



# Nature Based Solutions for Agriculture

# California Agriculture - Overview



- 40 million acres
- 63,134 farms (down 10% since 2017)
- Average farm size: 383 acres;
  - 60% of farms under 50 acres
  - 30% under 10 acres
- 50% of farms make under \$25,000; top 30% make over \$100K
- 400 + crops and commodities for \$59 billion in 2023

2022 Census of Agriculture - USDA NASS - [cp99006.pdf](#)

# What are NBS in agriculture?



- Encompasses practices that in many cases have been used for decades – e.g. conservation agriculture, healthy soils practices, traditional ecological knowledge
- NBS in agriculture improve resilience while fighting climate change, enhancing farmer livelihoods, conserving biodiversity, and increasing carbon sequestration.

# What are NBS in agriculture?



# How is CDFA supporting NBS adoption?



## Programs

- Healthy Soils Program
- Pollinator Habitat Program
- Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program
- Farm to School Program
- Organic Transition Program
- Alternative Manure Management Program
- Technical Assistance (for all of the above)
- Belowground biodiversity framework

# AB 1757 NBS Targets for Croplands



Nature-Based Solution (acres/year)	2030	2038	2045
<b>Healthy Soils Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement healthy soils practices on annual and perennial croplands, such as compost application, cover cropping, hedgerows/windbreaks, no and reduced till, riparian buffers, whole orchard recycling, etc.</li> </ul>	140K	190K	190K
<b>Conservation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve annual and perennial croplands</li> </ul>	12K	16K	19.5K
<b>TOTAL acres/year</b>	<b>152K</b>	<b>206K</b>	<b>209.5K</b>
Percentage Targets	2030	2038	2045
Convert conventional to organic systems in annual and perennial croplands	10%	15%	20%

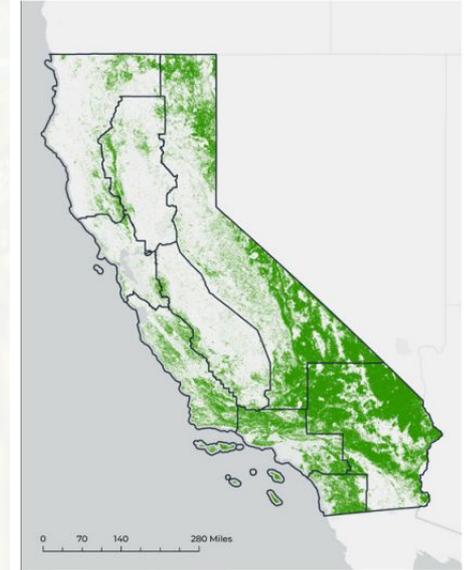
## CROPLANDS



# AB 1757 NBS Targets for Grasslands

Nature-Based Solution (acres/year)	2030	2038	2045
<b>Conservation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Protect grasslands with a focus on remaining native grasslands, oak trees, and foothill pines</li></ul>	<b>33K</b>	<b>33K</b>	<b>33K</b>
<b>Restoration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Restore degraded grasslands to native vegetation communities and diverse, perennial, deep-rooted grasses; soil amendments<sup>10</sup> and prescribed grazing in line with the NWL Climate Smart Strategy; re-establishing a sustainable fire regime; riparian restoration</li></ul>	<b>55.1K</b>	<b>55.1K</b>	<b>55.1K</b>
<b>TOTAL acres/year</b>	<b>88.1K</b>	<b>88.1K</b>	<b>88.1K</b>

GRASSLANDS



# Climate Resilience Strategy for California Agriculture



## Support a Thriving and Resilient Food System

- Support a Thriving and Sustainable Farm Economy
- Ensure a Reliable Water Supply
- Support Farmworker Wellbeing and Health
- Protect Animal Health
- Engage with Local, National, and International Partners
- Resilient Energy for Farming Operations



## Protect Natural Systems Critical to Agriculture

- Conserve and Manage Productive Farmland
- Deploy Sustainable, Adaptable, and Integrated Pest Management
- Boost Biodiversity on Farm Lands



## Encourage Resilient Agriculture Practices

- Enhance Agricultural Practices to Support Clean Air Communities
- Advance Climate-Smart and Healthy Soils Practices
- Improve Sustainability of Ranching and Rangeland Management
- Increase Dairy Farming Sustainability