



# ORGANIC VALLEY CARBON INSETTING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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# OVERVIEW

## OV Overview

### Program Overview

- Goals and objectives
- USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities

### Eligible Practices

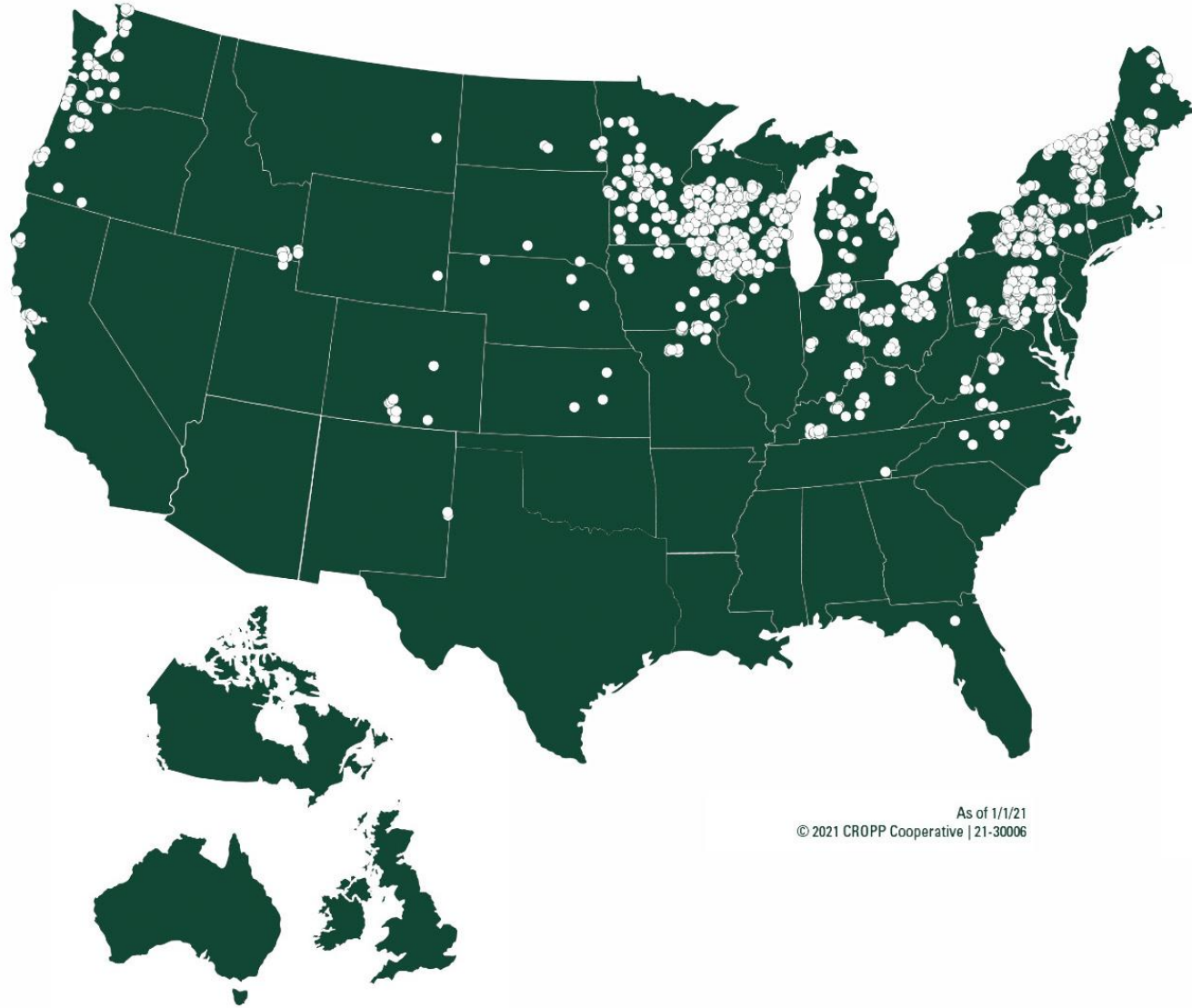
- Agroforestry
- Manure Management
- Solar

## Enrollment

## Partners

## Q&A





As of 1/1/21  
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3 INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

over   
**1,600**  
**COOPERATIVE  
FAMILY FARMS**



# ORGANIC VALLEY'S PATH TOWARD CARBON NEUTRALITY FROM FARM TO RETAIL



LOWER-THAN-AVERAGE  
FARM CARBON FOOTPRINT

**RENEWABLY  
POWERED  
OWNED  
FACILITIES**



**15%**  
REDUCTION  
*in* **GHG**  
EMISSIONS



**30%**  
REDUCTION  
*in* **GHG**  
EMISSIONS



**CARBON  
NEUTRAL**

**TODAY**

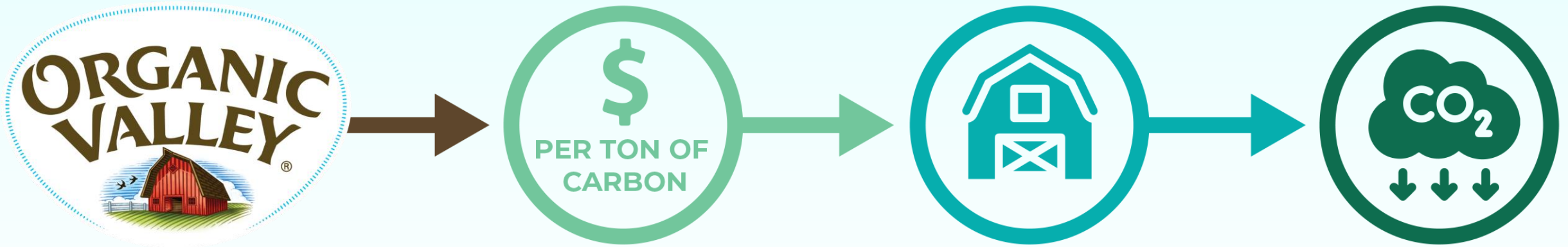
**2030**

**2035**

**2050**



# ORGANIC VALLEY CARBON INSETTING PROGRAM



# **\$25 MILLION**

## **USDA PARTNERSHIPS FOR CLIMATE-SMART COMMODITIES GRANT**



1,200 new climate-smart practices



500+ member-farms (dairy and egg)



5 years

# GOALS

Mitigate GHGs

13,000 Mtonne  
carbon  
reduced/removed  
annually

OV carbon neutral  
by 2050

Maximize  
opportunities for  
carbon  
sequestration

Develop & expand  
markets for climate  
smart commodities



# OBJECTIVES



1,170 CSAF practices on 500 certified organic dairy and egg farms impacting 130,600 acres

100 farmers/year for an average of 234 CSAF practices/year over 5-year grant term (# CSAF practices over grant term: 1170)

Eligible Dairy and Egg Farms (n=1,530), serve total 500 including 480 small/underserved

Total carbon abatement: 64,950 metric tons (within grant period)





# CLIMATE-SMART PRACTICES ELIGIBLE



## Current



Manure  
Management



Solar Energy



Agroforestry

## Future



Compost  
Application



Grazing  
Enhancements



Cropland  
Improvements



Enteric Feed  
Supplementation



# SILVOPASTURE



Integration of trees and grazing livestock operations on the same land.

Benefits: shade (reduces heat stress), weather protection, timber production, increased productivity overall.

Photo: Lancaster Ag



# ALLEY CROPPING

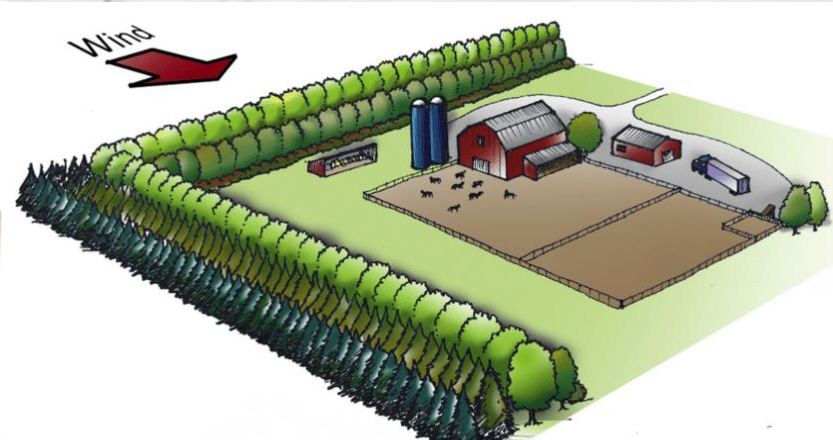
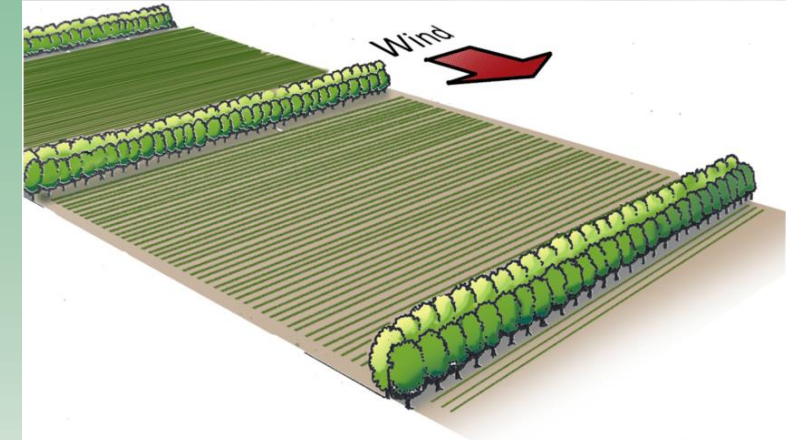
Planting rows of trees to create alleys where crops are grown.

Benefits: increased air and soil moisture, increased economic diversity and overall farm yield, improved wildlife habitat

Photo: Zach Spangler



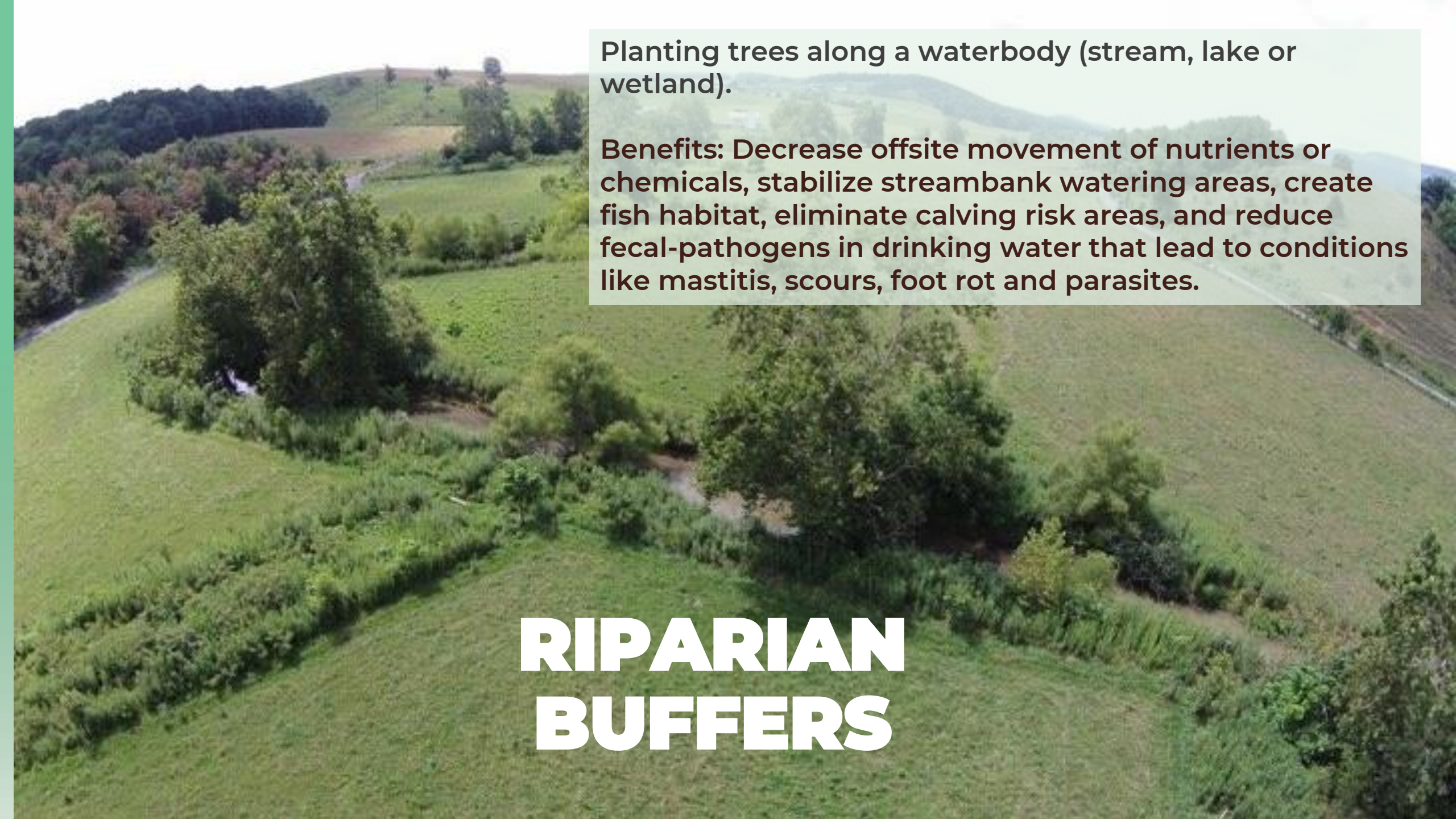
# WINDBREAKS



Establishing rows of densely planted trees in pasture or cropland to achieve the farmer's objective.

Benefits: shade, control wind erosion, control moisture, reduce animal stress, serve as a barrier to dust, odor, and pesticide drift.



An aerial photograph showing a lush green landscape with a stream winding through it. The stream is bordered by a dense line of trees and shrubs, which is the riparian buffer. The surrounding area is a mix of green grass and some brownish patches, possibly indicating a field or a different type of vegetation. The background shows rolling hills under a clear sky.

Planting trees along a waterbody (stream, lake or wetland).

**Benefits:** Decrease offsite movement of nutrients or chemicals, stabilize streambank watering areas, create fish habitat, eliminate calving risk areas, and reduce fecal-pathogens in drinking water that lead to conditions like mastitis, scours, foot rot and parasites.

# **RIPARIAN BUFFERS**



# **ON-FARM SOLAR**

## **(OFF-GRID OR GRID CONNECTED)**

Grid connected and off grid solar electric (solar photovoltaic or 'PV') systems produce electricity for the farm by converting sunlight into electricity.

**Benefits:** Reduced monthly electricity bills or diesel usage, shade for animals (if ground mounted), reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Photo: Organic Valley



# SOLID LIQUID SEPARATION

Manure solids and other materials (such as bedding) are removed from the bulk manure using a screen, screw press, or other device before the liquid portion enters an existing pit or lagoon.

Benefits: Reduced odor, easier to handle, nutrients can be used more flexibly, the separated solids more valuable, and reduced emissions.

Photo: Iowa State



# MANURE COMPOSTING



Manure is treated in a controlled, oxygen rich environment at high temperatures where microorganisms breakdown and transform the manure. Additional organic materials may be co-composted to achieve the right nutrient balance.

Benefits: Ease handling by reducing volume, reduced nutrient run-off, valuable soil amendment created, reduce odor, pest, and weed seed pressure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, fix carbon

Photo: Midwest Biosystems



# ENROLLMENT STEP-BY-STEP

1. Scope the project and ensure eligibility with OV staff
2. Plan and design with a TSP
3. Budget
4. Develop carbon model with OV staff

- Carbon payments from OV upfront in Y1, then annually
- Federal carbon payments one-time, \$500/Mtonne
- Support with grant cost-share applications

Eligible Practice Plan

Practice Quantified (forecast based)

Farmer Contract Signed

Practice Installed & Confirmed

Farmer Paid

Practice Monitored and Measured

Farmer Paid Every Year of Contract Term





# TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS (TSPs)



Carissa Stein  
Consulting



& MORE!





## **VALIDATION & VERIFICATION PARTNERS**

- Good Company
- SustainCERT
- Yard Stick
- Working Trees

## **RESULTS, EDUCATION, & OUTREACH PARTNERS**

- American Farmland Trust
- Organic Trade Association
- The Organic Center



## HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

If you're working with an **OV farmer** who may be interested, please encourage them to **connect by calling our Farmer Hotline: 1-888-809-9297.**

Our USDA funding for OV CIP can be **combined with state, local, and nonprofit funding and cost-share opportunities.** **Please get in touch about any upcoming opportunities** so that we can help our farmers implement carbon reduction and removal practices!

# Questions?

Contact:  
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