



Lay of the Land & Levers for Change:

Farming for Climate Resilience in Oregon 2021 and Beyond



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A look at the context of climate
resilience and farming in Oregon &
pathways for the future

Oregon Climate & Agriculture Network

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ASHLEY J. ROOD

Photos clockwise feature: Restoration at My Brother's Farm, Sakari Farms with Hopi Red Amaranth, Blue Raven Farm's no-till soil, My Brother's Farms pastured pigs, and Sakari Farms value added products. All photos by Studio XIII Photography.

Introduction

What does an agricultural economy resilient to a changing climate in Oregon look like? What is already happening in Oregon to make this vision a reality? How do farmers and ranchers need and want to improve their operations? Where are the gaps in research, outreach, and technical support for farmers? These questions shaped the focus of Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network (OrCAN) from March of 2020–June of 2021. As the Covid-19 pandemic shifted our lives beyond the contours of business as usual, we found a community ready for conversations about climate change and agriculture in a way they hadn't been before. The enthusiasm was palpable.

OrCAN talked with over 72 agricultural professionals statewide and beyond. We spoke with soil health specialists with Oregon's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and observed their local working group discussions. We've worked with the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District on their Carbon Farm Planning project; and we spoke with SWCD staff from across the state that can't talk about climate change with their producers because it is too politicized. We heard from state agency staff connecting the dots between water quality and soil health. We found OSU Extension researchers who are developing practical tools for farmers on the ground. We discussed the need for specific one-on-one farmer technical assistance with watershed council staff. We were inspired by innovations happening at the local and regional levels through non-profit partners. For example, Ecotrust is hosting a new fellowship program for Black and Indigenous food system leaders in the Portland Metro area, and their Ag of the Middle program focuses on the importance of farm viability as a climate resilience strategy. We learned from the successes of farmer-to-farmer education networks like Woody Lane's pasture management groups on the west side of the Cascades and American Farmland Trust's learning circles for women. And we're excited to report that there are many conversations we still need to have. In addition, OrCAN held two convenings of agricultural professionals and four producer discussion sessions about barriers and opportunities surrounding the shift to more climate resilient agriculture. We held six discussion sessions (including one Black, Indigenous and Farmers of Color-only session) on what producers want to see from statewide policy and program development. We've received survey responses from 82 producers about their practices and what they want to learn more about. We've also surveyed over 100 agricultural professionals through the state to better understand the kind of training they need to better support farming for climate resilience in the state. We've connected with individuals and organizations working on the cutting edge of research and implementation of farming for soil health across the country.

This report shares out what we've heard. This is a snapshot in a time as we're on the cusp of extraordinary change. Support for climate resilience in farming is moving rapidly in an upward direction throughout the world. In the US, it's currently bolstered by the incredible momentum of the climate-focused Biden Administration as well as the groundswell of interest and participation from farmers. It's an important time to share the wealth of information that we've gathered to date. This is a work in progress—and an invitation for you to join us.

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Context

A Note on OrCAN's Perspective: Big Picture & Rooted in the Ground

We recognize that agriculture has an important role to play as we address a changing climate. According to the International Panel on Climate Change, we cannot reach our goals to cool the planet without investing in soil carbon sequestration strategies in addition to cutting global greenhouse gas emissions. Agricultural land management is one of the most ready and cost-effective pathways for soil carbon sequestration, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide clean water and air. In Oregon, a recent report conservatively estimated that agricultural lands could sequester an amount equal “to removing 63,000+ cars from the road for one year.”¹ The solutions we’ve focused on in this report are primarily land management and on-farm related solutions versus the bigger picture of transportation, energy systems, and the development of ecosystem markets.

We also recognize that our farmers and ranchers are at the forefront of dealing with the impacts of climate change in their day-to-day lives. We heard from producers time and time again that ecological resilience, economic resilience, and community resilience are intertwined—addressing these three pillars, and understanding what producers need to fit their farms drives our work.

A Note on Terms

OrCAN is intent on using language that works. At the intersection of climate change and agriculture, many terms are being used interchangeably and most are not well defined or commonly understood. Climate smart, soil health, climate resilience, and regenerative agriculture are just a few of these terms. Whether you’re a farmer talking to your neighbor, a technical assistance provider talking with a land manager, or a policy maker talking to a constituent, it is important to meet people where they are. It’s important to listen and use the terms that resonate best with the person you’re talking with, and to define those terms. We’ve found that talking about the principles of soil health is a great entry point with producers. For those more interested in talking directly about climate change, climate resilience resonates. As one producer told us, “It’s empowering.”

We have producers of all types in our network from coastal ranchers to eastern wheat farmers, from Hood River’s Fruit Loop orchards to nurseries and diverse vegetable farms throughout the state. We look forward to continuing to expand as a statewide network in Oregon that is home to over 220 crops on over 37,000 farms². When we use the term “farming”, “farmers”, or “producers” we’re talking about them all.

What is Farming for Climate Resilience?

This is not about a single practice or a rigid methodology. Farming for climate resilience requires a holistic approach that includes a diverse set of management practices. Each farm and ranch, with its own geography, conditions, and management needs can find solutions that work for their farm.

¹ Moore, J.M., Manter, D.K., Brown, T., McClelland, S. 2021. Potential for conservation practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon on croplands and grazing lands – Oregon. Oregon Global Warming Commission; 4/16/2021; Meeting/Virtual Meeting.

² From Oregon Department of [Agriculture's: Agricultural Statistics and Directory 2021](#).

One holistic approach to farming for climate resilience is to focus on the four principles of soil health:

1. Keep the soil covered
2. Minimize soil disturbance and inputs
3. Maximize biodiversity (which can include integrating animals)
4. Maintain living roots

Practices that address these principles include:

- no till and reduced tillage
- cover cropping
- strip cropping
- compost application (or other organic amendments like biochar)
- mulching
- rotational grazing
- conservation crop rotation
- integrated pest and nutrient management
- hedgerow and riparian plantings
- agroforestry practices, including: alley cropping and silvopasture and agroforestry
- grassland restoration
- improved manure management
- sustainable and organic production systems

Figure 1. Summary of the four soil health principles and key practices associated with each as defined by NRCS.



Image courtesy of NRCS (Roesch-McNally et al., 2019)

Figure 1 shows how these principles and practices are connected.

These practices not only build healthier soils to sustain agriculture and enhance the profitability of farmers and ranchers, they also improve water conservation and wildlife habitat on farms, sequester carbon, and help farmers better adapt to a fast-changing climate.

Additional resilience approaches include localized (on-site) renewables, irrigation modernization, and other innovative practices.

What we heard from producers

OrCAN's primary job is to better understand and respond to what Oregon producers need and want on the ground to be successful in our changing climate. We want to build a bridge to the research and policy communities that can often be disconnected from farmers' practical needs. We started by listening. In the fall of 2020, OrCAN brought together four small groups of producers into discussion sessions about farming for climate resilience. The producers we've talked with are already in the process of transitioning to more climate resilient practices. They are classic innovators, lifelong learners, and experimenters. While a few conversations with farmers cannot be fully representative of all farmers and farmworkers in Oregon, we made sure to talk with producers working in a variety of contexts—from different cropping systems and ecosystems, with different values and goals. Despite these differences, we found similar themes in their stories of success as well as similar barriers. They are all continually refining their systems. They don't have one set way of doing or understanding. Whether they are growing cows, carrot seed, cucumbers, or community food hubs—they value the power of healthy soil and stewardship of the land.

We talked about some of the big questions: how are you farming for climate resilience? What are the barriers you are facing to implementing best conservation practices? We were in conversation with ranchers, wheat, and seed growers from the dry eastside. We spoke with others managing pastures from north to south throughout the Willamette Valley. And we spoke with a group of women farmers with social justice as their driving value. These conversations were hosted in collaboration with our partners including Ecotrust, Friends of Family Farmers' Oregon Pasture Network, and Oregon State University.

The solutions these farmers generate are incredibly dynamic, creative, and inspiring. From dry farming orchards and no-till mixed vegetable operations, from diverse cover cropping mixes and prescribed burning in Central Oregon to integrating animals into crop production, restoring degraded land with livestock, and research on multispecies rotational grazing and the soil microbiome. Their stories of works in progress, of success and failures, are the real wealth of information here in the state. These are the solutions that will drive us towards a more resilient future for farming in Oregon. OrCAN looks forward to sharing these stories in more detail through farm profiles and farmer-to-farmer learning circles in the future. Read on to learn what we learned from farmers and what they told us they need.

What We Learned

On the benefits of transitioning to more climate resilient practices:

- “Instead of measuring success just with profit, we measure it with our quality of life, cattle, timber and grass and enjoying abundant wildlife.”
- “We applied a holistic management plan over the past five years and have seen an increase in production over 50%. It's a lot less work and more enjoyable.”
- “Improving our soil is having the greatest impact for water retention and making the most out of the water that we do have.”

- From a younger generation farmer, “there’s obvious overlap between improving our resources and soils and making ourselves economically sustainable. That is the story that is sometimes hardest to tell but also resonates particularly with my generation.”

On the impacts of extreme weather events:

Some farmers were less interested in talking about climate change directly while others are actively engaged in climate solutions. As one farmer put it: we are dealing with climate chaos right now, today.

Here are just a few of the concerns and questions we heard from farmers around climate change:

- Extreme weather events rolled out season after season in the 15 months we’ve been holding these conversations. From destructive hailstorms in Central Oregon the early summer of 2020, to the devastating wildfires of 2020 when many of our farm partners and their livestock were evacuated, to an ice storm in February of 2021 that left many of our farm partners without electricity for almost a week and devastated orchards. As we close out this report in the summer of 2021, our producers are facing record breaking heat waves and limited water resources due to drought.
- For many farmers, cleaning up after these extreme weather events is hard. Those with limited access to capital and resources can’t bounce back easily.
- Many farmers were evacuated during the fires of 2020. We heard from smaller farmers that they are focusing on developing mobile infrastructure, particularly for animals. What policies and programs can support producers during a disaster and recovering from a climate disaster?
- What policies are impediments to producers in terms of recovering from disasters? For example: in California, some producers needed special permits to return to fire damaged areas to care for animals, is this an issue for Oregon?
- Disasters will continue to happen. Proactive development of disaster funding and planning tools need to be available to producers, particularly Black, Indigenous, and other farmers of color, all year. As one producer put it: “this isn’t the last extreme weather event that we will experience in our farming careers, in our tenure stewarding this land. It needs to become a level one priority in systems design you might need to pick up and move.”
 - » Current disaster funding efforts range from “GoFundMe” efforts to more cumbersome process that the USDA requires and typically only fits larger farms. There needs to be something in between that’s more streamlined and less dependent on detailed accounting for losses.
- Beyond these disaster related issues, there are continual increasing climate related stressors: more consistent and higher intensity winds, increased pest pressures, smoke damage to crops, declines in pollinators and seed germination challenges.
- Higher stress levels for farmers translates to an increase in mental health issues. There have been some webinars on this (Farm Bureau / OSU) but what else can be done?

What Producers Need

BETTER, MORE CONNECTED, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE—RESEARCH—EDUCATION

We heard loud and clear from producers that all too often research, education, technical assistance (TA), are removed from farmers' needs, we must begin to interconnect them. The large web of existing resources can be challenging to find and overwhelming for producers to navigate. Like an internet search, you may google something and get thousands of answers, but none of them are quite right, and many are quite wrong for your operation.

Holistic Planning

Farmers are planning at the farm scale, landscape scale, markets-based scale, and technical assistance support should reflect this. Farmers are interested in **one-on-one, holistic, soil health-driven** technical support on farm planning for climate resilience. This comprehensive TA support is needed consistently, over time.

On Growing Healthy Soil

Producers want to know more about how to produce healthy soil, not just crops. As one producer put it, "On soil health I want to know: where am I right now? Where can I go? What's going to help me get there?" This will require **improved research on assessing soil health** and providing education on the best practices for soil testing, establishing a baseline, and monitoring changes over time that are manageable at different scales. From there, they need **place-based and crop-based knowledge** for how soil health principles and practices work for producers in a local area at different scales. Pasture and rangeland managers are often left out of farming for climate resilience support. The best pathway to getting this information will be producer-driven research to better understand how practices can work on the ground in each region for more specific crop types. Research on soil health should reduce the risks of transitioning to new practices. Research must also be transparent and accessible. For example: the science behind carbon markets in development is creating great data around measuring impacts of soil carbon sequestration of different practices but that data is not publicly available.

Nuts & Bolts Support to Reach Healthy Soil & Holistic Farm Goals

Producers need to understand the nuts and bolts of implementing new management plans. What are the labor costs? They need to put the changes into a calendar and understand the impacts of these changes to equipment needs and irrigation. For example: if you start cover cropping for soil health, when and where do you get the seed, when do you plant it, when do you terminate it, what do you do with the plant materials? What are the overall economic costs and benefits of implementing these practices? Producers benefit from equipment rental options to reduce the risks of trying a new practice. For example, several Soil and Water Conservation Districts offer no-till drills for rent.

Farmer-to-Farmer Education

Producers indicated that learning from other producers to be the most important way to get information to help them transition to new practices. The development of farmer-to-farmer education networks

will be critical to moving forward. Producers indicated that could be both in person and via a relatively easy to use online platform like zoom. As one producer put it, “a lot of people don’t like zoom but frankly it’s a lot easier for me to be on a phone call and still get work done and be engaged than having to stop and drive somewhere. It makes it a lot easier for me to be a participant.” And another farmer from the eastside put it: “We go to people for support—we’re missing hearing from people in other areas that are experiencing the same challenges that we have. We were going to form a management club something like 30 years ago, but we figured out that meeting halfway between us, we’d still have to drive 2.5 hours. It wasn’t practical. We’re all learning about distance learning now. If there’s a way to set that up, I’d be all for it.”

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENTS THAT FIT

Financial incentives are important, but they must be provided in a clear, streamlined, simplified way to take the burden off farmers. Farmers are often juggling several different grant, loan, and certification programs to implement a project and every entity wants similar information but in a different format, or with a slightly different emphasis. Smaller farms, beginning farmers as well as Indigenous, Black, and other Farmers of Color, have less resources to deal with this level of paperwork and cost-share. As one producer said, “FSA will give you a farm loan, but you’ve got to take all of these classes that cost a ton of money...NRCS will give you a high tunnel, but you have to go get a loan first to pay for it up front to get reimbursed.” Timing of submitting applications and/or implementation of projects often doesn’t line up with production calendars.

We heard concerns about the imbalance of direct payments going to larger commodity crops growers like corn and soybean producers. As one producer said, “we can start taking some of the money that is earmarked for big commodity crops and refocus some of that back into the soil for soil carbon sequestration. The general idea is that we want to lend our experience and expertise to helping bring this back home on a very real level and a lot of that is about putting money back into places it belongs.”

Enhanced Infrastructure Funding

It’s critical to provide enhanced support for capital investments in infrastructure like fencing and water for livestock, hoop houses etc. Many people would be served by lower interest loans outside of the federal government loan programs, which can be challenging for historically underserved producers to access.

Farm viability

Economic viability of farms is a climate mitigation strategy. Overall, many small and medium size farms that are implementing these climate resilience practices struggle to make an income through farming. Our conversations about climate resilience turned back to economic resilience time and time again in these discussions. While much of this stems from systemic challenges that need to be addressed via policy and other systems change, providing farmers with accessible business strategy and development support is also an area that could be expanded.

Concerns with payments for ecosystem services and soil carbon sequestration

The idea of recognizing soil health as a resource came through all our conversations. As interest in soil carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services on farms increases, the producers we spoke with are concerned that payment programs will not be equitable for all farmers, at different scales, and in diverse ecosystems. For example, some farmers on the eastside of the Cascades with limited natural ability to store carbon were most concerned about payments for soil carbon sequestration by acre in comparison to farms on the wetter side of the Cascades. There's also concern about a lack of standard metric and methods for measuring soil carbon sequestration. The federal administration, supply chain buyers, and ecosystem service market developers are all creating new programs with different requirements. Individual farmers will need additional professional support to navigate these systems. To date, these programs are being developed with limited economic improvement for farmers. This 2021 [Climate Solutions For Farmers](#) publication from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition articulates many of these issues and more.

SUPPORT FOR FARM MANAGERS

Finding ways of working with farmers managing leased land and landowners leasing their land is critical. Many farmers who lease land are interested in conservation programs and investing in soil health but find it challenging to invest when their own tenure is uncertain. Creative lease options, like ground leases can support farm managers in implementing climate resilient practices³. Also, it's important to ensure equitable access to affordable legal assistance for all parties involved in land lease arrangements.

BEYOND FARMLAND MANAGEMENT

Producers highlighted several interconnected areas worth exploring further:

- **Farmland Preservation and Access to Land:**
 - » Over the next twenty years, Oregon will see of the largest transitions of farmland from generation to the next⁴. As farmland prices skyrocket and first-generation farmers, many interested in farming for climate resilience, have limited access to both capital and land. We must ensure that policies and programs both preserve farmland and improve access to land for first-generation, and BIPOC farmers.
 - » And, simply providing access to land without the kinds of technical assistance support mentioned above sets up new farmers for failure.
- **Addressing water scarcity:** it will be critical to find ways to make water go farther and ensure producers are less vulnerable to water shortages.
- **Supporting stronger regional food systems:** small and medium size farmers provide an increasingly important supply of food for people and yet they have the biggest hurdles economically and logistically in the state. Support for small farmers can take many different forms:
 - » they need additional administrative and professional support at affordable rates
 - » efficient processing and distribution services
 - » investments in local seed development and support for tribal seed sovereignty

³Ground leases can provide a mechanism for landowners to compensate tenant farmers for permanent improvements they make to the land. See more at the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems' [Farmland Access Legal Toolkit](#)

⁴ Brekken, C. A., Gwin, L., Horst, M., McAdams, N., Martin, S., & Stephenson, G. (2016). The Future of Oregon's Agricultural Land. Oregon State University. Retrieved from <https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/defaults/2r36tz03g>.

- Support with whole farm system emission reductions: interest in ways of improving transportation, on farm energy use and food waste came up in most conversations.
- Mental health support: farmers are under extreme stress from economic challenges to COVID-19. Dealing with the impacts of climate change, from water scarcity to recovering from extreme weather events, is a unique challenge that requires support.

As we move forward as a community in Oregon dedicated to farming for climate resilience in Oregon, let's meet farmers needs by focusing on better, more connected, technical assistance, research, and education—financial incentives and capital investments that fit—support for farm managers—and, let's go beyond farmland management.

What we heard from technical assistance providers

Oregon has a large web of farm technical assistance (TA) providers throughout the state. Because OrCAN values meeting producers where they are we needed to better understand the landscape of trusted technical service providers they depend on in Oregon. These providers offer farmers education, research, outreach, planning, project design, and financial support, as well as assistance with applications and implementation of projects. Key providers include Oregon State University Extension, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Councils, Oregon Natural Resource Conservation Service, the USDA Farm Services Agency, agronomists, non-profits, beginning farmer education providers, and more.

These organizations are well poised to collaborate on comprehensive TA for producers. As one NRCS staffer summed it up: “the main role of NRCS is to offset the risks of starting something new through access to financial incentives and information—this is their strength. OSU Extension can provide research, technology, and hands on support. Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Councils can provide one-on-one technical assistance as well as classes and demonstration sites.”

While Oregon is lucky that collaboration is an important principle for many of our TA providers, during our conversations we discovered there’s a need for a state-wide organization to drive these collaborations on climate resilience moving forward. For example, there was a multi-state “Healthy Soils, Healthy Region Workshop” that took place in March of 2019 in Pendleton, Oregon with 151 agricultural stakeholders. You can see a summary of the event [here](#). Many great research questions and needs were identified—yet that work in Oregon has not been revisited in a collaborative way to date. Any progress on these research questions is happening in isolation without sharing information. In conversations with an Oregon NRCS staff member, we heard that, “the takeaway was that there’s a lot of good will towards opening up conversation but without anybody driving it, further conversation and implementation is not happening.”

Each agency and organization has strengths and weaknesses inherent in the way they are structured and governed, the culture they create, their funding situation, and their abilities to provide farmers with responsive support. Some areas are well staffed and sustainably funded, while others lack a sustainable funding source, particularly SWCDs without a tax base, and cannot provide consistent or adequate TA support. The services they provide and the trust they have built with farmers also varies widely depending on geographic location and often the personalities of the individual service providers.

Our survey of over 100 agricultural producers throughout the state highlighted both a need for climate resilience training and interest in the following specific topics:

- the science on climate change impacts to Oregon agriculture;
- solutions for farmers on the ground;
- economic benefits of soil health practices;
- strategic communications around climate change;
- whole farm planning.

Some of these issues will be addressed through the [“Train the Trainer Program for Oregon Agricultural Professionals: A Climate Resilience Toolbox for Working With Oregon’s Farmers and Ranchers”](#) OrCAN is organizing in November of 2021, but it will require sustained and updated training over time.

Overall, we’ve found that Oregon TA providers are:

- underprepared to address climate resilience questions from producers, due to a lack of training and access to information, unclear guidance from leadership and the politicization of climate change in Oregon;
- inconsistent over geography and crop type (in particular, small and mid-size growers, farmers of color, specialty crop growers, and livestock producers are underserved);
- and, the large web of providers can be overwhelming for producers to navigate.
- In addition, there are limited opportunities for TA providers to provide feedback from working with producers on the ground to legislators and other decision makers to help inform better policy and programs to match the needs of producers.

Oregon’s TA providers need better tools, up-to-date knowledge, improved applied research, and increased capacity to provide the kind of assistance farmers need to meet the scope and scale of supporting a resilient agricultural economy in the state.

Current Landscape & Opportunities for Technical Assistance Services in Oregon Agriculture for Climate Resilience

We’ve provided a snapshot below of the current landscape of technical assistance, education, outreach, and research in Oregon. OrCAN has attempted to be as comprehensive as possible in this evaluation—but there are still gaps to fill. For example, Oregon State University is a vast institution with staff and faculty working on all sides of this issue in every county in the state. We have yet to speak with everyone there who is currently engaged in research and outreach to producers at the intersection of climate change and agriculture. In addition, almost all this work is grant funded—whether it’s a staff member at a SWCD or NRCS or an OSU researcher, at some level they must raise money to do their work. This makes sustained work over time challenging. We look forward to continuing to build our network and create more stable collaboration moving forward.

Current Oregon Providers Working on Farming for Climate Resilience



Current Oregon Providers Advancing Place-Based Research on Farming for Climate Resilience



Emerging Opportunities & Barriers

Within the Landscape of Technical Assistance, Education, Outreach & Research in Oregon⁵

FEDERAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS

USDA in Oregon

[The Northwest Climate Hub](#)

The official goal of our regional hub is to “provide information and technology to guide climate-informed decision making by farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, Native American tribes, Alaska Natives, natural resource managers and technology transfer specialists to generate sustainable and productive working landscapes in the Northwest. The Climate Hubs are science driven, stakeholder centered, efficient, co-operative partnerships with federal, state and local organizations.” Our climate hub has a huge region to cover (Alaska, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon) and has typically focused most on forestry issues. Their strength is curating and sharing information. If you’re looking for the latest in climate science, they are your first stop. Unfortunately, their funding waxes and wanes with the interests of the federal government. With the new Biden Administration, they have been highlighted as a key player in the USDA’s new climate focus. We hope they will receive the kind of funding they need to do increased work. It is a possibility that they could become a funding partner for Oregon’s agricultural technical assistance providers and researchers in the future.

Current projects of interest as of 2021: a rangelands postdoc Anna Maher is currently developing a summary of newly available rangeland management tools and their potential role in supporting land managers and ranchers’ preparedness and economic resilience. She is also creating a synthesis of climate change impacts to rangeland management in the Northwest. The NW Climate Hub is also on the planning team for the Oregon [Train the Trainer](#): Farm Planning for Climate Resilience program for Oregon agricultural professionals.

Barriers: Staff at USDA were underfunded, discouraged, and undervalued in the last Administration (see Climate 21 Memo). The Climate Hubs in particular have not had dedicated or sustained funding.

Opportunities: additional funding opportunities in the new Administration like the Extension, Education, & USDA Climate Hubs Partnership through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative in 2021. The Hub has an important role to play in delivering regionally appropriate, climate resilience tools, research, and resources to producers.

[Oregon Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

The NRCS provides technical and financial assistance through local service centers. Oregon is lucky to have a strong team of soil health focused staff and they prioritize cooperation and partnership. There is currently good work to improve the culture to better share information both across the organization and

⁵ See Appendix A. for an initial list of TA and research providers

with partners like SWCDs and OSU Extension. Cooperative funding and co-located offices help build these partnerships. Several existing funding programs can support farmers in their climate resilience practices. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program in particular support working lands conservation efforts. The EQIP program also provides [Conservation Innovation Grant](#) funding for the “development, application, and demonstration of innovative conservation technologies and approaches.” There’s a classic CIG and then an on-farm trials CIG program area. In 2021, priority areas for the Classic CIG program include “climate-smart strategies for water resources and increased resilience” as well as, “soil health for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience”

Current updates of interest: Oregon is one of four states that is piloting a new EQIP funding program [Conservation Incentive Contracts](#), a stepping stone between classic EQIP and CSP. For this first round of funding, soil health was included as a priority practice for Oregon. A new communications structure update combines regional email updates in Oregon Farm Services Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency for producers. And, Oregon NRCS recently added two new organic and small farms staff—one on each side of the Cascades. Development of a local Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) focused on the intersections between food security and conservation is underway in the Deschutes Basin area. As of March 2021, at the federal level, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is funding \$75M in 15 new, unique projects across the country under their Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA). Through the AFA, they will prioritize projects related to climate smart agriculture and forestry that wouldn’t have been funded under classic RCPP projects. Oregon NRCS staff are part of the planning team for the [“Train the Trainer Program for Oregon Agricultural Professionals: A Climate Resilience Toolbox for Working With Oregon’s Farmers and Ranchers”](#).

Barriers:

- Staff at USDA were underfunded, discouraged, and undervalued in the last Administration (see Climate 21 Memo).
- Despite the high level of bureaucracy, the effectiveness of this service rests on the personalities of individual staff at the local level. Certain areas of the state are stuck with long-term employees that are rigid in their work while other areas see high turnover rates.
- NRCS doesn’t have a way of measuring the outcomes of their funding. Results tend to be communicated in terms of dollars spent or number of contracts versus long-term conservation improvements on the ground.
- Overwhelming for producers: the alphabet soup of programs, high level of paperwork and timing of conservation contracts are challenging for many producers on the ground. Many producers require administrative support to be able to apply for these programs.
- Demand for conservation funding exceeds available funding in almost all programs.
- The USDA nationwide continues to perpetuate institutional racism in the distribution of these limited funds.⁶
- Reductionist approach: The system of NRCS programs are primarily designed to be practice based. Innovative holistic solutions are hard to achieve within this system and low hanging fruit is missed. One anecdote shared by a technical assistance provider is a good illustration: a live-

⁶ [How USDA distorted data to conceal decades of discrimination against Black farmers](#) From The Counter in 2019, accessed September 2021

stock producer was trying to work on manure management and while the NRCS staffer could talk about alternative ways of storing manure but wasn't able to offer the solution of composting it and adding it as an organic amendment to improve soil health. Innovations like this have to go through the right channels that are somewhat opaque.

- The ability for NRCS staff to talk about climate change on farms directly waxes and wanes with the federal administration's political position. As a result, their staff are underprepared to provide strong technical assistance to farmers who are interested in this work.

Opportunities: Local decisions guide much of the priorities for state funding—local working groups and long-term plans developed by local staff drive these decisions. It's important to work at this local level to ensure soil health practices receive priority funding. Equally important to increase understanding of soil health benefits for other resource concerns like water quality. Climate smart agriculture is a priority within the Biden Administration and is already creating new pathways of financial and technical assistance for farmers throughout the state.

Oregon Farm Services Agency (FSA): Administers funding for certain programs that support farming for climate resilience as well as federal crop insurance, low interest loans, and disaster relief for farmers in Oregon. Key programs include the Conservation Reserve Program which: “encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.” They also administer the Organic certification cost-share program.

Current updates of interest: The Conservation Reserve Program has a [new initiative](#) to quantify the climate benefits of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts. This multi-year effort will enable USDA to better target CRP toward climate outcomes and improve existing models and conservation planning tools while supporting USDA's goal of putting American agriculture and forestry at the center of climate-smart solutions to address climate change.” Targets specific State or nationally significant conservation concerns, and federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to address those concerns.

Barriers

- Many of our smaller farm partners struggle with both communicating with FSA staff and finding accurate information and financial tools suitable for their farms.
- Large administrative lift for producers in terms of documentation.
- In some cases, crop insurance is required to access disaster funds—many of Oregon's producers do not have crop insurance.
- Lag in timing of disaster relief funding—depending on the program
- Historical discrimination mentioned above is also present in the FSA⁷

⁷ [USDA Data: Nearly All Pandemic Bailout Funds Went to White Farmers](#). From Environmental Working Group, accessed August 2021. Further suggested reading: [Why a Debt Relief Program for Farmers Matters for Racial Equity in America](#), by Georgetown University law professor Sheryll Cashin.

Opportunities

- New state director as of 2021 and have recently begun coordinating outreach and information sharing with NRCS and the Risk Management Agency (RMA), which will be helpful for producers on the ground.
- The [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#) is an offshoot of this program that is a collaboration with FSA, NRCS, and state agencies led by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.
- The [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#) (NSAC) has online resources that highlight FSA programs that support smaller farms, more diversified farming operations, as well as beginning and underrepresented farms that include:
 - » [Microloans](#)
 - » [Whole Farm Revenue Protection for Diversified farms](#)
 - » [The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#): helps level the playing field for organic and diversified farmers while providing incentives to beginning, socially disadvantaged, and limited resource farmers to enroll
 - » [Organic Crop Insurance, Down Payment Loan Program](#): A joint financing option to help beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers purchase farmland
 - » [Land Contract Guarantee Program](#): providing federal loan guarantees for farmers who self-finance the sale of their land to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer),
 - » [CRP Transition Incentives Program](#): Encouraging landowners to transition CRP farmland to beginning, minority and veteran farmers and ranchers). NSAC is also a consistent advocate for improving

Oregon Risk Management Agency: In 2021, RMA will offer subsidies of up to \$5 per acre on federal crop insurance premiums for producers who planted cover crops this spring. This has limited application beyond larger commodity crop growers.

[Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grants](#): a key funding source for researching farmer-driven innovations in agriculture that improve profitability, stewardship, and quality of life.

Oregon Rural Development: RD offers [two different Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#) grants. The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Loan and Grant Program (REAP) provides grants to agricultural producers “for renewable energy systems such as biomass, wind generation, and solar generation, and purchasing and constructing energy efficiency improvements such as insulation, heating, cooling or refrigeration units, and lighting.” And REAP Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants, “provide funding to state and local governments and other entities to conduct energy audits, and renewable energy development assistance. The funds must be used to assist rural businesses in eligible rural areas and agricultural producers.”

USDA Research Facilities in Oregon:

[Corvallis Plant Materials Center](#): conducting cover crop research and pollinator habitat. Serves areas in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington.

[Pacific West Agricultural Research Service \(ARS\)](#): Oregon has three ARS sites – located in Burns, Corvallis, and Pendleton focused on Oregon specific farm research. Research is focused on the following areas: Animal Production and Protection; Crop Production and Protection, Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems, Nutrition, Food Safety, and Quality.

STATE LEVEL INSTITUTIONS

Oregon Department of Agriculture

ODA is very interested in expanding their soil health work. To date, they have primarily focused on how much of their current work, like efforts to improve water quality in farms, already connects to addressing climate change. They are also interested in advocating for Oregon's cover crop seed industry through their marketing team.

Barriers: Their role as a regulator in the agricultural space makes partnerships with producers a bit more challenging. Limited funding to date.

Opportunities: hiring for a new Soil Health position in 2021. And Oregon's Specialty Crop Block Grants requirements have been updated to include climate smart ag provisions.

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts: The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) is a private, non-profit 501(c)(5) statewide membership organization that represents, supports, and strengthens Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Currently with a staff of one, they provide an important common voice for conservation in Oregon's legislature. They hold an annual meeting for district board members that is a good avenue to share information.

Opportunities: new working lands committee that will have plans for SWCDS to focus more on soil carbon sequestration. An important partner on policy advocacy and networking with all SWCDs.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts: emerging out of the Dust Bowl era, SWCDs were created to be a local partner in soil and water conservation with the federal government and the state department of agriculture. There are currently 45 SWCDs throughout the state of Oregon, 14 have tax bases. Since the 90s, a large focus of SWCDs has been to help ODA and the State of Oregon reach its goals on agricultural water quality management. [Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network \(OCEAN\)](#) helps provide education to the conservation districts throughout the state primarily through an annual conference.

Current projects of interest identified: Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District's Carbon Farm Planning Pilot project: testing out the carbon farm planning process developed in California on three different farms in Oregon. To date, two plans have been drafted, one for a dairy and another on a vineyard.

West Multnomah SWCD and Tualatin SWCD have hosted a [Soil School](#) for nine years

Barriers: limited funding for consistent technical assistance over time.

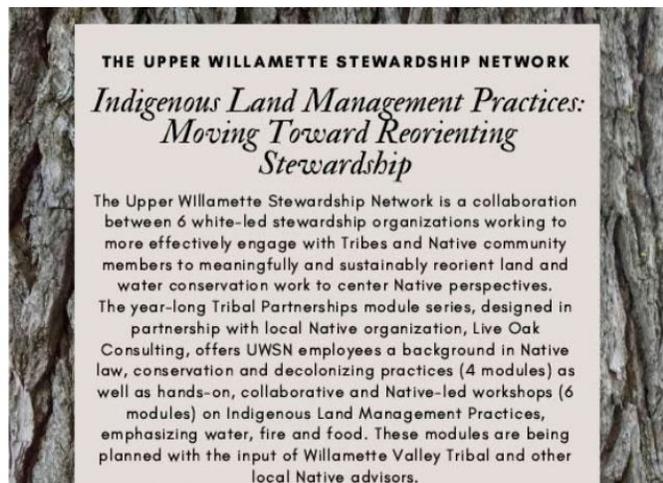
Opportunities: SWCDs are some of the most trusted local farm advisors with the largest geographic representation. They have been working with private landowners on conservation. Many SWCDs, have producers on their boards which helps amplify outreach to other farmers. Some SWCDs also manage farmland, providing an opportunity to demonstrate farming for climate resilience on the ground in Oregon. SWCD's are also often the first point of contact for new rural landowners interested in learning how to best manage their land. Increased investment in SWCDs can leverage existing relationships and networks to rapidly expand farming for climate resilience across the state.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: well established administrator for funding restoration projects on private land.

Opportunities: Interested in incorporating a more explicit climate funding lens for their work. They are working in collaboration with Oregon Department of Agriculture and Forestry to develop this work. Their work on the CREP program, and their [CREP technicians](#) grant program, could be an avenue to push forward on climate mitigation goals. In 2021, they're hiring a water and climate staff coordinator to engage more explicitly on these emerging issues, particularly in the policy context.

Oregon Watershed Councils

Oregon's watershed councils are community-based, voluntary, non-regulatory groups that work on watershed conservation issues. "Oregon is one of the few states to have this community-based model – supported by the state and recognized by local governments – to focus on restoring land and water from 'ridgetop to ridgetop.'" They are funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and organized under the umbrella of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils.



Current projects of interest:

The [Upper Willamette Stewardship Network](#) is an innovative example of how watershed councils can drive multi-stakeholder collaboratives to improve work on the ground. Four watershed councils, a land trust, and a conservation non-profit have come together "improve and expand programs, increase cost effectiveness, eliminate duplication of efforts, and achieve long-term organizational stability to serve the region's land and water resources and its communities." What is most innovative about their work is a new effort to engage with Tribes more effectively.

The Coast Fork Watershed Council also has a Working Lands program leading the way to better integrate research and technical assistance that works for farmers on the ground. They are interested in

building out more comprehensive technical assistance on climate resilience that better supports holistic farm management for water quality benefits.

Opportunities: work with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils to identify and prioritize councils working most closely with farmers and ranchers. There are several points of intersection for climate resilience on farms and the work of watershed councils, like riparian reforestation.

Oregon State University and OSU Extension

Leads on agricultural research and outreach to farmers as Oregon's land grant university. One of the most trusted resources for producers. The Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems is a model for integrating applied research and teaching with outreach and education.

Barriers: Many producers remarked on the decline in OSU Extension support throughout the state.⁸ Those with successful Extension offices tend to receive supplemental funding and support through commodity commissions and other private companies. Despite these funding challenges, demands on Extension staff are still high. They tend to be asked to do even more with less. Farmers' expectations of what Extension service provides versus their job descriptions do not align. And vice versa, the current structure of institution makes it hard for Extension to provide the services and research that producers need. There is currently limited climate-focused research or outreach.

Projects of Interest: OSU Extension is a leader in the nation in developing an organic Extension service. As of 2021, they have two organic staffers one in specialty crops the other in pasture and forage management (will come on board August 2021). They are increasing staff capacity on water issues. There's one new staff focused on irrigation management, another on soil and water quality management. Extensive innovative research on cover cropping throughout the state. See Appendix A for an initial list of staff interested in working at the intersection of agriculture and climate. Via WSARE OSU Extension is funding and partnering on the ["Train the Trainer Program for Oregon Agricultural Professionals"](#). OSU's Dry Farming Project started in 2014 with on farm trials and demonstrations and has expanded to a more farmer-to-farmer focused [Dry Farming Collaborative in 2016](#). There's an excellent resource hub [here](#).

Opportunities: The University has a huge opportunity to step up and lead on climate resilience. Chico State University's [Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems](#) provides a good model for how a university can create trans-disciplinary teams and strategic focus on the future of farming in addition to leveraging partnerships with conservation districts and other technical assistance providers. In 2021, the Center [received a \\$6.9M RCPP](#) award through NRCS to support: " 'Soil Health Management Systems for Northern California,' a five-year project designed to help orchard/vineyard, rangeland, dairy and row crop producers in Northern California build food and fiber production resiliency to counter climate change challenges. OSU's Hannah Gosnell is a participant on this project.

⁸This is a challenge throughout the country. Good resources include [Cooperative Extension System: Trends and Economic Impacts on U.S. Agriculture by Sun Ling Wang from 2014](#). And this information from the [Pew Charitable Trusts in 2014](#): " 'Extension back in the day was funded about one-third federal, one-third state and one-third county,' said Sonny Ramaswamy, director of the federal National Institute of Food and Agriculture. 'That model has frayed quite a bit.' . . . 'Federal funds now account for only about 10 percent of current extension budgets, with 45 percent coming from states (including grants and gifts) and 45 percent from counties and cities' said Jimmy Henning, chairman of extension's national governing board."

University of Oregon

Several interdisciplinary research groups asking critical questions about natural climate solutions. The [Soil Plant Atmosphere \(SPA\) Lab](#) with Lucas Silva as principal investigator is conducting interdisciplinary research at the crossroads of natural and human systems. And the [Hallet Lab](#) is conducting innovative research on community ecology in a variety of systems. Some of Hallet's research includes cover crops and pest management in hazelnuts, and compost amendments and grazing practices in relation to soil C and overall soil health.

Beginning Farmer & Next Generation Training Programs

Many of these programs are offering some level of farming for climate resilience training. Investment in these organization's capacity and priorities will push this work forward for the next generation of farmers in Oregon. Most of these programs are also part of the [Beginning Farmer Rancher Working group](#) within the Oregon Community Food Systems Network.

Provider	Programming	Serves
Adelante Mujeres	Regenerative Agriculture Program provides aspiring and existing Latino immigrant farmers and gardeners with the training and skills necessary to grow produce using regenerative methods and to successfully market their products.	Latino immigrants, courses taught in Spanish.
Clackamas Community College	Organic farming certificate, also a horticulture certificate program. In 2021, offering renewable energy plans for farmers.	Clackamas County.
Chemeteka Community College	New Agriculture Complex in development. Provides degrees and certifications: in Horticulture, Wine Studies and Agribusiness Management	Marian, Polk, and Yamhill Counties
Ecotrust	The Viviane Barnett Fellowship for Food Systems Leaders is an 18-month cohort-based fellowship program focused on leadership development at the intersection of agriculture, food systems, and climate. Ag of the Middle program provides business training to a cohort of producers throughout the region. Priority goes to producers using sustainable practices.	Black and Indigenous producers in Portland Metro region and regional agricultural producers interested in scaling up from small to mid-scale.
Headwaters Incubator	Headwaters Farm Incubator Program is designed to assist in the development of new farmers. The program involves leasing out sections of EMSWCD's Headwaters Farm to motivated, experienced individuals who will use it as a launching pad for their own farming endeavors. We offer production trainings in conservation ag (nutrient management, IPM, irrigation water management, etc.)	Experienced farmers looking to launch their own farming operations in the Portland Metro region.
Huerta de la Familia	In the Organic Garden Program, Huerto de la Familia manages seven gardens across Lane County to provide Latino families with personal plots of land. In these plots, families can grow healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. Also provide business development training and counseling.	Latino gardeners in Lane County region.

Provider	Programming	Serves
Jefferson Center	Providing Holistic Management Institute training up and down west coast	Livestock producers throughout the region.
Mudbone Grown	Pathways to Farming Incubator program: Provides culturally competent farming programs and small business development services and a 3-year farmer incubator program seeks to support farmers of color in the Pacific Northwest to launch their own agricultural businesses	Farmers of color in the PNW.
Next Door	Offers Spanish garden education and garden space along with business development support.	Spanish speaking farmers in Hood River and Dalles area.
OSU Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems	Organize conferences, workshops, field days, and networks for small-scale farmers and ranchers.	Statewide.
Rogue Farm Corps	Offers two farmer training programs: an internship and apprenticeship program. Providing some introductory trainings to beginning farmers on soil health, no-till, IPM, nutrient management, rotation, cover cropping, rotational grazing. Also offering TA on farm business and land access.	Central Oregon, Portland Metro, and Rogue Valley.

Other projects of interest Oregon based & Region-wide

American Farmland Trust: The leading national nonprofit on conservation agriculture focused on farmland protection. They are strong on research and policy. In addition, they have a strong focus on climate resilience. Check out their summary of the science report, "[Combating Climate Change on US Cropland.](#)" They've also developed the [CaRPE](#) tool to estimate the potential for greenhouse gas reductions when implementing soil health practices on working lands. ([see the Oregon summary report here](#)). They have a collaborative PNW regional team and new staff capacity for policy engagement. AFT has also developed economic case studies of soil health practices throughout the US and has shared the tools so that other agricultural professionals can develop these case studies for other regions. Case studies on vineyards in California and the PNW are available [here](#). Beginning in the fall of 2021, AFT is leading a new collaborative Conservation Innovation Grant: Advancing Climate Resilience with Women Ranchers in Northeast Oregon. Women ranchers and ranchland owners will be trained to plan, implement, and demonstrate climate resilience and specific soil quality practices through at least 6 Learning Circles in targeted areas of Northeast Oregon, particularly Union, Baker, and Wallowa Counties.

Black Food Fund: as of 2021, a fund for Black and Black-Indigenous producers enabling them to adopt and scale practices that draw down carbon, increase soil health, and improve water quality and biodiversity.

Black Oregon Land Trust: An organization dedicated to "the redistribution of land to those who have historically faced barriers to land stewardship and wealth building, in Corbett, and across the state. A major part of our work is conservation: protecting the earth from development so it can be tended for generations to come and returning to our ancestral traditions of agricultural practices that support the land in thriving."

Cultivate Oregon: hosted a soil symposium [Enabling Regenerative Agriculture: Getting Paid for Soil Health](#) in 2020. In 2021, they offered an awards program, and they are interested in being a producer liaison for the Nori carbon markets program.

Dry Farm Institute: a nonprofit organization that engages growers and communities in collectively adapting to less water.

Ecotrust: has two key programs working with farmers and has been developing a tool for decision-makers to better estimate the greenhouse gas emission reduction potential of working landscapes in Oregon, described below.

- **[Viviane Barnett Fellowship for Food Systems Leadership.](#)** The Fellowship is "an 18-month cohort-based fellowship program focused on leadership development at the intersection of agriculture, food systems, and climate. The fellowship is for aspiring, emerging, and experienced Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) leaders in the Portland Metro region. This program includes a community of practice where fellows will connect, explore new possibilities, solve challenging problems, and create new, mutually beneficial opportunities related to Indigenous and Afro-indigenous farming practices, climate justice, and soil regeneration. Fellows enter

the program with a goal in mind for themselves and their organization, completing a project by the end of the fellowship to demonstrate the impact of their learning journey. To strengthen this region's network of BIPOC food system leaders whose lived experiences are essential to our collective efforts toward building a more equitable and climate resilient food system, the Black Food Sovereignty Coalition, Mudbone Grown, Oregon State University's Center for Small Farms, the Multnomah County Health Department REACH program, and Ecotrust have partnered to offer this fellowship. We are proud to name this fellowship for Viviane Barnett—a Black Portlander and civic leader who spearheaded a groundbreaking community gardening movement from 1968-1970.”

- [Ag of the Middle Accelerator Program](#) is a two-year, hands-on, capacity-building, business development program. It is designed to cultivate a thriving cohort of mid-sized, independent farms, ranches, and fishing operations in the region that spans Northern California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. The goal is to help rebuild the local food system at scale. Producers must show that they are using sustainable practices to be a part of the program. In the past, soil health workshops have been a part of the cohort training.
- And on the research side, Mike Mertens is creating new mapping tool that can illustrate the greenhouse gas emission reduction impact of changing practices on a suite of Oregon's commodity field crops, cover crops, and perennial crops. This analysis can also look at scenarios in which farmers and ranchers use multiple practices at once on a farm (for example, switching to using cover crop and no-till).

Friends of Family Farmers: works to “promote and protect socially responsible agriculture in Oregon.” Coordinates the [Oregon Pasture Network](#) designed to support the growth of pasture-based farming. Their website provides connections between producers and consumers. In addition, they host farmer-to-farmer education programming and soil health workshops. FoFF also provides land access workshops and hosts [Oregon FarmLink](#) and online platform connecting land holders looking for someone to manage their land and beginning farmers looking for land. As of 2021, FoFF is providing offering one-on-one support and coaching for selected farmers of color seeking land in Oregon through their Navigator program. Offered an awards program for producers on soil health in 2021. An important advocate for sustainable farms in Oregon's legislature.

High Desert Food and Farm Alliance: focused on markets support of farmers in the region. Partners with OSU Extension Small Farms Program, Oregon Tilth, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and others to coordinate workshops and hands-on training opportunities for farmers to sharpen their skills on everything from crop planning and cost of production to marketing strategies and food safety. Recently held a Resiliency Award process for Central Oregon producers.

Land Connection Technical Assistance Pilot Program in Oregon via the Oregon Community Food System Network: A collaborative project to address the challenge of farmland succession and land access in Oregon to build a future for agriculture in Oregon. In 2019, the year-long pilot program focused on better understanding the need for more technical assistance for both beginning and elder farmer

generations. Committee members including Farm Commons, Friends of Family Farmers, Rogue Farm Corps and Headwaters Incubator Program helped on all aspects of farmland transition, which included help searching for the right land and the right new farmer, securing financing, writing leases, and other legal aspects around leasing and purchasing land. The pilot program revealed that the need is clear, now the OCFSN organizations are currently planning the next steps of the program. More information [here](#).

[Nez Perce Tribe and Climate Smart Agriculture:](#) The Tribe is currently working on a “USDA NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) grant to study the social-ecological effects of climate smart and regenerative agriculture practices on the Reservation’s landscape via a collaborative network of producers, Tribe resource managers, University Extension agents, and industry professionals.” While agricultural producers across the Reservation have started experimenting with and learning about Climate Smart and Conservation Agriculture practices, such as no-till, cover cropping, crop rotations, etc. they have encountered several barriers. Such barriers include but are not limited to crop failure, crop insurance support, capital investments in equipment, a lack of specific knowledge of practices that work locally, and the best means to transition from one production system to another.” Through this project they will build a participatory framework of scientists, producers, and Tribe resource managers that supports regenerative agriculture adoption on Nez Perce lands.

[Oregon Agricultural Trust:](#) Statewide organization focused on farmland preservation—a critical component of a resilient future for agriculture in Oregon. A study by American Farmland Trust found that “an acre of farmland in California produces 58-70 times fewer greenhouse gas emissions than an acre of urban land⁹.” Focal areas of OAT are Mid-Columbia, Willamette Valley, SE Oregon, and North Coast. Developing a conservation plan that will include climate change considerations.

[Oregon Tilth:](#) Current education programming is limited, but they are working in close partnership with NRCS to be able to provide better TA for organic producers across the country. They are active in policy advocacy at the state and federal levels.

[Organic Valley:](#) a business leading the way on innovative research and planning with their dairy producers. From participating in the YSWCD’s Carbon Farm Planning pilot project to working with the Croatan Institute on developing an innovative new financing mechanism: [Rural Regenerative Agricultural Districts](#).

[Our Family Farms:](#) a southwestern Oregon focused organization leading on a WSARE grant focused on - Regenerative Agriculture: connecting soil health, native bee habitat, and climate resilience through on-farm management strategies.

[Rogue Farm Corps:](#) in addition to their training program mentioned above, their [Changing Hands](#) program contributes to the resilience of Oregon’s agriculture through ensuring the success of intergenerational farm transfers. They provide training and technical assistance on succession planning and land access through their Changing Hands workshops to their new Farm Launch program.

⁹ [California Greener Fields project](#)

Sustainable Northwest: piloting an ecosystem service market project on rangeland and soil carbon sequestration in Oregon via an Oregon Conservation Innovation Grant. They are working with ranchers in the Klamath Basin testing out controlled burns and prescribed grazing, and in eastern Oregon, they are testing out prescribed grazing and cover cropping. In addition, they are providing place based education and outreach to ranchers in the Klamath Basin on drought resilience. As part of their rural electrification program, in 2021, they have an [electric](#) tractor pilot project with three tractors rotating at different farms around the PNW.

The Nature Conservancy Oregon: is leading [research on natural climate solutions](#) throughout Oregon. In eastern Oregon, they also work closely with ranchers on rangeland management and hold easements on rangelands protected under a carbon offset like the Zumwalt Prairie.

[Western Cover Crop Council - Pacific Northwest Regional Committee:](#) This group's goal is to facilitate and enhance communication and collaboration that promotes the successful adoption and integration of cover cropping in the PNW. Participants in the bi-monthly meetings include farmers, GO Seeds, OSU Extension, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, Palmer Soil and Water Conservation, University of Idaho, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Washington State University. In Spring of 2021, they hosted a series of "From the Ground Up: Cover Crop Solutions for Western Farmers" on the latest in on-farm experiments and research, as well as results from a regional survey on Cover Crop Use in the Pacific Northwest by Lauren Golden. Interested farmers, researchers and technical service providers are welcome to join the group and [listserv](#).

Seven Key Levers for Farming for Climate Resilience in Oregon

WE ALREADY HAVE THE TOOLS WE NEED. THE TIME IS RIGHT.

The elements of farming for climate resilience are not new—from their foundations in traditional Indigenous and Black agricultural systems to their more recent interpretation as best conservation practices (aka: NRCS conservation practice standards). What is new is that our changing climate has become an emergency. Extreme weather events pummeled growers season after season in the 15 months we've held these conversations.

To meet the need this crisis demands, we must better articulate the principles of farming for climate resilience and how farmers translate them into practices on the ground in Oregon. As practitioners of holistic land management put it: If you want to make small changes: change how you do things. If you want to make major changes, change how you see things. “We do not need to tell farmers what to do. Instead, we need to help them think about the issues and how to come up with a plan,” says Lauren Gwin of the Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems at OSU Extension. Much like the internet writ large, there's too much general information and too few specific, practical tools about farming for resilience. Farmers need to translate soil health and other best practices into practical, locally appropriate decision-making tools that fit their landscape.

IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE THE HARD PART.

The creativity, beauty, savvy, and grit with which the producers in our network relate to the land and feed us every day gives us hope. As a community in Oregon, we can revision this hope, not just as an aspiration, but instead as practice, as a discipline. That said, we should not sugar coat this process. Changing behaviors and habits and ways of being is hard. When the current systems reward the status quo over change, extraction over sustenance, scarcity over abundance, commodities over healthy ecosystems, it's even harder. It is up to us to stay tenacious, to follow through. Here are 7 key levers for building climate resilient agriculture in Oregon, a reflection of what we heard from our producers and partners, verified by similar efforts to develop place-based climate resilience throughout the nation. Here's a tangible picture of what our follow through can look like.

I. STATE-WIDE, INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION

We have a lot of people working at the intersection of climate change and agriculture in Oregon, but this work has been disconnected and disparate. We are also fortunate to have an existing strong web of agricultural professionals in the state working at different scales and on different aspects of solutions to climate change. The kinds of system-wide challenges we are facing require cross-sector collaboration. To better leverage our shared knowledge and shift towards solutions implemented on the land, the Oregon agricultural community needs to:

- listen the needs of farmers and ranchers;
- better integrate collaboration and information sharing as part of the working culture of this community;
- improve collaboration and communication with Tribal Governments and Indigenous producers, as well as Black, Latino and other Farmers of Color;
- align and connect researchers, nonprofits, federal and state agency staff, policy makers and other farm service providers throughout Oregon through state-wide network development and convenings.

II. ON-FARM STRATEGIES FOR FARMING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

These are recommended priorities for land management to increase effectiveness of practices, improve rates of adoption of practices over time, and increase soil carbon sequestration on Oregon’s working lands:

- Focus on whole-farm planning and implementing land management practices with multiple benefits.
- Lead with soil health principles versus prescriptive practices. Provides producers with both flexibility and ownership. Some producers will also want to know about specific practices, tailored to their region and cropping types.
- Promote perennials, particularly on field borders: from silvopasture projects to riparian forest buffers to protecting perennial grasses in grazing systems.
- Rotational grazing for pasture and range management systems are critical pieces of the puzzle that are often left out of the discussion.
- Layer multiple best practices when possible and where appropriate—combining no-till with cover cropping and compost application for example, or grazing cover crops.

III. ENHANCED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE—RESEARCH—OUTREACH—EDUCATION

Oregon has a well-established and extensive web of technical assistance providers (as discussed in the technical assistance providers section of this report). To better prepare for a changing climate, these following are critical opportunities for Oregon to improve services to farmers and ranchers from trusted technical assistance providers, educators, and researchers:

- Build upon existing technical assistance provider networks and create comprehensive, collaborative, consistent and place-based programming
- Producers need follow up accountability over time.
- Ensure there are regional hubs for sharing relevant climate resilient information with farmers of different scales.

- » Whenever appropriate, these hubs can be built into existing structures like Soil and Water Conservation Districts and/or where TA providers are already co-located. In some counties, NRCS is co-located with FSA and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, they will go out on farm visits together enabling them to better provide technical assistance and financial support to farmers.
- Develop and support **farmer-to-farmer education** networks throughout the state.
- Fill Information Gaps:
 - » Lack of information to translate soil health information into practical decision making. Provide regionally appropriate information to support farmers and farming for climate resilience. As one TA provider put it: “There is a difference between general knowledge of a topic like soil health and knowing how to integrate it into a specific cropping system. I am unlikely to be interested in a training cover crops, irrigation efficiency, IPM, etc. because I have a good general understanding of these
 - » topics. I would benefit from information that is specific to the cropping system I am working in.”
- Make existing information more accessible:
 - » NRCS and OSU Extension websites are challenging navigate and finding relevant information is almost impossible. These means information about good research projects and great fact sheets can get lost.
 - » Some SWCDs have great websites with good information but not all.
 - » The information that is accessible is overwhelming general information while there’s a lack of specific information for crop types and geographic areas.
- Create **economic case studies** examining the costs and benefits of farming for climate resilience for a variety of crop types and systems.
- A focus on **applied research** for farming for climate resilience in a variety of crop types and systems.
 - » Access WSARE and CIG funding to support these innovative applied science projects that will help producers on the ground.
- Better tracking of what’s already being done on the ground (including adoption rates of multiple practices), where funding is going, and the outcomes as a result.
- Better incorporate landscape scale perspective in to planning, design and implementation of programs and farm support.
- As land goes to fallow for drought and other reasons, focus on ensuring producers are able to keep the soil covered.
- Support the development of Oregon NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategies and OR Regional Conservation Partnership Programs through NRCS focused on climate resilience.
- **Create a systems approach to new research agendas**
 - » As a recent report on the current barriers to resilient agricultural systems put it, there’s a need to better link: “farmers, soil experts, social scientists, economists and participatory farming networks to gather data and share evidence. We need to quantify ecosystem services and economic benefits of scaling up, while transferring lessons learned across

geographies. We need support for innovative individuals and anchor institutions, like Ecdysis Foundation, Chico State University, and The Land Institute, that are already supporting interdisciplinary research and serving as centers of excellence and innovation by pushing the boundaries of what academia has allowed to this point”¹⁰

IV. IMPROVED LAND ACCESS

As current farmers retire and farmland prices skyrocket, land access for new and beginning farmers is a critical piece of the puzzle¹¹. We must:

- Preserve existing farmland in Oregon
- Connect new and underserved farmers, including Black, Indigenous, Latino, and other Farmers of Color to land
- Conduct non-farming landowner outreach about climate resilience land strategies

V. FUNDING NEEDS

We must get creative about funding sources. As cities and counties, food supply chain buyers, health care providers, and businesses large and small set climate goals—investing in agricultural solutions to climate change is a cost-effective way to make change toward ecological, economic and community resilience.

- Funding for Infrastructure & Incentives: improved access to capital and increasing incentives is critical to helping many farmers, particularly historically underserved farmers, reduce the risks of transitioning to new practices.
 - » Elevate financial incentives for whole farm planning and soil health practices
- Funding for continued research in climate resilient agriculture

VI. IMPROVE REGIONAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS

While the majority of these levers are focused on pathways towards improving land management, issues of local markets to support local farmers, the transportation of food, of improved security, and thriving rural economies are all integrally interconnected. We need to bring together conservation conversations with food security and local food systems and vice versa.

VII. POLICY SOLUTIONS

Policies are one of the most powerful tools of systems change:

- It’s time to implement policies and programs that support farming for climate resilience and

¹⁰Jennifer O’Connor. 2020. Barriers For Farmers & Ranchers To Adopt Regenerative Ag Practices In The US. (also available at <https://fo-rainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/Barriers-to-Adopt-Regnerative-Agriculture-Interactive.pdf>).

¹¹See the Emerging Opportunities and Barriers section for more info on organizations involved in land access like: Black Oregon Land Trust, Friends of Family Farmers, EMSWD/Headwaters Incubator, and the Oregon Agricultural Trust

farmworker protection. Highlights from OrCAN's detailed [2021 State-Wide Policy Recommendations](#) include:

- » Support expansion of education and technical support to beginning farmers and those who are newly transitioning to implementing practices with the potential to sequester carbon in the soil and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Expand support provided by experienced producers, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, OSU Extension, non-profits, and/or ODA in these areas:
 - Support on-farm demonstrations, mentoring, communities of practice and educational/informational resources and outreach.
 - Provide free/reduced-cost soil health testing (including soil biology) to help producers understand the state of their soils, the potential for improving soil health on their land, assist researchers in linking management practices to outcomes, and potentially provide baseline data for carbon markets.
 - Increase capacity for soil health technicians to work on behalf of the state to support Oregon's farmers and ranchers including: BIPOC producers, tribal liaisons, those in all parts of the state, and range and pasture soils.
- » Provide streamlined, equitable financial incentives to support implementing practices with the potential to sequester carbon in the soil and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Encourage the legislature to adopt Healthy Soils legislation to create a Soil Health Grant Program
- » Create a sustained source of funding for research on climate change and climate mitigation strategies on Oregon's agricultural lands.
 - Incentives, such as grants, for implementation of soil health practices that promote carbon sequestration, listed above in the Practices section;
 - Facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration, both public and private, to advance the recommendations above.
 - Fund the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program to protect agricultural lands.
- » Reexamine existing policies that disincentivize farming for climate resilience and don't work for farmers on the ground.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to all the contributors who made this report possible and who do the hard work of creating a future for farming in Oregon. A list of many of the organizations who participated in these conversations is below—and you’ll also find contacts in the Appendix.

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Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians	Service - OR	Our Family Farms
American Farmland Trust	Nez Perce Tribe Natural Resource Department	Outgrowing Hunger
Black Food Fund	Oregon Agricultural Trust	PNW Western Cover Crops Council
Black Food Sovereignty Coalition	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts	Rogue Action
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council	Oregon Community Food Systems Network	Rogue Farm Corps
Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council	Oregon Department of Agriculture	Soil & Water Conservation Districts (Benton, East Multnomah, Jackson, Tualatin, and Yamhill)
Cultivate Oregon	Oregon Environmental Council	Sustainable Northwest
Ecotrust	Oregon Food Bank - Mudbone Grown - Pathways to Farming program	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Eugene Water and Electric Board	Oregon Health Authority	Tillamook
Farm Commons	Oregon Organic Coalition	University of Oregon
Friends of Family Farmers / Oregon Pasture Network	Oregon Tilth	USDA NW Climate Hub
High Desert Food and Farm Alliance	Organic Valley	Wild Salmon Center
Natural Resource Conservation	Oregon State University	Willamette Partnership

Appendix A: 2021 list of people in working at the intersection of agriculture and climate
(will be a living updated document)

First Name	Last Name	Institution	Research and/or Outreach Description	What is the geographic scope of your work?	Email Contact
Addie	Candib	American Farmland Trust	From policy and training to on-the-ground demonstration projects, we are working to scale up the adoption of climate-smart agriculture practice, PNW Director.	Regional	acandib@farmland.org
Gabrielle	Roesch-McNally	American Farmland Trust	I work at the intersection of climate, gender, inequality and agrifood systems. I am a social scientist who explores adaptation.	National	groeschmcnally@farmland.org
Teresa	Matteson	Benton Soil and Water Conservation District	Resource Conservationist for BSWCD. Leader in soil health research, education and outreach with producers and collaborators in Oregon, developed the Soil Quality Network in 2011.	Benton County	tmatteson@bentonswcd.org
Amy	Bartow	Corvallis Plant Materials Center	Recent focus on using native species in working landscapes and creating specifications for NRCS programs with an emphasis on pollinator habitat.	West side of Oregon	amy.bartow@usda.gov
Ian	Silvermail	Corvallis Plant Materials Center	Cover crop research at the PMC	West of the cascades	ian.silvermail@usda.gov
Edward	Hill	Culinary Collaboratory	Focus on regenerative agriculture in Black and brown communities in the Pacific Northwest.	Regional	ehill@headwatersconcepts.org
Rhianna	Simes	Cultivate Oregon	focused on regenerative agriculture issues, and building local seed and food system resiliency. Liason for Nori Carbon Removal Marketplace.	SW Oregon and Statewide	rhianna@cultivateoregon.org

Rowan	Steele	East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District	Headwaters Incubator Farm Manager, modeling whole farm climate resilience from electrification of the farm to implementing innovative land management practices and training for beginning farmers.	East Multnomah County	rowan@emswcd.org
Maia	Larson	Ecotrust	Supporting the business viability of small and medium sized farmers and ranchers that are implementing regenerative management practices across Oregon, Washington, N. Cali.	Regional	mlarson@ecotrust.org
Aaron	Vargas	Ecotrust	Food Equity Manager and working on fellowship program designed to build the capacity of BIPOC food systems leaders to successfully develop & implement regenerative ag projects that promote growing practices rooted in the conservation and restoration of our region's resources.	Regional	avargas@ecotrust.org
Jamese	Kwele	Ecotrust	Co-leading a Fellowship program designed to build the capacity of BIPOC food systems leaders to successfully develop & implement regenerative ag projects that promote growing practices rooted in the conservation and restoration of our region's resources.	Regional	jkwele@ecotrust.org
Mike	Mertens	Ecotrust	Leading research on the potential for Oregon's farmland to sequester C.	Statewide	mike@ecotrust.org

Alice	Morrison	Friends of Family Farmers	The effects of climate change is the number one concern for the farmers in our network. Conduct farmer education and networking programs around pasture management and land access.	Statewide	alice@friendsoffamilyfarmers.org
Stan	Dean	Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District	Chairman of the Board of JSWCD, serves on Advocacy Committee of OACD as well as Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC). Interested in soil carbon sequestration on working lands.	SW Oregon, Statewide	stan.dean@jswcd.org
Meghan	Montgomery	Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District	Agricultural Resource Conservationist, supports agricultural producers in Jackson County with information, technical, financial, and planning assistance for projects that support natural resource stewardship.	SW Oregon	Meghan.Montgomery@jswcd.org
Eric	Walsh	Nez Perce Tribe	Climate Change Specialist and co-lead on Climate Smart Ag program	Regional	Ericw@nezperce.org
Stefanie	Krantz	Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Division	Climate Change Coordinator and co-lead on Climate Smart Ag program	Regional	StefanieK@nezperce.org
Judith	Callens	ODA	working on climate change mitigation/adaptation efforts on behalf of ODA	Statewide	jcallens@oda.state.or.us
Joe	Klein	OR NRCS	Soil conservationist	Eastern Oregon	joe.kline@usda.gov

Cory	Owens	OR NRCS	co-lead Oregon NRCS's efforts to engage farmers, ranchers, and foresters in understanding how soils function to apply conservation practices that optimize soil health in our working land ecosystems.	Statewide	cory.owens@usda.gov
Stephanie	Payne	OR NRCS	Currently working on CIS addressing climate resiliency through organic production systems.	High Desert and Deschutes Basins	Stephanie.Payne@usda.gov
Nick	Sirovatka	OR NRCS	agronomist and part of soil health committee	Eastern Oregon	nick.sirovatka@usda.gov
Stacey	Cooper	OR NRCS*	provide trainings for no till/permanent bed systems for small diverse farms	Willamette Valley	stacey.cooper@usda.gov
Megan	Kemple	OrCAN	Co-Director, Director of Policy Advocacy, Development and Operations	Statewide	megan@oregonclimateag.org
Dominica	Navarro	OrCAN	Coordinator	Statewide	dominica@oregonclimateag.org
Ashley	Rood	OrCAN	Co-Director, Director of Programs and Communications	Statewide	ashley@oregonclimateag.org
Jan	Lee	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts**	Executive Director interested in supporting soil carbon sequestration on working lands, policy focused	Statewide	jan.lee@oacd.org
Karen	Lewotsky	Oregon Environmental Council	Working with OEC climate program staff to inform our positions regarding climate change resilience, adaptation, and mitigation. Rural Partnerships and Water Policy Director.	Statewide	karenl@oeconline.org
Amy	Wong	Oregon Organic Coalition	Director	Statewide	amy@oregonorganiccoalition.org

Jessica	Luhning	Organic Valley	Luhning served as Project Director for the California Carbon Farm Planning Pilot and is currently leading the development of the co-op's Climate Action Plan.	National	jessica.luhning@organicvalley.coop
Kate	Lajtha	OSU	Biogeochemist studying nutrient cycling in natural and human-disturbed ecosystems, and soil organic matter dynamics	Regional/International	Kate.Lajtha@oregonstate.edu
Chrissy	Lucas-Woodruff	OSU	Groundwater education & protection in ~5 Willamette Valley counties, plus wells/septic in Jackson; work w/many rural landowners.	5 Willamette Valley counties, Statewide support for Small Farms Program	Chrissy.Lucas@oregonstate.edu
Scott	Lukas	OSU	Irrigation management	Hermiston	scott.lukas@oregonstate.edu
Shayan	Ghajar	OSU	low-input sustainable pasture and forage management in Oregon	Statewide	shayan.ghajar@oregonstate.edu
Teagan	Moran	OSU	conducts education and outreach for the Center for Small Farms, passionate about local food systems and equity.	Bento, Lane, and Linn counties	teagan.moran@oregonstate.edu
Nik	Wiman	OSU	focus is hazelnut orchards, sustainability	Willamette Valley	Nik.Wiman@oregonstate.edu
Nick	Andrews	OSU	Organic specialty crops, research on cover crop and soil health	Statewide	nick.andrews@oregonstate.edu
Allan	Branscomb	OSU	Research, policy advocacy, and stakeholder engagement in support of regenerative agriculture and renewable energy.	NW regional	allan.branscomb@oregonstate.edu

Fara	Brummer	OSU	cover crops in arid systems, grazing and cover crops	Lake County / south central Oregon	fara.brummer@oregonstate.edu
Kristine	Buckland	OSU	organic vegetable and small grain systems. She has experience implementing management strategies such as inter-cropping, trap cropping, crop rotations, as well as the timing and amount of diverse nitrogen input sources	Willamette Valley	kristine.buckland@oregonstate.edu
James	Cassidy	OSU	Senior Instructor Soil Science & Sustainable/Organic Agriculture.	Statewide	james.cassidy@oregonstate.edu
Amy	Garrett	OSU	Dry Farming, adapting to water scarcity/uncertainty	South Valley, Statewide	Amy.Garrett@oregonstate.edu
Hannah	Gosnell	OSU	agricultural landscape change, rural sustainability, and land and water conservation from a social-ecological systems perspective.	Regional / International	Hannah.Gosnell@oregonstate.edu
Lauren	Gwin	OSU	Associate Director, Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems, co-founder and Leadership Team member for the Oregon Community Food Systems Network.	Statewide	Lauren.Gwin@oregonstate.edu
Chad	Higgins	OSU	Agrovoltaics and farmer led learning networks	Statewide	Chad.Higgins@oregonstate.edu
Markus	Kleber	OSU	soil scientist, work w/potato farmers in Eastern Oregon	statewide	Markus.Kleber@oregonstate.edu

Heidi	Noordijk	OSU	Provides support for mixed vegetable small farms, interested in cover cropping and pollinator habitat, energy use and water conservation in packing houses, equity is a priority in her work	North Willamette Research and Extension Center	Heidi.Noordijk@oregonstate.edu
Maud	Powell	OSU	providing trainings on drought resilience, soil health, irrigation strategies. Focus on is specialty seed crops, particularly regionally adapted varieties that do well in hotter climates. WSARE Oregon PDP coordinator.	SW Oregon	Maud.Powell@oregonstate.edu
Ruijun	Qin	OSU	field crop agronomy and soil/nutrient/water management of high value irrigated crops (including potato, wheat, field corn, alfalfa, grass seed, peppermint, and other crops)	Umatilla and Morrow	Ruijun.Qin@oregonstate.edu
Rodrigo	Ruiz Corona	OSU	Garden education for adults & youth	Clackamas & Multnomah	rodrigo.corona@oregonstate.edu
Patty	Skinkis	OSU	Conducting research on related resilience topics for vineyards. Expertise is in viticulture.	Willamette Valley, Outreach is statewide	patricia.skinkis@oregonstate.edu
Christy	Tanner	OSU	training on soil health	Linn, Benton and Lane counties	christy.tanner@oregonstate.edu
Ashley	Thompson	OSU	Soil health and compost for mineral nutrition	Wasco/Hood River	ashley.thompson@oregonstate.edu
Abigail	Tomasek	OSU	Extension Soil Water Quality Specialist	Statewide	abigail.tomasek@oregonstate.edu
Betsy	Verhoeven	OSU	soil health, carbon sequestration, carbon markets	Willamette Valley	betsy.verhoeven@oregonstate.edu
Maria	Zamora Re	OSU	Irrigation management	Statewide	maria.zamorare@oregonstate.edu

Stephen	Machado	OSU & Soil Health Institute	Professor of Crop Physiology/Agronomy at the Oregon State University (OSU) Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center (CBARC) located near Pendleton, east of the Cascades. On the Science Advisory Committee of the Soil Health Institute	Eastern Oregon	stephen.machado@oregonstate.edu
Jennifer	Zeitler	Our Family Farms	2020-2021 WSARE project on farming for climate resilience	SW Oregon	contact@ourfamilyfarms.org
Tao	Orion	Resilience Permaculture Design	small family run company offering site design and consulting services for more resilient	Regional	resiliencepermaculture@gmail.com
Matt	Gordon	Rogue Farm Corps	Education program director, interested in supporting education for beginning farmers on regenerative agriculture.	Statewide	matt@roguefarmcorps.org
Geoffrey	Van	Rogue Farm Corps	Changing Hands program director, interested in supporting equitable land transfer to the next generation. Also a student of Elaine Ingham's Soil Food Web School.	Statewide	geoffrey@roguefarmcorps.org
Abigail	Singer	Rogue Farm Corps	Executive Director	Statewide	abigail@roguefarmcorps.org
Bridget	Callahan	Sustainable Northwest	Piloting an electric tractor project in Oregon. Also working on rural electrification in Oregon	Statewide	bcallahan@sustainablenorthwest.org
Benjamin	Dair Rothfuss	Sustainable Northwest	Partnering with the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) to pilot soil carbon payments for ranchers in eastern and S Oregon.	Statewide	bdair@sustainablenorthwest.org

Kelley	Delpit	Sustainable Northwest	Partnering with the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) to pilot soil carbon payments for ranchers in eastern and S Oregon. Providing education and outreach to ranchers in the Klamath Basin on drought resilience	Statewide	kdelpit@sustainablenorthwest.org
Dylan	Kruse	Sustainable Northwest	Sustainable Northwest partners with rural communities across the region to develop solutions to natural resource challenges.	Statewide	dkruse@sustainablenorthwest.org
Rose	Graves	The Nature Conservancy	Studying natural climate solutions, or the ways that natural and working lands can help mitigate climate change, in Oregon.	Statewide	rose.graves@tnc.org
Ryan	Huago	The Nature Conservancy	Opportunities to pursue "natural climate solutions" are one of our top priorities. We are interested in any and all intersections between conservation and climate mitigation.	Statewide	rhuago@tnc.org
Jocelyn	Bridson	Tillamook County Creamery Association	Work for a private dairy cooperative that is interested in GHGs and dairy, both on the farm and at our production facilities. Tillamook reports GHGs, is looking for carbon offset credit potential. Bridson is the former Chair of CDFA's Science Advisory Panel.	Regional	JBridson@tillamook.com
Nicole	Ruggiero	Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District	Habitat Conservation Specialist works with farmers, rural residents, and community partners to implement conservation practices throughout rural Washington County.	Washington County	Nicole.Ruggiero@tualatinswcd.org

Lauren	Hallett	U of O	research on cover crops and pest management in hazelnuts, and compost amendments and grazing practices in relation to soil C and overall soil health	hazelnuts in the Willamette Valley, eastern Oregon	hallett@uoregon.edu
Lucas	Silva	U of O	Focus on Natural Climate Solutions	Regional	lucascsilva@gmail.com
Jennifer	Moore	USDA ARS	Research Soil scientist	Statewide	Jennifer.Moore@usda.gov
Anna	Maher	USDA NW Climate Hub	rangeland management and climate change impacts	Regional	Anna.Maher@usda.gov
Holly	Prendeville	USDA NW Climate Hub	Deliver science-based, region-specific technologies & practical information that will assist w/climate-informed decision making.	Regional	holly.prendeville@usda.gov
Nicole	Manness	Willamette Partnership	Building the business case for conservation on working lands by demonstrating that conservation-based practices (including those that sequester carbon) help to increase revenue, decrease costs and reduce risk for landowners.	Regional	maness@willamettepartnership.org
Marie	Vicksta	Yamhill SWCD	Carbon farm planning	Yamhill County	left YSWCD in Sept 2021, now wildlife biologist for Grand Ronde Tribe

* find your local NRCS office here: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/contact/local/>

** find your local Soil and Water Conservation District here: <https://www.oacd.org/regions-and-directory-of-districts>