



# Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

5630 South Broadway Eureka, CA 95503

Phone (707) 442-6058 Ext. 5

hercd@yahoo.com

## CONSERVATION CARBON FARM PLAN APPLICATION PACKAGE

### **The Application Package contains:**

1. Conservation Carbon Farm Plan Informational Flyer
2. Conservation Carbon Farm Plan Application and Selection Process
3. Conservation Carbon Farm Plan Selection Criteria

### **Instructions for applying for Conservation Carbon Farm Plan development assistance:**

1. Review Conservation Carbon Farm Plan Informational Flyer
2. Complete Conservation Carbon Farm Plan Application
3. Submit completed application and/or questions to:

HCRC

5630 South Broadway

Eureka, CA 95503

Or email to [hrcd@yahoo.com](mailto:hrcd@yahoo.com)

# CARBON FARMING

INCREASING SOIL FERTILITY & WATER HOLDING CAPACITY  
PROVIDING SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

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## What Is Carbon Farming?

**Carbon Farming is a process** designed to maximize agriculture's potential for moving excess greenhouse gases from the atmosphere into the soil and vegetation, building fertility, productivity and resilience.

**Carbon Farming is a whole-farm approach** implementing on-farm practices that increase the rate at which plants transfer carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere to the soil, which then increases water infiltration, water-holding capacity, soil organic matter and promotes long-term carbon sequestration.

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## Why create a Carbon Farm Plan?

**Carbon Farm Plans are guidance documents** for landowners outlining a suite of conservation practices that address on-farm resource concerns and greenhouse gas reductions. Plans are designed to help land managers meet their natural resource management goals while supporting productive lands, thriving streams, and on-farm wildlife habitat.

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## What are Some Benefits of Carbon Farming?

- ✓ Increases terrestrial carbon in plants and soils
- ✓ Drives beneficial changes in other ecosystem features, such as improving soil water infiltration & soil water-holding capacity, enhancing biodiversity, providing ecosystem resilience, boosting productivity



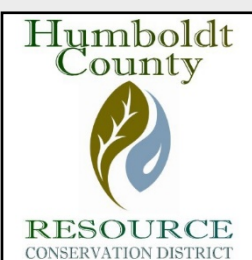
## What are Carbon Farming Practices?

Carbon Farm practices are a subset of standard agricultural conservation practices, defined by the USDA -Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), that increase plant biomass and build soil organic matter. Implementing a suite of practices in a farm-wide Carbon Plan, the net impact is significantly greater than the implementation of one practice.

### *Examples of Carbon Farm Plan NRCS Conservation Practices*

*Compost Applications • Riparian Forest Buffer • Prescribed Grazing • Cover Crops • Silvopasture/Shrub & Tree Establishment • Conventional Tillage to No-Till • Forage and Biomass Planting • Windbreak/Hedgerow Establishment • Riparian Herbaceous Cover • Critical Area Planting • Improved Nutrient Management • plus many more!*

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HCRCD has funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board to develop up to 5 Carbon Farm Plans for producers during 2019 - 2022. HCRCD is accepting applications January - February 2021.

For more information about Carbon Farm Planning or to download an application, visit the HCRCD website:

[humboldtrcd.org](http://humboldtrcd.org)

## Conservation Carbon Farm Plan Application

Applications Due to HCRCD by 5:00 PM on February 26, 2021  
Early Applications Encouraged!

### Conservation Carbon Farm Plan Application & Selection Process

The Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD) received state funding through the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to develop a small number of Conservation Carbon Farm Plans (CCFPs). The HCRCD has developed an application to provide for a fair and equitable process to determine the producers who will receive assistance for CCFP development. This application process is competitive and consists of two phases of review.

- Phase 1 consists of a review and ranking of responses to the completed application by the Review Committee. The Review Committee is made up of HCRCD Board Members and staff.
- Phase 2 consists of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) conducting farm/ranch site visits and interviews with the applicants who qualify after Phase 1. Once site visits are completed, the TAC will finalize the scoring and ranking, and select 1-3 applicants who will receive assistance for CCFP development. The TAC is made up of HCRCD staff and partner biologists.

The HCRCD is committed to supporting landowners and land managers who have demonstrated a land stewardship ethic. The selection of your site by the TAC is a commitment by the HCRCD to create a CCFP for the implementation of carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reductions and climate adaptation conservation practices on your farm.

If selected, you will be required to commit to working collaboratively with HCRCD staff, be an active participant in the process and provide a cost-share of \$500 for plan development as a requirement of the WCB grant. If you meet the requirements defined by USDA as a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher, Beginning Farmer or Rancher, Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher, or Veteran Farmer or Rancher you may qualify for a waiver of the cost share requirement. For more information, please see <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

Landowners or land managers who receive assistance and complete a CCFP are expected to implement the practices in their plans as funding opportunities become available. The HCRCD is committed to supporting the implementation of carbon farm plan practices as funding allows.

## The Conservation Carbon Farm Plan Selection Process is Divided into Two Phases

### **Phase 1: Application**      (Due to HCRCD by 5:00 PM on FEBRUARY 26, 2021)

*1A. Qualifying Questions* - Read the qualifying questions, and answer 'Yes' or 'No' to each. The bullet points under each question are essential components to each question. If you can answer yes to all five questions, proceed to Part 1B: Scoring Questions. If you cannot answer 'yes' to all questions, you would not qualify to receive assistance from the HCRCD for CCFP development.

*1B. Scoring Questions* - Write responses to all questions. Your responses will be read, reviewed and scored via selection criteria by the Review Committee. Highest ranking applications will move onto Phase 2.

*:: You will be contacted once Phase 1B review is complete. ::*

### **Phase 2: Farm/Ranch Site Visit and Interview** (site visits are anticipated to occur March – April 2021)

*2A. Site Visit* - A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC, a subset of the Review Committee) will perform a site visit to each applicant's farm who qualifies after Phase 1.

*2B. Final Scoring Round* - After site visits, the TAC will provide final score for each applicant. The TAC will recommend 1-3 of the highest ranking applicants for the development of Conservation Carbon Farm Plans.

***Disclaimer:*** *This project is publicly funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board and the final Conservation Carbon Farm Plans may be submitted to the WCB as deliverables for the grant, and documents developed as part of the project may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).*

### **Submit application materials to Humboldt RCD:**

*Office:*            5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503  
*Mail:*             5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503  
*Email:*            hcrcd@yahoo.com

Phase 1: Application

Cover Page

**Applicant**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**FARM/RANCH INFORMATION**

Farm/Ranch Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Ranch Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own, lease, or rent the property? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not the landowner, can you demonstrate land control and lease agreement? Y/N

Is there an existing easement on any part of the farm? Y/N

Operation Type & Acreage:

\_\_\_\_\_

Animals/Crop (type & #):

\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Property Owner Name and Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Assessor Parcel(s) # (APN):

\_\_\_\_\_

## Part 1A: Qualifying Questions

Directions: Read the qualifying questions, and answer 'Yes' or 'No' to each. The bullet points under each question are essential components to each question. If you can answer yes to all five questions, proceed to Part 1B: Scoring Questions.

1. **Yes / No.** Are you willing to participate as an engaged partner in the development of a Conservation Carbon Farm Plan (CCFP)? The farmer and other landowners/ lessees must actively engage with the HCRCD, Carbon Cycle Institute, and Point Blue Partner Biologists in the CCFP process and agree to the following:
  - Participate in the application process
  - Understand that a commitment for participation could take approximately **40 hours** of your time for CCFP development
  - Understand that a non-refundable cost-share payment of **\$500** for plan development is required (Note: If the cost-share requirement could cause financial hardship, please contact HCRCD to discuss options for waiving this payment)
  - Participate in **1-3** site visits with your plan developers and provide relevant information
  - Participate in **2-3** CCFP meetings, and possibly host other farmers and/or funders to view your farm
  - Review and comment on your CCFP
2. **Yes / No,** Would you be able to provide references that can and will attest to your ability to work positively, collaboratively, and respectfully with others, and your ability to successfully complete projects?
3. **Yes / No,** If you are selected for the Phase 2A: Site Visit of the Conservation Carbon Farm Plan, will all parties with veto power concerning farm activities be available to attend a CCFP introduction interview/ meet and greet site visit with the HCRCD during the following time period: **March - April, 2021?**
4. **Yes / No,** Are you willing to implement, maintain and monitor conservation and carbon sequestration practices on your lands?
5. **Yes / No,** Once you have a complete CCFP and when you install management practices based on your CCFP, are you willing to monitor and maintain the integrity of those practices for up to 10 years?

If you responded 'Yes' to all of the questions above, proceed to Part 1B.







PARTNERS:

3. Have you previously worked with any of these organizations: USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, University of California Cooperative Extension, or others: Yes / No

If yes, please list any ranch tours, professional advice, participation in agency programs, written evaluations or plans for your ranch that have been prepared in partnership with these agencies/organizations or consultants (*e.g. Conservation Plan, Grazing Plan, Nutrient Management Plan, Biological Study, Organic Systems Plan, Resource Assessment, or Rangeland Evaluation*). Please include the year each was completed and whether plans can be shared with HCRC.

- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, If yes, describe:

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- Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, If yes, describe:

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- University of California Cooperative Extension, If yes, describe:

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- Consultants or Others and in what capacity:

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4. Provide 2 references that can and will attest to your ability to work positively, collaboratively, and respectfully with others, and your ability to successfully complete projects.

	Reference 1	Reference 2
Reference Name and Type of Reference (Professional or Personal)		
Contact Phone Number		
Mailing Address		

CARBON FARMING INTEREST: (check all that apply)

- soil quality, increase organic matter, etc.
  - water quality, sediment/pathogen reduction etc.
  - water development, increase soil water holding capacity, water conservation, etc.
  - air quality, carbon sequestration, GHG reduction, climate adaptation
  - wildlife enhancement for  birds,  fish,  mammals,  frogs
  - Other:
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6. Do you meet the criteria for any of the following categories? (mark all that apply; categories defined by USDA, for more information, please see <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>)

- Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher
- Beginning Farmer or Rancher
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher
- Veteran Farmer or Rancher
- Not Applicable

I understand that the initial evaluation and ranking of my application by Humboldt County Resource Conservation District is based solely upon the information submitted with my application, current use, and configuration of my property, as well as an initial site visit by the HCRCD selection team.

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

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

## SCORING CRITERIA FOR CARBON FARM PLANS 2021

Applications for Conservation Carbon Farm Plans (CCFPs) will go through two phases of review and scoring to determine who will receive assistance from HCRCD. Phase 1 review and scoring will be conducted by a Review Committee consisting of HCRCD staff and members of the HCRCD Board. Highest ranked applications from Phase 1 will receive a site visit and interview by HCRCD staff, and then will go through the Phase 2 review and scoring, which will be conducted by a Technical Advisory Committee consisting of HCRCD staff. From this final review, 1-3 applications from the highest ranked scores will be selected for developing CCFPs.

These are the things that will be considered by the Review and Technical Advisory Committee in ranking your application.

### LANDOWNERS/INTEREST

- Are all people with the power of veto on board?
- Does the producer understand the goals and significance of the HCRCD Carbon Farm Project, role of carbon in the farm ecosystem, and carbon market challenges and potentials? If not, are they willing to learn and ask questions?
- Willing to potentially host prospective funders or farmers?
- Demonstrates ability to work positively, collaboratively, and respectfully with others, and demonstrates ability to successfully complete projects?
- Demonstrates understanding and willingness of time commitment and cost share match financial capability?
- Did producer self-identify in any underserved category(ies)?

### FARM MANAGEMENT

- Does the producer have a proactive stewardship record, if not a new landowner/lessee, showing they have the potential to be an innovator/ trailblazer motivated to become a carbon farmer for reasons *beyond potential financial gain/marketing*? Do they have the ability to create new ideas for their ranch, bring their plan to life?
- Is the producer willing to be an engaged partner, clearly in charge of day-to-day agriculture management?
- Has the rancher demonstrated engagement in past conservation programs: NRCS/HCRCD/other?
- Will the potential Carbon Farm project support the continuation of working farm/ranch or dairy/ agriculture into the future, long term?
- Is there a sense of clear succession in place?
- Does the potential Carbon Farm project support a multigenerational farm?

### CARBON SEQUESTRATION POTENTIAL

- If carbon-beneficial practices are implemented, will they likely to be maintained to insure the long-term sequestration of that carbon?

- Does the applicant demonstrate past experience with maintaining other conservation practices over time?
- What is the history of the applicant working with other agencies or implementing long range plans?
- Does the potential Carbon Farm project offer significant overall carbon sequestration potential (ie, tonnes per acre, relative to the scale of the farm/ranch)?
- Are particularly unique carbon capture potential practices feasible on this ranch (logistically & ecologically)?
- Is this potential Carbon Farm project likely to promote others in the area?
- Is the potential Carbon Farm project contiguous with existing/potential high quality habitat or wildlife corridors?
- Adjacent land use(s) does (do) not threaten potential Carbon Farm project objectives and long term potential benefits or CO<sub>2</sub>e permanence?

#### TIMING & FUNDING

- Will the potential Carbon Farm project and at least one practice be completed within the 3-year timeframe, if funding can be provided?
- Does this potential Carbon Farm project have the potential to attract funding, if needed?
- Are there other significant co-benefits, resource concerns, or issues that prioritize this operation for a CFP.