CARBON FARM PLANNING

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RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF TEHAMA COUNTY

November 2017

PRODUCERS & THE CARBON FRONTIER

- **Patagonia Environmental Grant**
  - Award: Tehama Conservation Fund (TCF)
  - CFP for TC Rancher
- **Carbon Cycle Institute / King Foundation**
  - Award: RCDTC
  - CFP for TC Farmer

IN THE CORRAL

- Project Facilitator: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC)
- Project Support: Tehama Conservation Fund
- Technical Support: USDA's NRCS
  Point Blue Conservation Science
  Carbon Cycle Institute
- Producer: 1 Tehama County Rancher
  1 Tehama County Farmer

AT THE HOME PLACE

TEHAMA CONSERVATION FUND
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF TEHAMA COUNTY

SCORING ROUND
(Respond to the questions below or provide as an attachme

Ranch Operations:

1. Briefly describe your farm or ranch operations. Exa
rotational grazing, cow-calf, fall calving, organic da
grazing, etc.

Ranch Goals:

2. Note your long-range plans for your ranch includin
productivity and or diversification. Examples may i
production, etc.

Do you intend to add or increase acreage for farmi
orchards or vineyards, row crops, etc.)?

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RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF TEHAMA COUNTY

QUALIFYING QUESTIONS
(Select yes or no)

1. Yes / No Is the parcel(s) offered under this application

Select the current land use(s) on this parcel(s
the APNs :

□ Irrigated pasture □ Rangeland □ Orc

2. Yes / No Is the parcel(s) offered under this application
If yes, check all that apply

NRCS:
☐ Conservation Stewardship Pro
☐ Environmental Quality Inventi
☐ Healthy Forest Reserve Progra
☐ Agriculture Conservation Ease
☐ Wetland Reserve Easement

Other:
☐ Please describe:

3. Yes / No Are you willing to participate as an engaged p

The producer must actively engage with proje
Conservation Fund and project partners: the
Blue Conservation Services, and other associa
participate in partner site visits, attend perio
available, and provide relevant information a

4. Yes / No Are ALL shared property interests committed

5. Yes / No Are you willing to pursue funding opportuniti
identified in the CFP?

6. Yes / No Are you willing to serve as a demonstration s
practices and program promotion?

Carbon Farm Plan (CFP) Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant:	*First Name* *MI* *Last Name*	
	☐ Landowner ☐ Lessee	
	Owner Name:	
	Phone:	
Mailing Address (Street, City, State, ZIP Code):		
Phone(s):	Cell: ( )	Home: ( )
	Business: ( )	Other: ( )
E-mail:		
Farm/Ranch Name:		
Farm/Ranch Address (Street, City, State, ZIP Code):		
Acre(s) and associated Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (APN):		
	If there is more than one APN under consideration, are the parcels noted above contiguous?	
	Yes / No	

TCF
TEHAMA
CONSERVATION FUND

RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT OF TEHAMA COUNTY

Assistance Available for Ag Producers

Who is eligible? Agricultural producers in Tehama County.

What is provided? Free technical assistance in developing a Carbon Farm Plan for your farm or ranch.

Why should I apply? A Carbon Farm Plan will help you prioritize conservation practices to increase carbon capture, improve soil health, and prepare you for future funding opportunities.

How do I apply? Complete and submit the brief Carbon Farm Plan Application by the due date noted below. The application is available online at www.tehamacountyrcd.org and at the Tehama Conservation Fund / RCD office, location below.

When is the application due? ~~Wednesday, May 24th~~ Monday, June 5th by 5 p.m. PST. Submit to: Tehama Conservation Fund C/O RCD of Tehama County 2 Sutter Street, Suite D Red Bluff, CA 96080 or brin@tehamacountyrcd.org

About Carbon Farming

What is Carbon Farming? Carbon (CO_2) can be stored long-term (decades to centuries or more) in soils in a process called, "Soil Carbon Sequestration." Carbon Farming involves implementing on-farm practices that are known to improve the rate at which plants transfer CO_2 from the atmosphere and convert it to plant material and soil organic matter.

What are the benefits of Carbon Farming? An increase in soil organic matter on a farm or ranch through Carbon Farming allows for improved water holding capacity, water quality and erosion control, fertility and production, pest and invasives control and soil tilth.

Why create a Carbon Farm Plan? A Carbon Farm Plan serves as a guidance document for producers to meet their natural resource management goals while supporting productive lands, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration. It is also a valuable tool to assist the producer in securing funding to implement the Plan.

What is in a Carbon Farm Plan? The Plan identifies and quantifies practices for a farm or ranch to increase carbon sequestration and reduce emissions. As defined by the USDA's NRCS, Carbon Farm practices are a subset of standard agricultural practices that increase plant biomass and build soil organic matter. The Plan features recommended Carbon Farm practices that have the greatest potential for carbon sequestration as calculated by using COMET-Planner and COMET-Farm. The Plan ensures that the Carbon Farm practices compliment the producers short-term and long-term operation plan.

Examples of standard NRCS Conservation Practices featured in a Carbon Farm Plan:


Crop cover


Hedgerows


Herbaceous filter strip

Photo credit: USDA NRCS

SELECTION CRITERIA

***Administrative Use Only**. Applicant is not to complete this section. Scoring: 1 – low, 2 – medium, and 3 – high. Applications with the greatest score will be considered for the CFP opportunity.*

Demonstrated Ability & Potential:	Score (1 – 3)	Notes
1. Is the farm/ranch visible to the public from a public road and/or easily accessible?		
2. Does the Producer have the potential to be an early innovator?		
3. Is the Producer established in the ag community and able to network with other ag groups?		
4. Is this Producer willing to engage with the general public and be a spokesperson for CFP?		
5. Is this Project likely to promote others in the area?		
6. Does the Producer understand the goals and significance of the CFP and carbon market potential?		
7. Is the Producer willing to be an engaged partner?		
8. Does this Project have a high likelihood of success?		

Carbon Sequestration Potential & Management:	Score (1 – 3)	Notes
9. Does the Project offer significant carbon sequestration potential? (20+ acres, or a higher per acre potential)		
10. Can this farm/ranch provide compost or other project resources?		
11. Does the farm/ranch offer a diversity of carbon beneficial practice opportunities?		
12. Is the Project contiguous with existing/potential high quality habitat or a wildlife corridor?		
13. Adjacent land use(s) does not threaten project objectives and long term potential benefits or CO2e permanence?		

TEHAMA CONSERVATION FUND
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF TEHAMA COUNTY

CARBON FARM APPLICATION
SPRING 2017

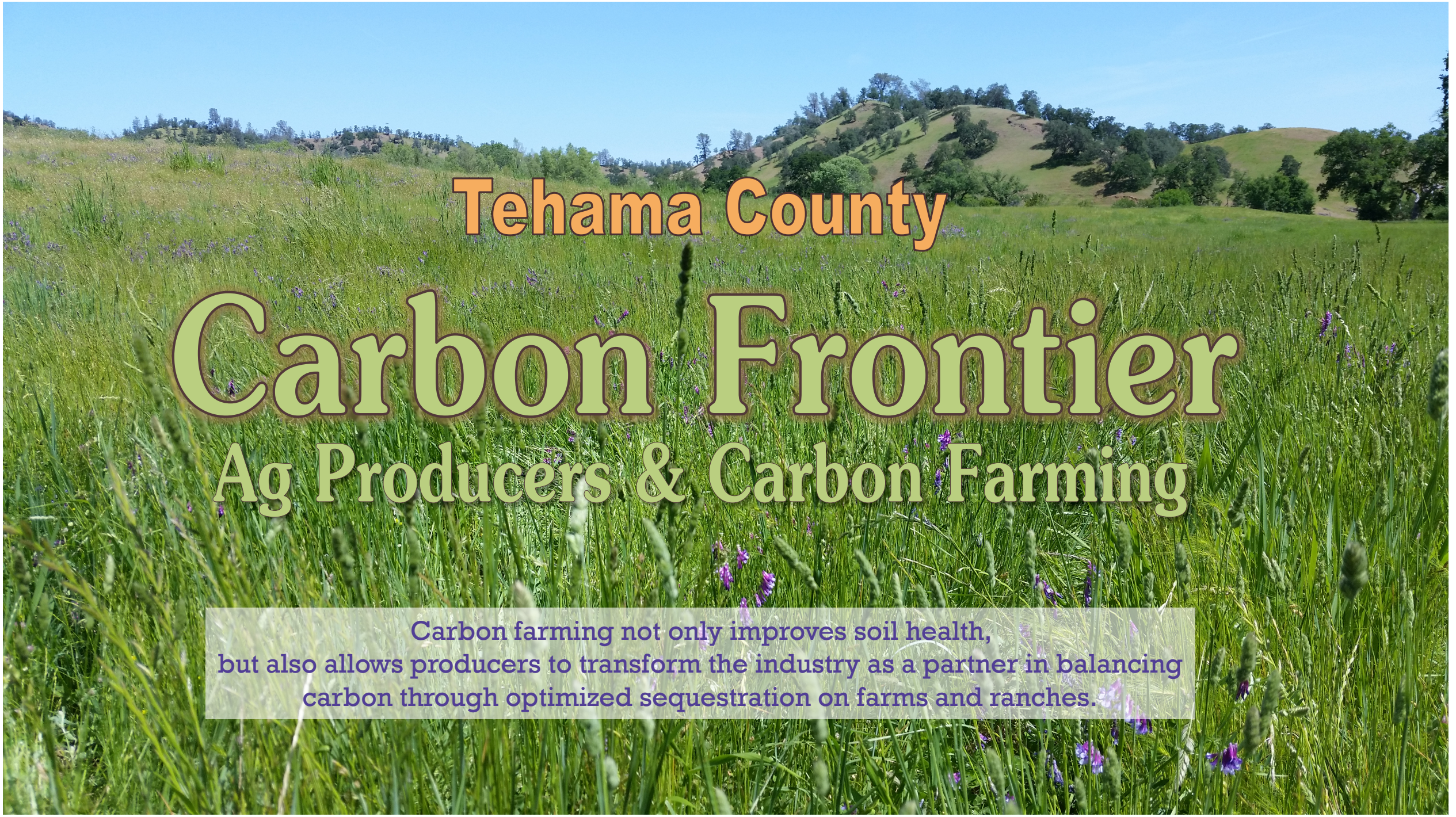
Timing & Funding:	Score (1 – 3)	Notes
14. Is the project financially feasible with available resources?		
15. Does this Project have the potential to attract funding, if needed?		
16. Does the project represent a good value given the program objectives?		
17. Can the project be accomplished within the 2 year timeframe?		
18. Is a compost application site available for immediate implementation?		
Total Score		Maximum Score: 57

AT THE HOME PLACE

RIDING BARE-BACK

Challenges:

- Skepticism
  - Human induced climate change
  - Compost application
- Timing: CDFA's HSI grant funding
  - HSI funding very difficult for rangeland
- Practices
  - Broad range of practices
  - Broad range of land use type
    - Rangeland!


Tehama County
Carbon Frontier
Ag Producers & Carbon Farming
Carbon farming not only improves soil health,
but also allows producers to transform the industry as a partner in balancing
carbon through optimized sequestration on farms and ranches.