



Butte County

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION (SALC) STRATEGY INTRODUCTION



What is the SALC Strategy?

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Strategy was created to conserve agricultural lands in Butte County while achieving four key objectives:

- ◆ *Carbon Sequestration*
- ◆ *Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reductions*
- ◆ *Water Conservation*
- ◆ *Groundwater Recharge*

Sustainable farming and ranching practices not only benefit the environment, but can benefit agricultural producers as well. There are financial incentives available to farmers who switch to sustainable practices. Butte County has identified these incentives and produced a library of information to connect producers to these incentive programs.

Visit <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/Grants/SALC.aspx> for more information on these financial incentive programs or to see if your property may qualify.

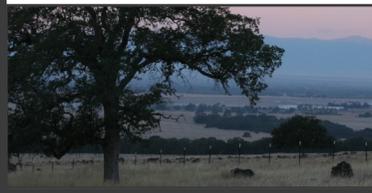
Practices suggested in SALC documents may not be appropriate for all agricultural operations. Interested land owners and managers are encouraged to evaluate the practices described in this brochure to determine whether they are feasible and appropriate for their property and operation.

SALC STRATEGY GOALS

Conserving our Agricultural Lands

Carbon Sequestration

Carbon sequestration locks up GHGs in vegetation and soils so they are not emitted into the atmosphere. Sequestering carbon in the soil has direct benefits: improved soil water holding capacity, reduced soil erosion, increased plant growth, and more. Incentive programs exist to help ranchers implement practices that sequester carbon. Ranchers can receive funding by selling carbon offsets that sequester carbon in their grasslands, which have a carbon holding capacity nearly twice as high as forest lands. See the [Carbon Sequestration PDF](#) for more information.



Water Conservation

Managing water use in irrigation helps reduce impacts on groundwater aquifers. During periods of drought, water conservation is essential. Following these practices during wet periods can help to further prepare for drought. The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) provides grant money to install irrigation systems that reduce GHG emissions and reduce water use. Rice producers can create and sell carbon offsets by reducing standing water. See the [Water Conservation PDF](#) for more information.



Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reductions

GHGs are by-products of many human activities, including agriculture. On a per-acre basis, agriculture produces lower GHG emissions than urban development. However, due to its large land area, agriculture is Butte County's largest GHG emitter. Reducing GHG emissions from agriculture can help the County meet its emissions reduction goals. The State of California operates carbon offset markets that support farmers who want to reduce GHG emissions. See the [GHG Emissions Reductions PDF](#) for more information.



Groundwater Recharge

In order to recharge groundwater, surface water needs to infiltrate the soil. Protecting water permeable agricultural lands can help recharge our aquifers. These aquifers are important to agriculture as producers rely on them for irrigation. Flooding, ponding, and slowing down surface water increases the opportunity for water to infiltrate the soil. There are incentive programs that help landowners reduce water runoff by restoring riparian areas. See the [Groundwater Recharge PDF](#) for more information.



SALC Mapper

Butte County has developed an interactive online map to help agricultural producers connect to information about financial incentives for sustainable farming and to help others understand more about sustainable farming and ranching and the need to conserve agricultural lands. The SALC Mapper is easy to use, and can help you discover which incentive programs your farm or ranch may be eligible for. Anyone may use the tool to find out more information about how SALC Strategy goals can be achieved and about how they relate to agricultural lands in Butte County.

See <http://gis.buttecounty.net/public/index.html?viewer=salc> for more information on the SALC Mapper.

Visit <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/Grants/SALC.aspx> for more information on the SALC Strategy.

Butte County Department of Development Services

SALC Strategy

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