

**Practical Tools Illustrate Climate Change Mitigation on Oregon's Farms & Ranches**  
**A Report from the Oregon Climate and Ag Convening on 06/30/20**

What does a resilient farm economy that mitigates climate change in Oregon look like? What is happening in Oregon to make this vision a reality? On June 30th 2020, **Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network** and **Ecotrust** convened a virtual meeting to begin to answer these questions. The work will require better connecting our research community, policy community and what is happening on the ground for farmers around climate resiliency.

The convening brought together 26 researchers, policy wonks, farm service providers, agency staff, and producer groups from across the state\*. The conversation was focused on practical tools that are being developed to better understand the climate change mitigation potential of agriculture throughout the state.

**American Farmland Trust's Jen Moore-Kucera** shared an introduction to CaRPE, the Carbon reduction Potential Evaluation Tool. It's an interactive mapping tool that illustrates current adoption rates of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Users can evaluate seven cropping system management practices (from cover cropping to mulching and reduced tillage), seven "field border" practices (including riparian plantings, windbreaks, and grassed waterways) and five grazing land management practices. It allows users to quickly visualize, quantify, and generate reports on the potential of GHG emission reductions at the county and state levels. It can help policy makers and land managers prioritize their efforts to optimize climate benefits. The tool should be available to the public by the fall of 2020.<sup>1</sup>

Another important way to look at the potential for greenhouse gas emission reductions on Oregon's working landscapes is by crop type. **Mike Mertens from Ecotrust** shared another 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).

And finally, **Marie Vicksta from Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District** shared a new pilot project to bring the successes of carbon farm planning from California to Oregon. A carbon farm plan looks holistically at on-farm GHG emissions and helps producers prioritize and create a plan for how they can reduce their emissions. Marie shared how these carbon farm plans have helped create unique opportunities for producers, whether that's unlocking new buyers and markets interested in supporting agricultural solutions to climate change or helping cities achieve their climate planning goals.

In these tumultuous times, bringing together a talented group of people focused on how we can implement agricultural solutions to climate change on Oregon farms and ranches provided inspiration and hope. The meeting opened with attendees using two words to describe their work. Through this

---

<sup>1</sup> Update October 2020: CaRPE tool is live. Access the tool [here](#).

simple exercise, we saw that many small, individual projects when stitched together with everyone else's work, made visible an entire constellation of dedicated people uniquely poised to meet the scope and scale of the problems we seek to solve, the possible futures we seek to create

If you're interested in learning more, [here's](#) a link to the recording (access password is: 3H?g3!OX) and a few links that Jen Moore-Kucera shared in her presentation: 1) [Applying Soil Health Management Systems to Reduce Climate and Weather Risks in the Northwest](#). 2) [Principles for High Functioning Soils](#). Attached you should find a PDF of the attendee list which also includes the contact info of folks that were unable to make this meeting.

\*Attendees were from the following organizations: 1000 Friends of Oregon, American Farmland Trust, Black Food Sovereignty Coalition, Ecotrust, Friends of Family Farmers, Natural Resources Conservation Service-Oregon, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Tilth, Organic Valley, Oregon State University Extension, Sustainable Northwest, Tillamook County Creamery Association, The Nature Conservancy, United States Dept. of Agriculture NW Climate Hub and Willamette Partnership, Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District