Technical Support for Transitioning to Climate-Friendly Agriculture: The North Coast Soil Hub & Carbon Farming Network

Emilie Winfield North Coast Regional Soil Hub Director September 28, 2023



Resource Conservation Districts: Focused on Community & Natural Resources



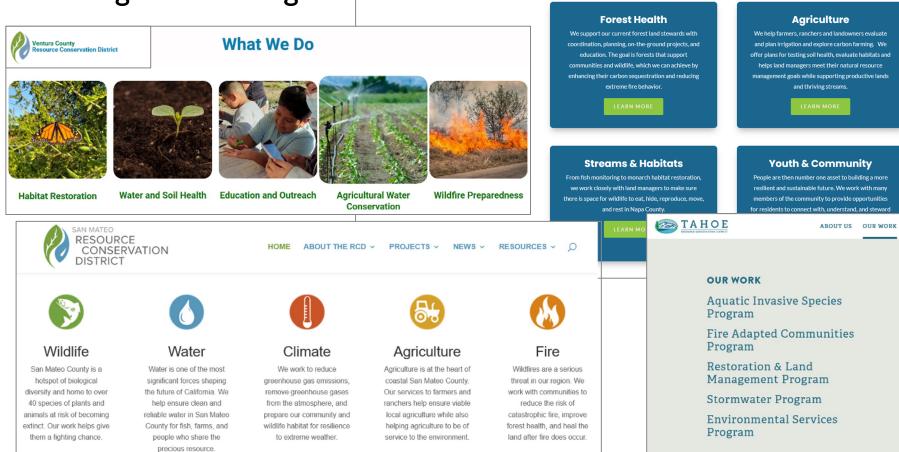
Balancing human well-being and environmental stewardship

Addressing the natural resource issues facing our community

Providing technical assistance on the ground

RCD Program Offerings





Technical Assistance

Example Project: Riparian restoration on an 1,800-ft stretch of creek on a family dairy in Sonoma County

RCD leveraged funding from CDFA Healthy Soils Demonstration Project, NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program, State Coastal Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Organic Valley

RCD developed a carbon farm plan with the landowner and partnered with NRCS on a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

RCD has worked with the landowner for almost 20 years Monitoring & reporting

Project management

Coordinating funding

Design and engineering

Environmental compliance

Conservation planning

Trusting relationships with farmers

Local planning and program development



North Coast Soil Hub & Carbon Farming Network

A collaboration between RCDs, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and partners in Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma Counties.

We coordinate an inclusive network of farmers and ranchers, technical assistance providers, researchers, educators, and industry representatives dedicated to advancing climate-friendly agriculture in California's North Coast region.

North Coast Soil Hub: Community-Driven

Rooted in the unique opportunities and challenges of the region



Through partnerships and collaboration, we seek to promote stewardship of agricultural lands in a way that supports the social, economic, and geographic diversity of farmers and ranchers on the North Coast.

Core Regional Hub Activities





ADVISE Provide trusted one-on-one guidance to farmers and ranchers as they seek to make environmentally friendly decisions.

LEARN & INSPIRE Host workshops and trainings that facilitate hands-on learning about climate-friendly agriculture, with an emphasis on peer to peer learning.

STUDY, ASSESS & MONITOR Bring research onto farms to accelerate the development of practical and effective solutions.

Local Demand for Climate-Friendly Agriculture: Carbon Farm Planning

		Modeled		
	# Carbon Farm Plans	# Acres	GHG benefits per year (Mg CO2e/yr)	20 year GHG benefits (Mg CO2e @ 20 yr)
Completed	93	25,969	52,365	1,055,274
In Progress	77	18,469		
Total	170	44,438		
Equivalent # of vehicles off the road each year:			11,388	229,501

Producers on the waitlist for a carbon farm plan: 75+

Regional Hubs Leverage and Expand Existing Agricultural Conservation Partnerships and Programs To:



Foster innovation and development of regionally appropriate farmercentered solutions



Enable greater communication between and among producers, and agricultural conservation organizations, researchers, and policymakers



Assess regionally-specific opportunities and needs through understanding agricultural, ecological, and social landscapes



Collectively shape agricultural conservation programs and policies to support farmer-centered strategies

Thank You

Emilie Winfield emilie@marinrcd.org SoilHub.org

