

Financial Incentives for Ranching

(SEQUESTERING CARBON THROUGH GRASSLAND CONSERVATION)

How Am I Compensated?

- ◆ Ranchers can produce carbon offset credits by following a protocol approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).
- ◆ Carbon offset credits accrued by following the protocol can be sold on the carbon market.
- ◆ Conserving grasslands can earn up to 50 years of offset credit payments.



Image: Climate Action Reserve

How Are My Land and the Environment Improved?

- ◆ Carbon sequestration
- ◆ Reduced soil disturbance
- ◆ Land conservation
- ◆ Increased water retention

Butte County's agricultural lands are rich with high-quality soils and are located in one of the best agricultural areas in the world. Agriculture plays a large role in the County's economy. The SALC Strategy is intended to conserve agricultural land while sequestering carbon, reducing GHG emissions, conserving water, and recharging groundwater.

What Is the "Grassland Conservation" Protocol?

- ◆ The protocol pays farmers to conserve existing rangelands.
- ◆ The Air Resources Board's Compliance Offset Program provides financial incentives for sustainable practices; specifically, practices that reduce GHG emissions or sequester carbon.
- ◆ A carbon offset protocol must be adopted by CARB to be eligible for offset credits.
- ◆ Grassland conservation must meet specific requirements to be eligible for offset credits. When they are met, the offset credits can be sold on the carbon market for profit.

What Farming Practices Are Involved?

- ◆ Avoid conversion of grassland to cropland, preventing potential GHG emissions and continuing to sequester carbon.
- ◆ Grasslands are preserved in their current land use for a 100+ year period.
- ◆ Livestock grazing is allowed. Grazing must be properly managed to prevent overgrazing damage.
- ◆ Compost applications are allowed. Adding compost to rangelands provides additional benefits to the land, such as increased forage.

Grassland conservation may not be appropriate for all agricultural operations. Interested land owners and managers are encouraged to evaluate the practices described in this brochure to determine whether they are feasible and appropriate for their property and operation.



CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS
Cap and Trade Dollars at Work

BUTTE COUNTY

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Strategy



Butte County
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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What Lands and Farming Practices are Eligible?

- ◆ *Lands must be committed to long-term rangeland use, which can include a conservation easement or transfer of property ownership.*
- ◆ *Project area must be demonstrated to be suitable for conversion to cropland. This can be demonstrated through soil quality.*
 - ◇ *See the SALC Mapper to view potentially eligible lands in Butte County <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/Grants/SALC.aspx>*
- ◆ *GHG reductions must be proven to have occurred due to rangeland conservation under this protocol, and not from federal, state, or local regulation.*
- ◆ *Credit or payment stacking through other programs, such as wetland credits or various NRCS programs, may or may not be allowed. See protocol guidelines for additional information.*
<http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/grassland/>
- ◆ *For more information on this protocol visit*
<http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/grassland/>
- ◆ *To set up an account with the registry and get started visit*
<http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/>

For More Information...

- ◆ *Butte County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Strategy: Learn more <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/Grants/SALC.aspx>*
- ◆ *SALC Mapper: See if your property may be eligible for this protocol <http://gis.buttecounty.net/Public/index.html?viewer=SALC>*
- ◆ *California Air Resources Board: Learn more about the Compliance Offset Program <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/offsets/offsets.htm>*
- ◆ *Compost-Planner: Estimate GHG reductions and carbon sequestration here <http://www.compost-planner.com/>*
- ◆ *Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Access useful tools and information <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ca/home/>*

Butte County Department of Development Services

SALC Strategy

7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

Phone: (530) 538-7601

<https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/home.aspx>



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Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Strategy

