



Climate-Mitigating Agricultural Practices

Oregon House Energy & Environment Committee

May 26, 2021



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STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

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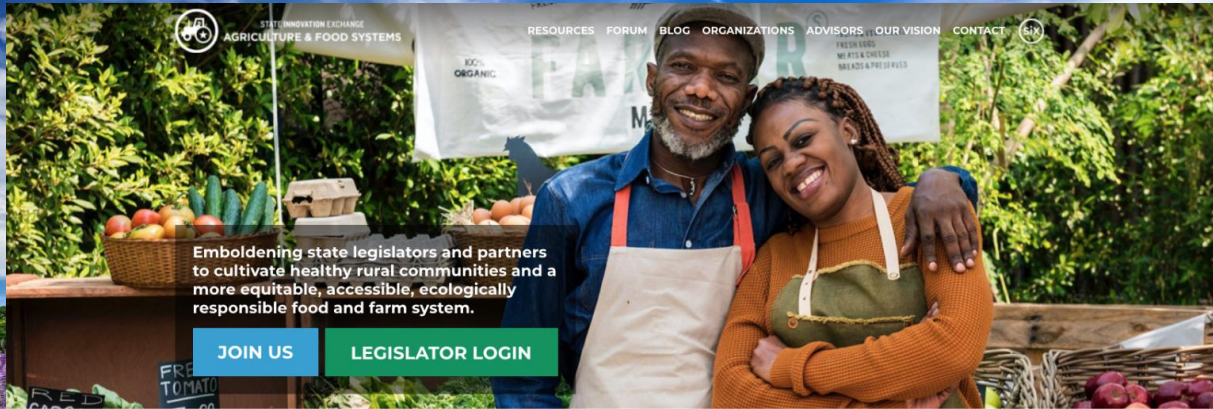
What is NCEL?

- Nationwide network of over 1,000 legislators from all 50 states and both major parties.
- Serves as a connector for legislators to collaborate across the country.
- Your remote environmental staff. NCEL staff provide research, resources, and materials on policy areas of your interest.
- Created by and for state legislators.

To join, visit ncel.net/join. There is no cost or obligation to become a member.



State Innovation Exchange (SiX) - Agriculture & Food Systems



SiX is a National Resource & Strategy Center that works with State Legislators who are interested in working to advance progressive values.

The Agriculture & Food Systems program connects legislators across the country who are interested in working to improve the lives of their constituents through rural, agriculture or food systems policy.



About the Cohort for Rural Opportunity and Prosperity (CROP)

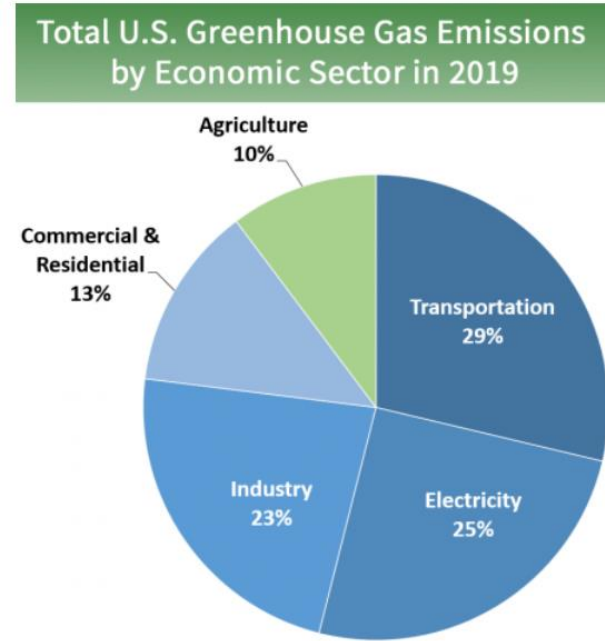
SiX is proud to announce the launch of the Cohort for Rural Opportunity and Prosperity (CROP) that focuses on supporting legislators who are working on policies that promote healthy and thriving rural



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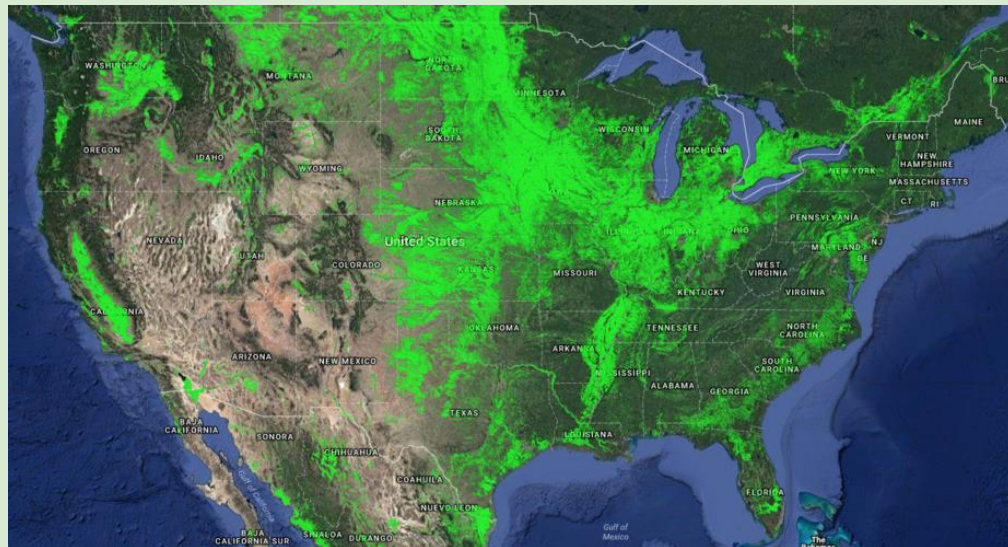
Intersection of Agriculture and Climate

- **Healthy soils practices** can reduce emissions from poor soil management and help sequester carbon.
- **No-till farming, cover cropping, silvopasture, managed grazing, and compost usage** all enhance the natural ability of the land to sequester carbon.
- It is difficult to quantify how much carbon is sequestered in soil. Legislators can address this issue by working with universities to **assess baseline soil carbon concentrations, include a clear accounting standard, and provide technical support to farmers.**



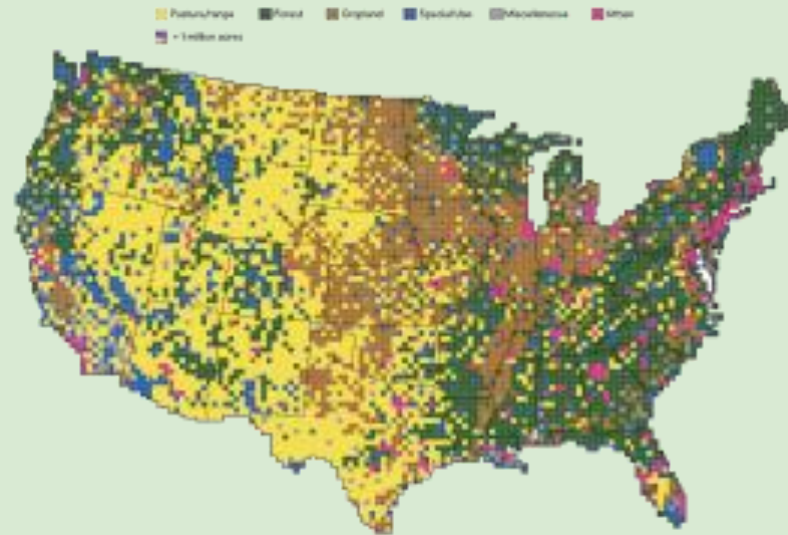
Why Look to Agriculture as a Climate Solution?

US Crop Land



Source: USGS Map or US Croplands

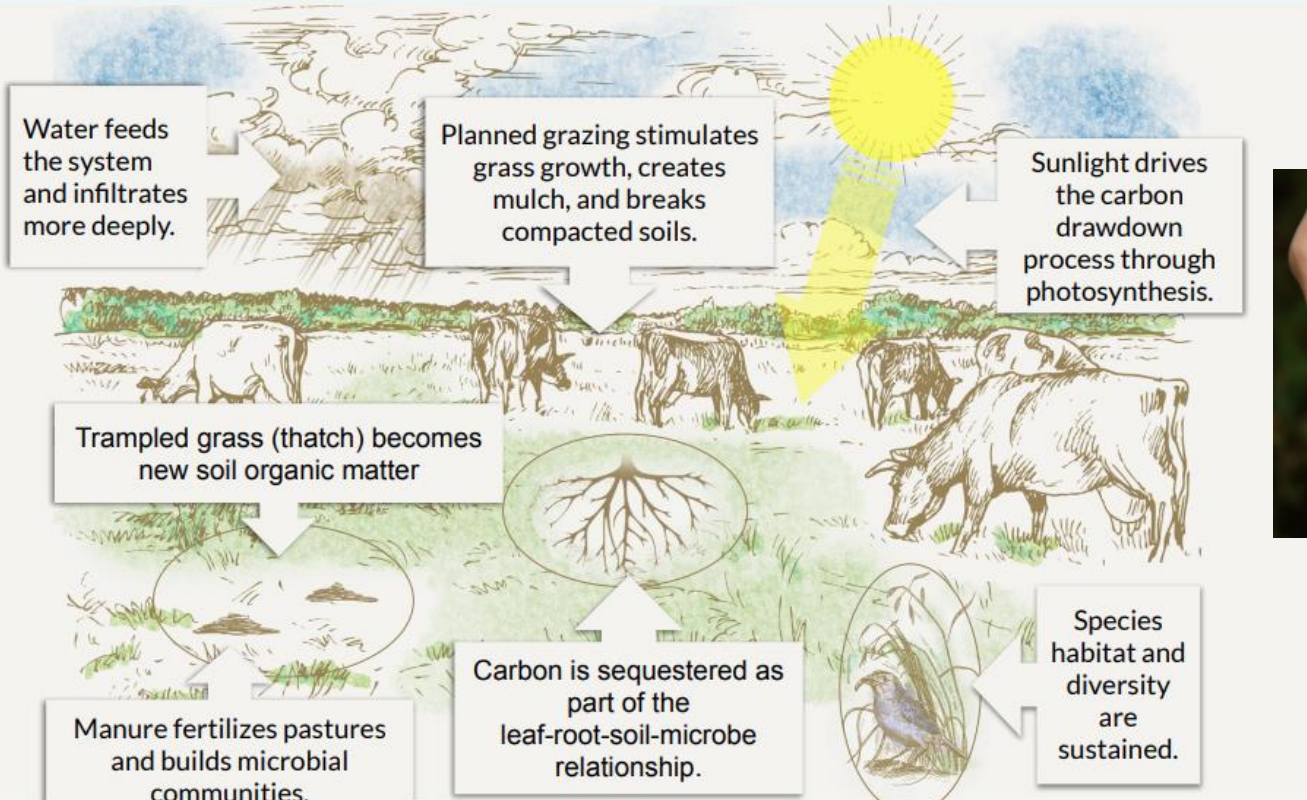
US Range/Pasture Land



Source: TomKat Ranch

Principles of Climate Smart Agriculture

Soil Health: The capacity of the soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that maintains biodiversity and maximizes the provision of multiple ecosystem services in a sustainable way.



Why Now? Oregon's Climate is Increasingly Unpredictable



New York Times- 4/11/2020



Dumped Milk, Smashed Eggs, Plowed Vegetables: Food Waste of the Pandemic

With restaurants, hotels and schools closed, many of the nation's largest farms are destroying millions of pounds of fresh goods that they can no longer sell.

Agriculture Commodity Markets Can be Tenuous

Inputs are Expensive, Water is Scarce

Many Farmers are Looking toward Alternatives



Farmers & Ranchers are Leading the Way



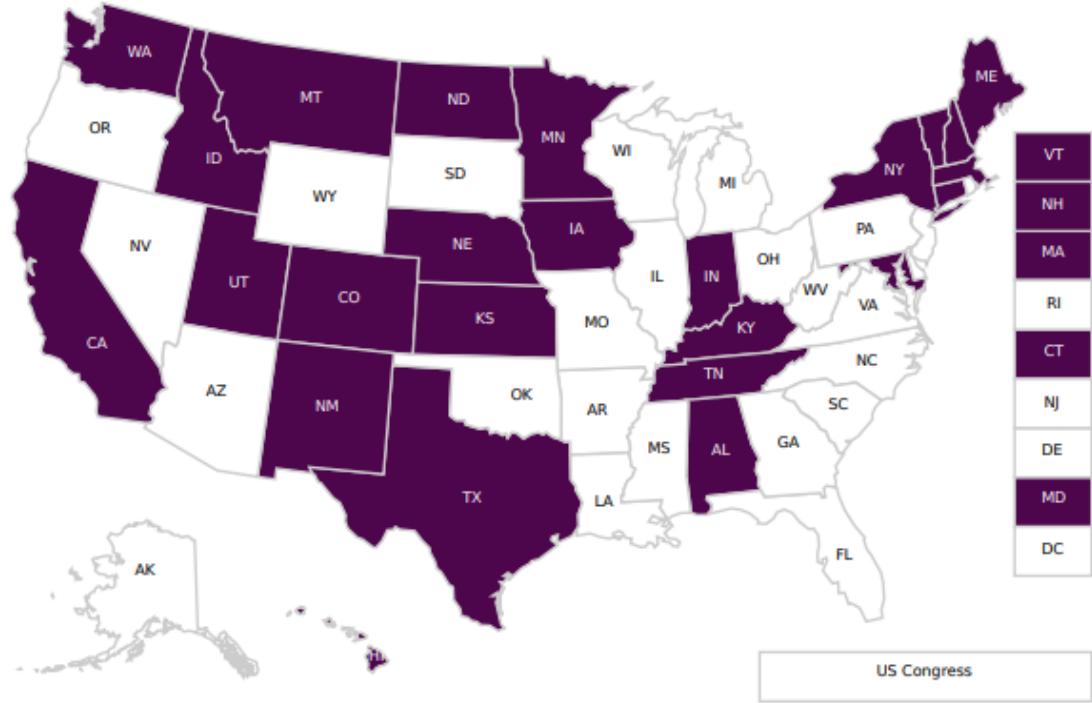
Lessons from other States



Healthy Soil and Carbon Sequestration Legislation

Healthy soil and carbon sequestration bills in state legislatures.

Bills by State



Healthy Soils, Healthy Climate

Hawaii's HB863 appropriates American Rescue Plan funds to support native tree nurseries for the purposes of agroforestry.



Iowa's Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship provides a \$5/acre reduction on crop insurance premiums for planting cover crops.



New Mexico's HB9 sets up a healthy soil tax refund donation option for any tax-paying resident.



Texas' SB1118 created a program to administer technical and cost assistance for landowners who pursue priority conservation measures, including preventing flooding, improving resilience to weather extremes, and sequestering carbon.



Washington's SB5947 created a grant program for farmers who engage in healthy soil practices. The program is supported and administered in partnership with public universities.



Spotlight: Minnesota's HF.701 (2021)

- Sets a goal that 100% of tillable and grazeable acres employ cover crops, perennial crops, no-till, or managed rotational grazing by 2040.
- Would provide direct payments to farmers who implement healthy soil practices, with tiered support.
- The bill includes equity provisions to prioritize socially disadvantaged, small-, and mid-sized farmers.

Rep. Todd Lippert, Minnesota



State Soil Carbon Sequestration

- **Assessment of Land-based Carbon Sequestration**
 - Massachusetts' H5250 and Virginia's SB1374 directed a statewide accounting of carbon in natural and working lands.
- **Carbon Farming**
 - New York's A2042/S4707 would establish a tax credit for farmers who maximize carbon sequestration potential through a carbon farming land management strategy.
- **Voluntary Carbon Markets**
 - Indiana's SB0373 directs the Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources to study and make recommendations for the potential role of the state in a voluntary carbon credit market.

Legislator Words of Wisdom



Chairwoman Donna Lupardo, New York



Chairwoman Dr. Karen McCormick, DVM, Colorado

Contact:

Thank You & Questions

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Further Resources

- The [State Healthy Soil Policy Map](#) is a useful crowdsourced depository of resources and policies
- Environmental Law Institute [article](#) Legal Pathways to Carbon-Neutral Agriculture.
- The USDA's [COMET-Planner](#) evaluates the carbon sequestration potential of farming practices based on location.
- Attend [NCEL's online National Forum](#) on July 29-30 to learn more
- Find resources and information for state legislators looking to position agriculture policy as a climate solution at ag.stateinnovation.org