



Climate Smart Commodities

Grower FAQ's

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to organize questions being posed to the Climate Smart Agriculture team and develop a system for responding to those questions accurately and timely.

What level of commitment is required by the growers?

- 4-year commitment to adopt at least one of the selected practices
- We estimate participation and data collection could take up to 50 hours.
- Participate in at least 2 field days per program. Field days will be held within 1-2 hr driving distance from most grower facilities.
- Collect and submit ALL required data when it's due
- A grower must be able to verify the Climate Smart Practice Selected is new

What types of specialty crops are eligible?

The grant anticipates working with the following crop types. Below is a list of examples

- **Annuals:** Strawberries, tomatoes, carrots, onions, broccoli, kale, specialty greens, sweet potatoes
- **Perennials (Short-Lived):** Blueberries, cane berries
- **Perennials (Long-Lived):** Vineyards, Orchards

Why is the project focused on these crops and practices?

We chose to focus on crops that would be most amenable to Climate Smart Practices

What is the geographic focus?

Primarily, California, Florida, and Mississippi. Growers in neighboring states (GA, LA, AL) may also be recruited. We will consider clusters of growers in other states that would allow for simplified support logistics.

Do participating growers need to have a minimum annual revenue or acreage under management?**Plot size addressed in IFPA FAQ**

- There is no upper/lower limit on annual revenue, but it must be a functional commercial operation, not a hobby farm.
- No limit, at least 1 acre
- Current grower interest responses indicate willing to use between 15–20 acres

What data will the growers need to provide?

Examples of data that will be collected

- Inputs
- Yield
- Soil samples for Carbon Sequestration calculations
- Information to assess ecosystems benefits
- Annual soil samples will be taken by a technician
- Details of how new practices are implemented

How will the data be submitted?

Data will be submitted electronically. The Data Platform is still TBD

What additional data will growers be asked to share?

Additional information growers will be asked to share includes, but is not limited to:

- Pictures of the pilot site
- Visual observations noticed
- Recommendations
- Challenges and successes that can be shared with other growers to avoid duplicative efforts that don't work

How will my data be used?

Data will be:

- Used to evaluate and validate program impact
- Transformed into dashboards once available and given full access to growers
- Saved only for the intended use and additional use of data will require permission

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- Anonymized and aggregated to create AI models that can predict carbon sequestration based on selected practices and crops
- Used to inform future decision making and policy development on the impacts of regenerative agriculture.

USDA confirmed that they take data privacy seriously and will not share or release individualized data.

What climate smart agricultural practices are eligible?

- **Short Season Cover Crops (NRCS practice code [340](#))**
 - Grasses, legumes, forbs planted for seasonal vegetative cover
 - Does *not* replace cash crops
- **Nutrient Management (NRCS practice code [590](#))**
 - Manage rate, source, placement and timing of fertilization and soil amendment application while reducing environmental impacts
- **Residue and Tillage Management (NRCS practices [328](#), [329](#) and [345](#))**
 - Limiting soil disturbance, reduce erosion, improve soil health
 - Conservation crop rotation
- **Alley Cropping (NRCS practice code [311](#))**
 - Trees or shrubs planted in single or multiple rows with cash crops
- **Water Management (NRCS practice code [449](#), [355](#))**
 - Irrigation water management to control volume, frequency, application rate
 - Irrigation system, micro irrigation (Practice code [441](#))
 - Groundwater testing (Practice code [355](#)), only in combination with other practices
 - Grassed waterway (Practice code [412](#)), shaped or graded channel established with suitable vegetation to convey water
 - Drainage water management (Practice code [554](#)) managing drainage of water. Must demonstrate that flooding occurs frequently
 - Filter strip (Practice code [393](#)), a strip of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow
 - Riparian forest buffer (Practice code [391](#))
- **Soil Amendments (biochar, compost, mulches, biologicals)**
 - Soil carbon amendments (Practice code [336](#))
 - Mulching (Practice code [484](#))

What paperwork will need to be completed?

For these practices, paperwork is required for environmental compliance

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- Alley cropping (Practice code [311](#))
- Micro-irrigation (Practice code [441](#))
- Grassed waterway (Practice code [412](#))
- Riparian forest buffer (Practice code [391](#))
- Filter strip (Practice code [393](#))

The additional paperwork required includes:

- FSA Farm field tract maps with GPS coordinates to State and County
- Approximate acreage for the pilot
- [Form CPA-52](#) needs to be filled out prior to contract signing
- Complete an AD-2047 (Customer Data Worksheet to facilitate the collection of customer data for Business Partner Record)
- Certify HELC and WC compliance via Form AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification
- Certify that they are not a foreign person or entity.

What are the financial incentives for growers?

Funding will be customized based on the grower's chosen practice and acreage under climate smart practices.

There are two types of funding:

1. Partial off-set of direct costs
 - Up to \$10,000/year to offset approximately 80% of direct cost of materials, soil testing, equipment, labor, and technical support
2. Cash incentives
 - Will be determined based on acreage committed, practice selected, percentage of total acreage committed to a practice

Can or will IFPA share project progress and resources, specifically on Climate Smart/Regen ag definitions, soil health metrics, and other metrics with other associations?

- This is to avoid duplicative efforts especially with shared association members.
- Grower data (individual or grouped) will not be shared with other projects or associations

When will we know if we are chosen to participate in the first cohort of 20 and when will the process begin for the second cohort of 60 growers?

There will be rolling deadlines, and it is important that growers express interest using this QR Code. We will tailor communications to those who have expressed interest using this link



When will we meet with the Measure to Improve ag advisor Kyle Cosgrove?

This will depend on the contract process between IFPA and the Growers
See Onboarding Process For Growers document

If you are a large producer of a particular commodity, and you are the only grower of that commodity in the data set, it will be obvious who that grower is. How can this anonymization work for big growers, as well as small ones?

If there are no other growers of this commodity in the area, the grower will receive back only own data. For the modeling purposes, data will be uploaded in the COMET tool (where thousands of growers are currently uploading similar data sets via 140 funded projects), and the data – once transformed by COMET – does not have identifiable location tags