



## **CARBON FARM PLANNING APPLICATION**

**Due by May 31, 2016**

The landowner/lessee completing this application wishes to complete a Carbon Farm Plan (CFP). A CFP is designed to identify practices that would allow agricultural operations to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These practices would provide multiple benefits for climate change resiliency, by reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels while improving soil health, water holding capacity, and crop and forage production. Practices may also promote water conservation and reduce irrigation needs, reduce stream withdrawals and thereby enhancing water quality and instream habitat. Finally, practices such as hedgerows and windbreaks work to both sequester CO<sub>2</sub> while enhancing on-farm wildlife and pollinator habitat.

Because the planning and quantification tools are currently in place for completing CFPs for rangelands, they will be the focus of Gold Ridge RCDs first two plans. However, planning templates will be finalized this year for other applications, such as orchards, vineyards and forestry. Therefore, all interested agricultural producers should submit an application, as your applications will be kept on file for later selections as planning templates are completed.

Carbon Farm Plans for rangeland properties may include:

- Land use description
- Soils and resources map
- Grazing/ranch management plan
- List of Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) practice recommendations
- List and quantification of current carbon beneficial practices
- Estimated outcomes (carbon capture and greenhouse gas reduction)
- Monitoring plans

The application process is competitive, therefore the information provided below will be used by a selection committee to rank and score applications. The selection committee is committed to supporting landowners who have demonstrated a land stewardship ethic. The selection of your site is a commitment by the Gold Ridge RCD and its partners to plan for the implementation of carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reductions and climate adaptation conservation practices on your farm. Selected landowners are expected to implement their carbon farm plans as funding opportunities become available. The Gold Ridge RCD and its partners are committed to supporting plan implementation as funding allows.

If you would like assistance with completing your application, please contact Gold Ridge RCD staff.

### **Selection Process**

The CFP site selection process is divided into 3 *phases* – Phase 1 is the qualifying round, Phase 2 is the scoring round and Phase 3 is the selection round. Qualifying, Scoring, and Selection *are based on*



*the information you provide in this application (see phase 2 – Scoring Questions).* Carbon Farms ranking highest in the scoring round will be selected in the order in which they are rated. In case of a tie, the scoring round will be repeated for the tying farms. Please submit an application *only* if you answer “yes” to the following questions:

**Phase 1: Qualifying Questions (check box if you agree to these terms)**

- Are you willing to participate as an engaged partner in the development of a CFP? The rancher must actively engage with the RCD, NRCS, Carbon Cycle Institute, and/or other partners and consultants in the CFP process; participate in site visits, attend periodic meetings, be responsive and available, and provide relevant information as needed.
- Are you willing to adhere to a grazing management plan (if applicable) and the maintenance and monitoring of CFP practices as appropriate?
- Are you willing to monitor and maintain the integrity of new management practices for 10 years or more (for contracts of permanence?)
- Are you located within the Gold Ridge Conservation District boundaries (including the Marin portion of the Estero Americano Watershed)? <http://www.goldridgercd.org/watersheds.html>

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| <p><b>LANDOWNER</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Mailing Address: _____</p>  |
| <p><b>FARM/RANCH INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Farm/Ranch name: _____</p> <p>Site address: _____</p> <p>Operation Type: _____ Livestock (type,#): _____</p> <p>Total Acreage: _____ APN(s): _____</p> <p>Lessee: _____</p> <p>Lessee contact info: _____</p> |



**Phase 2: Scoring Round (PLEASE ATTACH RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS BELOW).** RCD may follow up to clarify or get further information.

**RANCH GOALS & OPERATIONS:**

1. Describe your **long-range plans** for your farm, including any plans to increase agricultural productivity and or diversification (examples may include direct marketing, leases, dairying or cheese production, etc.) Do you **intend to add or increase acreage** for farming (livestock, poultry production, row crops, orchards or vineyards, row crops, etc.)? Is your operation EQIP eligible? Do you own the land, or have a long-term lease? How many years?

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2. Describe your **ranch/dairy or farm operations**, (examples may include: Year-round or rotational grazing, cow-calf, fall calving, organic dairy, silage production, laying hens, seasonal grazing of dairy replacement heifers, crop type, tillage practices)?

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**PARTNERS:**

3. Have you worked with any of the following **agencies/organizations** (Natural Resource Service (NRCS), Sonoma Land Trust (SLT), Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), Gold Ridge RCD, University California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), and in what capacity (*i.e. ranch tours, professional advice, participation in agency programs*): Check the applicable.

- Participated in RCD projects
- Past NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract
- Current NRCS EQIP contract
- Intending to apply for NRCS EQIP funding
- Agricultural Conservation Easement
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If you checked a box, please list any written evaluations or plans for your ranch or farm that have been prepared in partnership with these agencies/organizations or consultants (*i.e. Conservation Plan, Grazing Plan, Nutrient Management Plan, Biological Study, Organic Systems Plan, Resource Assessment, or Rangeland Evaluation*) Please include the year each was completed and whether plans can be shared with the Gold Ridge RCD and its partners.

- NRCS If yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Conservation Easement If yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- RCD If yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- UCCE If yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Consultants or Others and in what capacity \_\_\_\_\_



**CARBON FARMING INTEREST:** (check all that apply)

- soil quality, increase organic matter, etc.
- water quality, sediment/pathogen reduction etc.
- water development, increase water holding capacity, water conservation, etc.
- air quality, carbon sequestration, GHG reduction, climate adaptation
- wildlife enhancement for fish, birds, mammals and amphibians.

4. Why are you interested in Carbon Farm Planning? (For example, Climate change mitigation, drought resilience, wildlife habitat, participation in carbon markets, etc.) Please explain. For example if your interest is wildlife enhancement, please give an overview of the type of conservation practices that you would like to develop (*including wildlife habitat, creeks, riparian and wetland habitat, native vegetation, common and unusual plants and animals, etc.*) Add any additional information you believe would be helpful to the Gold Ridge RCD in the selection of your Farm or Ranch for Carbon Farm plan development. (please use extra pages if needed)

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Landowner Request for Grant Funding from Gold Ridge RCD

I understand that the initial evaluation of my property by the Gold Ridge RCD is based upon the information submitted with my application, current use, and configuration of my property, as well as an initial site visit by the selection team.

Landowner Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Lessee Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return before May 31, 2016 by email, mail or in person:**

Gold Ridge RCD  
c/o: Jason Hoorn  
2776 Sullivan Rd  
Sebastopol, CA 95472  
[Jason@goldridgercd.org](mailto:Jason@goldridgercd.org)

Gold Ridge RCD is also developing LandSmart plans and Water Conservation Plans.

LandSmart Plans are prepared with you and are geared to meet your needs. LandSmart Plans describe the natural and agricultural resources of your property, document the practices that you use to protect natural resources, identify opportunities to maintain or improve the quality of natural resources on your property, and prioritize management practices according to your needs, goals, and timelines.

Water Conservation Plans identify opportunities to improve water use efficiency and your water security. Recommendations outlined in the plan are specific to your property and result from a detailed assessment of your water needs.

If you are interested in applying for a LandSmart Plan or Water Conservation Plan, please check the appropriate box below.

I am interested in a LandSmart Plan

I am interested in a Water Conservation Plan