

# Fibershed 2023 Carbon Farm Impact Report



Producers in the Climate Beneficial™ Program collectively implemented a total of **150 carbon farming practices in 2023**, accounting for an estimated **17,905 Mg of CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered** and **23,677 Mg CO<sub>2</sub>e drawdown projected over the next 20 years**. This is the equivalent of taking over 5200 gas powered cars off the road for one year.

Prescribed grazing, compost application to rangelands, and cover cropping were the most commonly implemented practices. Over the life of the Climate Beneficial™ Program since 2016, compost application on rangeland accounts for the largest amount of carbon drawdown, sequestering an estimated **72,123 Mg CO<sub>2</sub>e over the next 20 years**.

Our 2023 Carbon Impact report summarizes our Climate Beneficial™ Program efforts and impacts, in the following areas:

- Fibershed Carbon Farm Seed Fund
- Northern California Producers enrolled in our Climate Beneficial™ Program
- California Cotton & Climate Coalition

## What is Mg CO<sub>2</sub>e?

Mg refers to *metric tons* (also known as MT, “tonnes,” or “megagrams”) and is equal to 1000 kilograms or about 2,204.6 pounds. It is a common way of quantifying and measuring greenhouse gas emissions.

CO<sub>2</sub>e (or “carbon dioxide equivalent”) is the standard unit for quantifying greenhouse gas emissions. Because different greenhouse gases contribute to global warming at varying degrees (methane, for example causes 25 times more warming than carbon dioxide) using “CO<sub>2</sub>e” allows the impact of all greenhouse gas emissions to be expressed in a common unit, where 1 Mg CO<sub>2</sub>e is the global warming equivalent of 1 metric ton of carbon dioxide.



Since the inception of the Climate Beneficial Program in 2016, enrolled producers have implemented carbon farming practices that we estimate will **sequester 130,000+ metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over the next 20 years**.



**180,000+ acres** currently enrolled in the Climate Beneficial Program



**150 practices** implemented by Climate Beneficial™ producers in 2023  
**599 practices** implemented by Climate Beneficial™ producers since the program began in 2016



**FIBERSHED**

Learn more and support our Climate Beneficial™ work at [fibershed.org](https://fibershed.org)



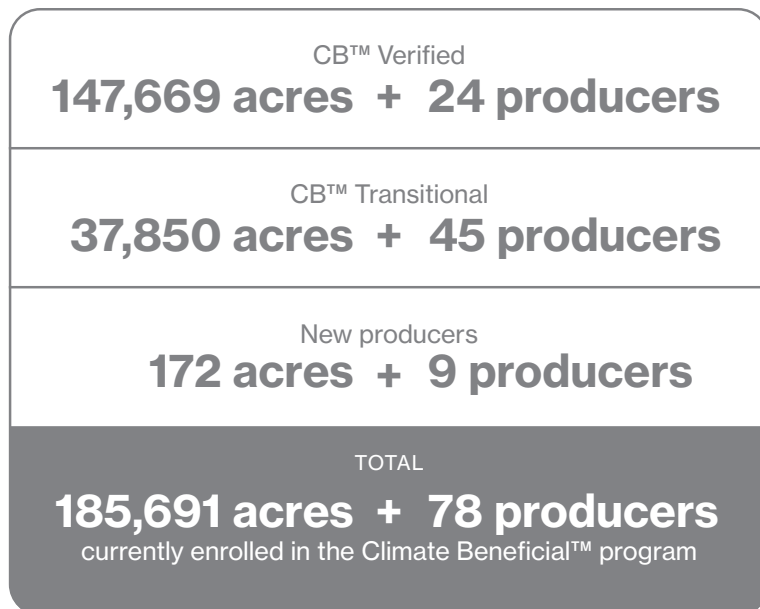
## Carbon Farm Seed Fund

Our Carbon Farm Seed Fund was created to provide direct financial assistance to producers enrolled in the Climate Beneficial Program to implement carbon farming practices. In our 2023 round we awarded over \$62,000 to 14 producers to support carbon farming projects, which we estimate will draw down over 1,600 Mg CO<sub>2</sub>e over the next 20 years.

	2023	Cumulative
Amount awarded	\$62,000	\$308,506
# of projects	14	75
Project acreage	555	14,552
20-year CO <sub>2</sub> e drawdown	1,641 Mg	11,911 Mg

## Climate Beneficial™ Program

Total participating Producers and Acreage



Carbon sequestration estimations for this report were calculated using COMET Planner, CDFA COMET Planner, COMET Farm, and data sourced from Ryals and Silver (2013)  
All photos by Paige Green



### Farming Textiles For Soil Health

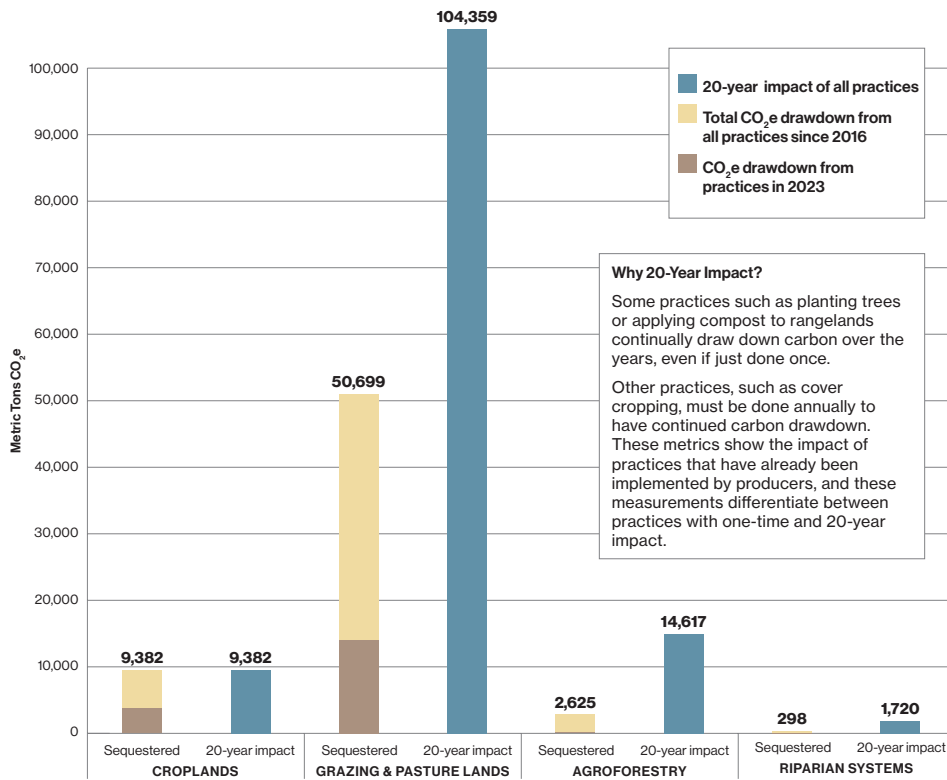
The California Cotton & Climate Coalition is working to restore our connection with our working landscapes by developing a model to lift up regionally produced textiles that prioritize soil health, support rural economies, and mitigate climate change in California's Central Valley. The coalition works to build a supply chain that starts on the farm – protecting rural jobs and enabling farmers to prioritize soil health in cotton growing systems – and connects those growers directly with brands to sell Climate Beneficial™ cotton. On farm practices are focused on increasing soil biology and life, soil carbon, soil water holding capacity while decreasing the use of synthetic fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides.

← Gino Pedretti Jr. of Pedretti Ranches



## Cumulative CO<sub>2</sub>e Drawdown by Category 2023 Practices and Entirety of Climate Beneficial Program

FIBERESHED CARBON FARM SEED FUND, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PRODUCER NETWORK,  
AND CALIFORNIA COTTON & CLIMATE COALITION (C4)



The solution for climate change is right under our feet.

“Soil plays a vital role in either limiting or exacerbating climate change. Most people are already aware of the importance of forests and trees in reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere.

But soil stores an extraordinary quantity of carbon: three times the amount in the atmosphere and twice the amount contained in all plants and trees.”

“Why is soil so important to life?” Zurich.com. Source: Todd Ontil and Lisa Shute, “Soil Carbon Storage.” *Nature Education Knowledge*, 2012.

“Soil can potentially store between 1.5 to 5.5 billion tons of carbon a year globally. That’s equivalent to between 5 and 20 billion tons of carbon dioxide. While significant, that’s still just a fraction of the 32 billion tons of carbon dioxide emitted every year from burning fossil fuels.”

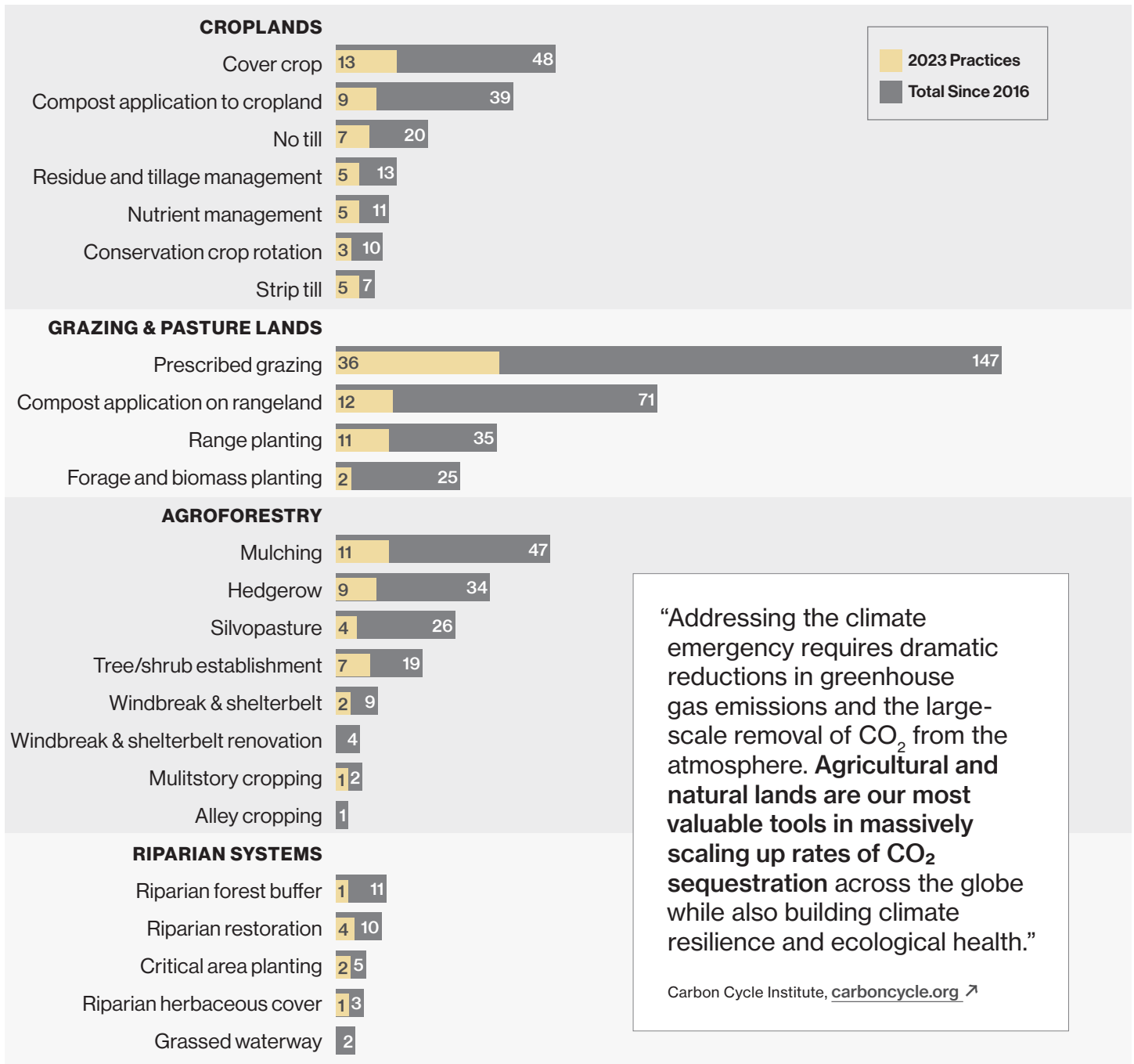
Kat Kerlin, “A Climate Change Solution Beneath Our Feet: There’s Too Much Carbon in the Atmosphere and Not Enough in the Ground. Healthy Soils Help Flip the Picture.” *UCDavis.edu*. June 7, 2017.



### Integrating Livestock and Crop Systems

Targeted sheep grazing in perennial crop and vineyard systems results in many benefits for restoring healthy ecosystems, including: increasing soil carbon sequestration to mitigate the impacts of climate change, decreasing or eliminating herbicide use, and reducing fire fuel load to prevent catastrophic wildfires. This practice aims to achieve specific vegetation and landscape objectives by considering intensity, season, frequency, and duration of grazing. Long-term use of this practice has also been shown to improve soil health and increase carbon storage.

# Carbon Farming Practices Implemented, 2023 and Cumulative



In 2023, Fibershed was selected to distribute and administer state and federal funding to fiber producers and to expand Climate Beneficial practices. This work builds on the foundation upheld by our community of Fibershed producers and supporters. Implementation of new projects will begin in 2024.



California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)  
Healthy Soils Program, Block Grant

Fibershed will disperse \$4M over three years to fund carbon farming practices, with additional support for growers defined as socially disadvantaged (Spanish language speakers and tribal populations) by the state of California.



United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Climate Smart Commodities Grant  
for Climate Beneficial™ Fiber Partnership ↗

A \$30M project budget, to support carbon farming practices to draw down 3M Mg of carbon, and build markets for 1.6 million pounds of cotton and 225,000 pounds of wool. For cotton producers in California, Georgia, Indiana, Alabama, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and North Carolina; and wool producers in California, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and New York.