Fibershed
Carbon Ranch Planning
Accomplishments, Challenges, & Opportunities
11.2018
1) Overview of Conservation Plan- describing it’s connection to Carbon Farm Planning

2) Details of water development & subsequent grazing plan

3) Share details on how land is protected and enhanced by existing cost share programs

4) Partnerships and TSP to support Carbon Farming (experiences with RCDs to report on?)
Creating a Carbon farm plan

• Explore the Ranch with a Carbon Lens!
  – Tools:
    • Ranch Maps
    • Google Earth
    • Web Soil Survey
    • Ground Truth
    • GIS
    • COMET- Planner
    • Baseline Soil Sampling

• CONSERVATION PLANNING through a carbon lens:
  • Increase terrestrial carbon
  • Reduce GHG emissions
  • Quantify carbon benefits of conservation practices relative to current condition
Creating a Carbon Farm Plan

Prioritize options into a working Plan

Compatibility of practices with:

- Farmers/Ranchers/Landowners priorities
- Crop or Livestock production
- Farm/Ranch ecology – habitat, wildlife, etc.
- Quantitative impacts of practices
- Costs and Funding Mechanisms

Goal is IMPLEMENTATION
NRCS: EQIP dollars for best management practices

Marin RCD: Design and engineer plans funded through Conserving Our Watersheds (COW) program to expedite project

Example: NRCS Conservation Plan Map “Conservation Action Plan”
Local Working Group
Stewardship Collaboration Success

- Conserving Our Watershed (COW)
  - Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD)
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
  - MALT
- STRAW - Point Blue Conservation Science
- UC Cooperative Extension
- CDFA Healthy Soils and Manure mgmt.
Partnerships in action

Marin RCD, MALT, & NRCS
“Conserving our Watersheds” (COW) project to improve off stream livestock water access, grazing distribution, and improved management capabilities.
Partnerships in action
• Redeveloped spring with added storage tank for an upgraded reliable water source on the ranch with only a 10% cost to the landowner. Pond protected.
2006

MRCD, NRCS, MALT & Landowner all contribute to water, fence, planting. Driven by MALT CCA, sound management & Resilient landscape.
Riparian Exclusion Fencing & CCA’s; Facilitating Collaboration
Potential SAP Growth and Diversification

- Encourage enrollment in NRCS/MRCD programs (CSP program)
- More fish & wildlife habitat enhancement projects
- Continued education and outreach on Invasive species
- More climate-beneficial practices (next slide)

- Explore on-ranch/dairy renewable energy opportunities
  - Encourage on-ranch/Dairy/Farm Carbon Farm Plans
  - Soil Agro-ecology - Education on soil health
USDA-NRCS GHG Ranking Tool
Climate Beneficial Practice List

- Mulching/compost application
- Residue and Tillage Management
- No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
- Anaerobic Digester
- Multi-Story Cropping
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
- Silvopasture Establishment
- Forage and Biomass Planting
- Nutrient (Manure) Management
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Contour Buffer Strips
- Riparian Restoration
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Vegetative Barrier

- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Range Planting
- Herbaceous Wind Barriers
- Critical Area Planting
- Residue and Tillage Management
- Filter Strip
- Grassed Waterway
- Hedgerow Planting
- Wetland Restoration
“Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserved the public interest.” –Aldo Leopold, 1934