

Fibershed Carbon Farm Cohort

A program to bring together geographically connected producers into a community with each other as they work to create farms and ranches that are engines for ecosystem restoration and carbon sequestration.

Carbon Farm Cohort Members:

Freestone Ranch

Monkey Ranch

Weirauch Farm

Wild Garden Farm

Wild Oat Hollow

Windrush Farm

All six members of this inaugural cohort expressed a strong desire to learn more about carbon farming and to have a Carbon Farm Plan. In total they manage about 580 acres in Marin and Sonoma counties.



Goals

- Develop a community of land managers that are managing their landscapes through the lens of carbon.
- Each farm/ranch has a Carbon Farm Plan that they can use to help them articulate and implement their vision of carbon focused land management.
- Complement the existing and future RCD, and other agency, Carbon Farm planning resources.
- Enable members to access existing funding and provide more examples of carbon farmers to encourage investment in carbon farm practices.
- Create a model that can be replicated in other regions of the Fibershed community.
- Use Comet modeling to understand GHG's and potential carbon sequestration.
- Test this prototype model of a cohort and adjust as necessary.

**We envision this cohort as the first of many cohorts that will each be nested within a region and linked to other Carbon Farm cohorts and their mutual work to restore the carbon cycle.

In the beginning- site visits.



Field Walks

- Introduce new information and ideas via our invited technical specialists.
- Encourage problem solving and innovation.
- Get members together, another chance to get to know one another.





Field Walk Insights:

- Sometimes you can create a hedgerow from existing plantings by filling in with other species.
- Hedgerows could be implemented in stages, planting the bigger woody perennials in the first year and filling in the hedgerow with smaller forbes and grasses in subsequent following years.
- Create ecological 'edges' to encourage diversity and resilience.
- Work with the natural hydrologic features of the landscape.
- One producer said she was now convinced that finding the right combination of compost, appropriate animal impact, no-till planting and cover cropping is her new goal as a farmer.

Grazing Planning



In order to provide adequate guidance in developing a grazing plan, Fibershed employs 'certified rangeland professionals' to develop grazing plans with the cohort members.

Management Intensive Grazing at Monkey Ranch





Hedgerow installations in various stages and approaches.

Spreading compost over no-till cover crop seed in main pasture at Weirauch Farm.

