

# NEW FUNDING AVAILABLE

## FOR SOIL HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN ORCHARDS



Financial & technical assistance available through participating in On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials with the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District!

### ORCHARD QUALIFICATIONS:

- Approximately 100 acres or more
- Located in Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Kern, Kings or Tulare county
- Can apply as a Trial site that will apply soil health practices for 5 years or as a Control site that will not apply soil health practices for 5 years, or both.

### ACCEPTED APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE MONEY TO ADDRESS TOP RESOURCE CONCERNS!

You'll receive financial assistance to implement conservation practices such as:

- cover crops,
- irrigation water management,
- whole orchard recycling,
- compost/soil amendments,
- mulching and more!

Plus, get technical assistance to create a custom conservation plan, including:

- soil moisture sensors,
- soil samples for the next 4 years,
- participation in an economic survey,
- and more!

## APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 31ST, 2020

### REQUEST A SITE VISIT BY MAY 16TH WITH JEFF BORUM

For more information, contact Jeff Borum at the East Stanislaus RCD at [soilhealth@eaststanrod.org](mailto:soilhealth@eaststanrod.org) or call (951)790-8639 or visit [www.eaststanrod.org/orchard](http://www.eaststanrod.org/orchard)



Project Apis m.



# Grant Information

Grant Name: Soil Health Management Systems for Orchards in California's Central Valley  
Awarded By: Natural Resources Conservation Service – Conservation Innovation Grant On-Farm Trials

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Federal, state, and local agencies, in addition to market-driven demand, have contributed to increased interest in the application of practices beneficial to soil in order to address on-farm issues such as water quality, nutrient management, and pest control. Several partners including American Farmland Trust, California Alliance for Family Farms, Project Apis m, and other RCDs have started on-farm trials to demonstrate that conservation practices implemented through the utilization of comprehensive soil health management systems can aptly address these and a multitude of other issues.

This project will be headed by the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District (ESRCD) and will include a total of 35 orchards within Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Kern, Kings and Tulare counties to conduct whole orchard management system trials in a five-year study. This comprehensive study includes the evaluation of soil health management systems, economic outcomes and social outcomes within Trial and Control sites, providing much needed data to address California's water insecurity, ultimately providing solutions to our state's crisis.

## NRCS ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

Whole Orchard Management Systems address the entire orchard, not just the trees, through focusing on a combination of soil health practices specific to that orchard. NRCS soil health practices can be combined and include, but are not limited to:

- |                           |                                     |                           |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| + Cover cropping          | + Compost application               | + Hedgerows               |
| + Reduced tillage/no-till | + Grass waterways and filter strips | + Windbreak/shelterbelts  |
| + Riparian restoration    | + Nutrient management               | + Whole orchard recycling |

## PARTNERING AGENCIES

ESRCD's staff includes a Project Coordinator, Soil Health Coordinator and Conservation Planner who will be working with key regional partners to implement a full evaluation of the program outcomes. Partners include the University of California, Merced for soil laboratory analysis, American Farmland Trust for economic outcomes and data collection, Community Alliance with Family Farmers for social outcomes and program outreach, and Project Apis m. for technical assistance for cover crop planning, implementation and maintenance.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| + Application Window:                    | April 20 <sup>th</sup> to May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2020 |
| + Site Visit:                            | Requested by May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2020              |
| + Project Selection:                     | Summer 2020   |
| + Verification of NRCS EQIP Eligibility: | Summer 2020   |
| + Conservation Plans designed:           | Fall 2020   |
| + Projects Implemented:                  | Starting Spring 2021 – Spring 2024                    |
| + Collection of Soil + Economic Data:    | Spring 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024                         |



Project Apis m.



# Landowner Application Form

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a veteran, Native American, woman, or person of color? (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel/s # (APN) & Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Orchard (almonds, walnuts, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a record with your local Farm Service Agency? \_\_\_\_\_

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Are you applying as a:**  Trial Site (implements soil health practices)  Control Site (no changes)  Both

If Trial site, what soil health practice(s) do you want to install? (only certain USDA NRCS practices are eligible for funding; see practice list below) Estimate the proposed specifications/dimensions of those practices? (Linear feet, acre etc.)

If Trial site, list the reason(s) you are interested in implementing soil health practices:

If Trial site, what are the benefits of your project?

Will you be NRCS EQIP eligible by the start of the project? (See the eligibility requirements listed below)  Yes  No  Not sure

By signing after the following statement, I am stating that at all landowners/lessees are aware of and are agreeable to participate in all of the steps of the program. The program includes working with and allowing project access upon prior consent to staff of the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District and all partner organizations identified on the application form. All landowners and lessees have reviewed the project application and are ready to proceed with project selection.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Project Apis m.



# Eligibility Checklist

TO APPLY, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO COMPLETE THIS CHECKLIST:

- My orchard is approximately 100 acres or more
- My orchard is in Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus or San Joaquin, Kern, Kings OR Tulare county
- I have selected to apply as either a TRIAL Site or CONTROL Site or BOTH
- I have completed the Landowner Application Form & SIGNED it
- I have attached a map to my application
- I have scheduled a SITE VISIT with Jeff Borum by May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- I will be NRCS-EQIP eligible with the Farm Service Agency at the start of the project, which includes the submission of these documents:
  - CA-LTP-5 Irrigation History
  - CCC-941 AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) Certification for 2020
  - AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification
  - Land Control (lease or deed)
  - CCC-901A Members Information
  - For an Inc-Corporation Papers (By-laws or Operating Agreement & Articles of Incorporation)
  - For any other Entity-Partnership Papers (Partnership Agreements including formation date, signature authority & current list of partners with share percentages, etc.)
  - If any members of the above are members as a Trust or applying as a Trust-Trust Documents (Trust name, formation date, Trustor/Trustee information, signature authority and current list of beneficiaries with share percentages, etc.)
  - FSA-211 Power of Attorney, if applicable
- If applying as a Trial site, I can commit to 5 years of whole system orchard management practices
- If applying as a Control site, I can commit to 5 years of not changing my current management system

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## TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION:

Please submit the Landowner Application Form + Eligibility Checklist, including a map of existing infrastructure via email, mail or fax to:

Mailing Address:                      Attn: Trina Walley  
East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District  
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E  
Modesto, CA 95358

Email Address:                      [info@eaststanrcd.org](mailto:info@eaststanrcd.org)

Fax:                                      (844) 206-6990 (please call us to confirm your fax was received)

