

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
Healthy Soils Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none">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.	140K	190K	190K
Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Conserve annual and perennial croplands	12K	16K	19.5K
TOTAL acres/year	152K	206K	209.5K
Percentage Targets	2030	2038	2045
Convert conventional to organic systems in annual and perennial croplands	10%	15%	20%

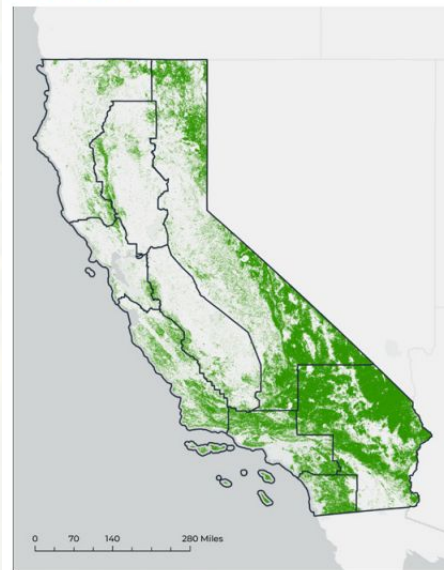
CROPLANDS



AB 1757 NBS Targets for Grasslands

Nature-Based Solution (acres/year)	2030	2038	2045
Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Protect grasslands with a focus on remaining native grasslands, oak trees, and foothill pines	33K	33K	33K
Restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none">Restore degraded grasslands to native vegetation communities and diverse, perennial, deep-rooted grasses; soil amendments¹⁰ and prescribed grazing in line with the NWL Climate Smart Strategy; re-establishing a sustainable fire regime; riparian restoration	55.1K	55.1K	55.1K
TOTAL acres/year	88.1K	88.1K	88.1K

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