

Nutrient Management

The **USDA Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities Grant** was developed to help a diverse set of farmers and ranchers expand markets for agricultural commodities. Growers will get to choose from one of the six Climate Smart Practices below to trial in their operation with the support of the USDA so these practices can be observed across a variety of settings.

USDA Climate-Smart Practices: Climate Smart Commodities Grant

1. **Nutrient Management**
2. Short Season Cover Crops
3. Residue and Tillage Management
4. Alley Cropping
5. Water Management
6. Soil Amendments

The "**A Vibrant Future**" pilot project is intended to incentivize growers of specialty crops to adopt climate-smart production practices in order to establish a consumer-driven, climate-smart market for fruits and vegetables. The project is funded by the USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Grant.

This informational fact sheet provides a brief overview of the Climate Smart Practice **Nutrient Management**. These practices aim to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHGs) associated with agricultural operations and promote Carbon sequestration.

NRCS Description and code (required by USDA)

Nutrient Management (Ac. 590)- Manage rate, source, placement, and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments while reducing environmental impacts.

[For more information view the Conservation Practice Standard](#)

Incentives for Growers:

Funding - Negotiated prior to enrollment and customized based on growers chosen practice and trial acreage

Up to 90% reimbursement for the direct cost of implementing climate-smart production practices (Materials, labor, testing, equipment, rentals, etc.), not to exceed \$10,000 per grower per year
Remaining 10% of direct costs associated with practice implementation will be treated as cost share with grower

Each grower will receive a cash incentives for the adoption of practices and the amount will depend on the complexity of the practice, acres committed and market value of the crop

Technical support - provided by and through a network of partners and resources available to accommodate producer inquiries and needs

International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) conducting field days, fostering communities of practice, demonstration projects, virtual town halls, case studies, podcasts, peer-peer information sharing

Measure to Improve (MTI) providing grower support, one on one meetings, site visits, access, and networking with Agronomists, PCAs, Crop Advisors, USDA researchers

Vibrant Future Grant Partners - International Fresh Produce Association, University of Florida, Data Services Provider, Measure to Improve, and Alcorn State University

Vendors provide technical support as required under program participation rules

Criteria For Participation:

Commitment - grower must commit to carry out climate smart practice during 4-year trial period and commit 50 work hours/year

Eligibility - grower must complete all required forms and establish farm records with USDA Farm Service Agency

Data Collection/Sharing - must allow access to sites for data collection and be willing to document and share practices and *data outcomes for modeling purposes

**Data will remain anonymous and aggregated without personal identifiable information*

d. New Practice - demonstrate that the practice is new to the operation and/or site

Conservation Practice Benefits

Nutrient Management - Improve plant health and productivity, reduce excess nutrients in surface and ground water, reduce emissions of objectionable odors, Reduce emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), reduce emissions of ozone precursors, reduce the risk of potential pathogens from manure, biosolids, or compost application from reaching surface and ground water, Improve or maintain soil organic matter

Academic Resources:

- a. Nutrient flows and management strategies: [View resource here](#)
- b. Quantifying nutrient budgets for sustainable nutrient management: [View resource here](#)
- c. Integrated nutrient management plans and contributions to yield and soil properties: [View resource here](#)
- d. Comparison of organic and integrated nutrient management strategies for reducing soil nitrous oxide emissions: [View resource here](#)
- e. Does Integrated Nutrient Management enhance agricultural productivity?: [View resource here](#)

Informational Links:

IFPA Opportunities to Participate Climate Smart Practices Pilot Program [here](#)

IFPA Grower Participation Form Webpage [here](#)

USDA Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities webpage [here](#)

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