding agreement.

Project Implementation Begins

5% of total project funding will be held until project implementation is complete.

How do I get paid?

Funding for practices will be provided following execution of the grant agreement and in advance of implementation.

Funding for recurring annual practices will be funded in annual increments according to the schedule finalized in the executed grant agreement.

Payment Details Continued

Five percent (5%) of the total project funding will be held until project implementation is complete.

If the project cannot be completed within the required timeframe, the grantee may be required to return any unexpended funds to the County and may become ineligible for future applications. Unforeseen circumstances, like wildfire or drought, may permit additional flexibility in project implementation.

If there is leftover money from my flat-rate payment, do I get to keep it?

Yes, if there is leftover money you may use it at your own discretion (e.g. pay labor costs, shipping costs, etc.)

How long will I have to complete my project?

- One to three years
- Annual vs. Perennial practices

Outcome Evaluation

- **Outcome Evaluation form**, which includes submitting the actual cost of the first year of implementation

- At no cost to the grantee, the County might want to conduct check-ins and before-and-after studies like **soil testing** to quantify the positive impact the grant made
  - Results would be available for free to grantee, and if any data is made public, it will all be anonymized data

How does the County of Santa Clara verify my project?

Required to complete an outcome evaluation form within 180 days of project implementation

You must also hold onto:

- Copies of receipts

- Photos of purchased materials

When are the grant applications due?

The deadline to submit your completed grant application along with any supporting documents is **May 31, 2024.** Applications won't be reviewed until deadline has passed.

Need Technical Assistance

Enter your **full name, phone number, and email address** into the Zoom chat or workshop evaluation form, and we'll be in contact

UC ANR can assist with:

- Determining a Total Cost Estimate
- COMET Planner
- Map including APNs

Questions? Want Assistance?

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