Blue Diamond's USDA Climate Smart-Grant (CSG): Conservation Cover "Bee Pasture"

Conservation Cover utilizes perennial, vegetative, plants on idle, fallow, or marginal land which can provide several benefits. It is also referred to as "bee pasture."

See USDA NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 327 for more information.

Application opens May 1–June 30.

Incentive

Blue Diamond is offering **no cost seed and up to a $50/acre implementation incentive to implement conservation cover**. Applicants are encouraged to apply for all desired acreage to be put into conservation cover for 2024. **Growers will be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis. Acreage requests above 10 acres will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis**.

Qualifications

1. Participation in the Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program (OSIP) for the 2023 crop year bluediamondgrowers.com/forms/
2. Registration with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ca&agency=fsa
3. Completed application and subsequent approval from Blue Diamond
4. Proof of Conservation Cover Implementation
5. Adherence to all program requirements

Process

A Blue Diamond team member will review submitted applications for completeness. **If approved, growers will receive next-steps guidance from Blue Diamond and then be contacted shortly after by Project *Apis m.* to begin the conservation cover consultation and coordination process**.

Benefits and Other Considerations

Conservation Cover may provide several benefits including: increased pollinator health, reduced soil erosion and increased water infiltration.

Where to apply/documents to have

Apply online at bit.ly/bdg-csg

Reimbursements

The reimbursement process will begin after the project has been implemented and proof of implementation has been completed with Blue Diamond.

Where to learn more

For more information, please review the detailed CSG guidebook, which can be found on the Blue Diamond Growers webpage: bit.ly/bdg-csg or contact jbains@bdgrowers.com.

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