

What is Carbon Farming?

Carbon farming is the implementation of certain agricultural and/or grazing management practices that increase the rate at which carbon is captured and reduces the rate at which it is lost or emitted.

CARBON IS CAPTURED via photosynthesis where plants convert sunlight, water and atmospheric carbon dioxide into carbohydrates and exude carbon into the soil through their roots. Additional carbon is stored in the soil as plants decompose into soil organic matter and humus, and when carbon-based subsurface microbial and fungal communities thrive.

CARBON IS RETAINED in the soil by minimizing soil disturbing activities like plowing and tilling.

CARBON EMISSIONS DECREASE when combustion engines on farm equipment are replaced with cleaner and more efficient options and when the use of synthetic fertilizers is reduced.

For information on opportunities available to you such as funding, technical assistance and grant application assistance contact:



Cachuma Resource
Conservation District

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Funding for this outreach provided by:



gaviotacoastconservancy.org

Carbon Farming on the Gaviota Coast

***Improve soil health,
water-holding capacity
and resilience***

Technical and financial assistance is available to help you implement practices such as:

- » Compost Application
- » Cover Crops
- » Hedgerows and Windbreaks
- » Prescribed Grazing
- » And more!

A District-Wide Carbon Farm Plan has been developed for the Gaviota Coast to help you take advantage of current opportunities.

The time is now!



Carbon Farming practices applicable to working lands on the Gaviota Coast

PERENNIAL CROPLAND

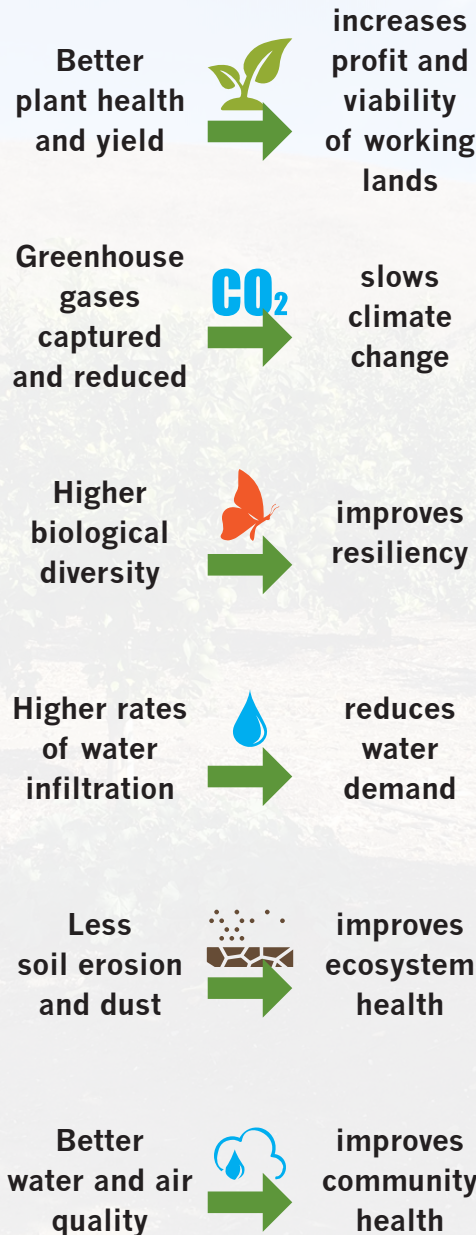
- » Compost application to planted rows
- » Cover cropping in alleyways
- » Mulching
- » Residue & tillage management – reduced till or no till
- » Hedgerow planting
- » Windbreak establishment
- » Tree/shrub planting
- » Combustion engine replacement
...and more!

GRAZING LANDS

- » Compost application on rangeland
- » Seeding and planting on rangeland
- » Prescribed grazing
...and more!

A site-specific carbon farm plan for your operation will quantify the carbon sequestration potential of implementing any of these practices at your site and help you get climate change mitigation funding.

Benefits of Carbon Farming



Funding Opportunities

- \$ California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) **Healthy Soils Program (HSP)**
- \$ Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
- \$ Western **Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)**
- \$ National Fish & Wildlife Foundation **Monarch Butterfly & Pollinators Conservation Fund**
- \$ **Carbon Offset Markets**
- \$ **Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emissions Reductions (FARMER) Program**
...and more!

We can help you determine which practices and funding sources make the most sense for your operation... and we can help you apply.