

## July Funding Update

Shulamit Shroder & Alli Fish

### SWEEP

The recently-passed state budget included \$40 million for the California Department of Food and Agriculture's State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program. This program provides grant funding to producers to help improve their water use efficiency and decrease their greenhouse gas emissions. It funds practices such as:

- Installation of variable frequency drive
- Pump conversion from diesel to electric or solar
- Soil moisture monitors
- Use of evapotranspiration-based irrigation scheduling
- Conversion to micro irrigation or drip irrigation

It will not pay to deepen a well or bring fallow land into cultivation. SWEEP will solicit applications for the next round of funding in **fall 2021**. In the meantime, you can:

- Review the most recent Request for Grant Applications:  
[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/docs/2019\\_SWEEP\\_RGA.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/docs/2019_SWEEP_RGA.pdf)
- Create a project design and list the practices you want to implement
  - o Find ideas on page 4 of the Request for Grant Applications
- Select an irrigation company for the project.
- Get quotes for items needed for the project, itemized and with labor included.
- Schedule a pump efficiency test for all the pumps that will be affected by the project – you may be able to get a free or cheap one through your electric company.
- Collect 12 months of energy use data for pumps (e.g. energy bills or fuel receipts).

### Healthy Soils Program

The state budget also included \$50 million for the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Healthy Soils Program. This program encourages farmers to implement conservation practices such as:

- Cover cropping
- No-till or reduced till
- Mulch or compost applications
- Hedgerow or windbreak plantings

It will not pay to bring fallow land into cultivation and it will not provide incentives for practices you already do. HSP will solicit applications for the next round of funding in **late fall 2021**. In the meantime, you can:

- Review the most recent Request for Grant Applications ([https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/2020\\_HSP\\_Incentives\\_RGA.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/2020_HSP_Incentives_RGA.pdf))
- Create a project design in your head or on paper: list out the practices you want to implement on land that has not had the practice on it before
- Find eligible practices and 2020 payment rates in the Request for Grant Applications, pg. 25-47

### Questions?

Reach out to Shulamit Shroder at [sashroder@ucanr.edu](mailto:sashroder@ucanr.edu) or 661-903-9442

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