

CARBON FARM PLANNING

WHAT IS A CARBON FARMING?

Carbon Farming harnesses the power of agriculture to **convert atmospheric carbon into plant biomass and soil organic matter**. Increasing soil and plant carbon results in improved soil water holding capacity, soil fertility, biodiversity, and agricultural productivity.

WHAT GOES INTO A CARBON FARM PLAN?

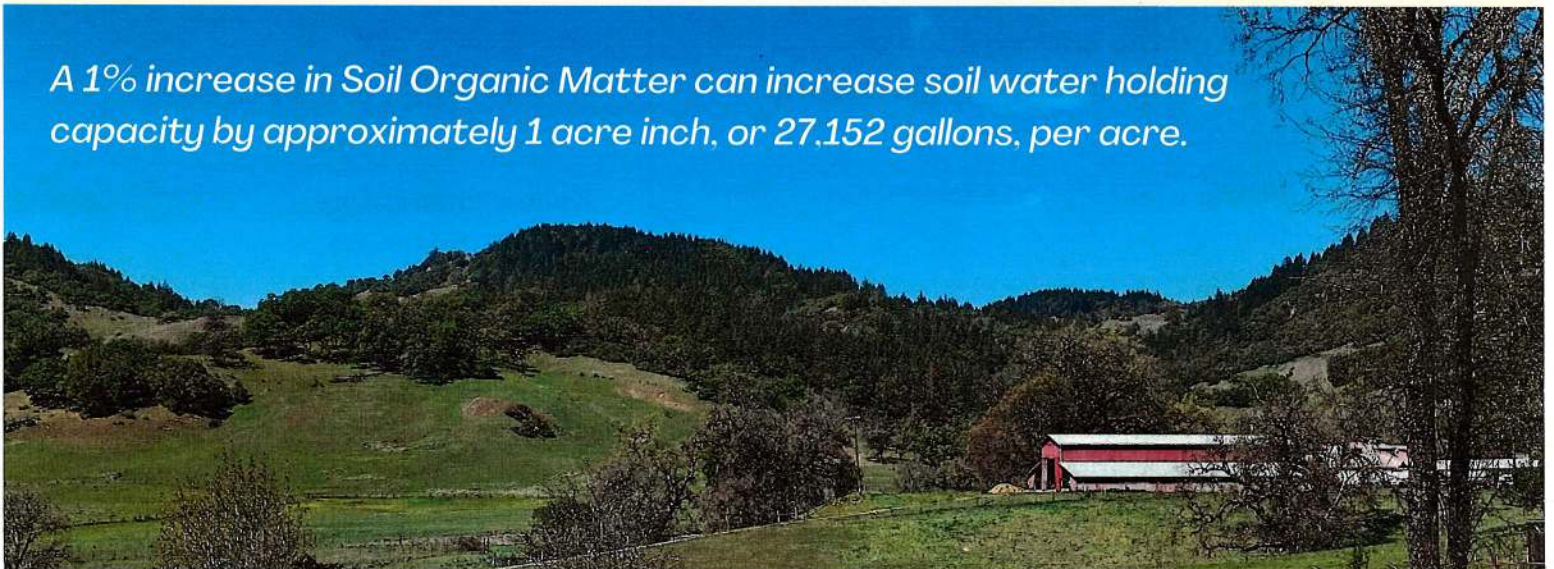
The Carbon Farm Plan contains elements of a traditional conservation plan, but with carbon capture and storage as the primary resource concern. Carbon Farm Plans include:

- Inventory of current resource conditions and management goals
- Quantification of on-farm carbon sequestration and GHG mitigation opportunities
- Suggested implementation plan, considering site specific resources and funding opportunities

HOW DOES CARBON FARM PLANNING BENEFIT THE FARMER?

Carbon Farm Plans help farmers **identify opportunities to address their resource concerns while storing carbon, improving on-farm productivity, and promoting resilient ecosystems**. Having an existing Carbon Farm Plan facilitates implementation of climate beneficial practices by identifying priority, location and potential funding ahead of time.

A 1% increase in Soil Organic Matter can increase soil water holding capacity by approximately 1 acre inch, or 27.152 gallons, per acre.



WHAT ARE CARBON FARMING PRACTICES?

Carbon Farming Practices are a subset of standard agricultural conservation practices identified by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) that enhance soil organic matter and plant productivity. Each practice on its own may provide some benefit but **by stacking practices, they can add up to significant carbon and water storage potential.**

*Compost application • Riparian Forest Buffer • Cover Crop • Reduced Tillage •
Silvopasture • Prescribed Grazing • Conservation Cover • Hedgerow •
Windbreak/Shelterbelt • Filter Strip • Critical Area Planting • Multi-Story Cropping •
Pump Retrofits • Irrigation System Improvements • Water Harvesting Catchment*



The climate solutions offered through Agriculture provide multiple benefits to our farms, communities, and environment.

INTERESTED IN CARBON FARM PLANNING?

Carbon Farm Plans are a collaborative effort between landowners and technical assistance providers, such as Resource Conservation Districts, Land trusts, and other natural resource professionals. **Mendocino County RCD has been on the cutting edge of Carbon Farm Planning for nearly a decade.** To access technical assistance, please reach out to our staff!

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MCRCD's mission is to conserve, protect, and restore wild and working landscapes to enhance the health of the water, soil, and forests in Mendocino County.