



Oregon Climate & Agriculture Network in 2020

OACD Annual Meeting - November 10, 2020

A close-up photograph of a person wearing orange protective gear, including a long-sleeved shirt and pants, holding a large amount of dark brown soil in their hands. The person is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt underneath and a beaded bracelet on their left wrist. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with soil and some green plants.

Why is OrCAN here today with OACD?

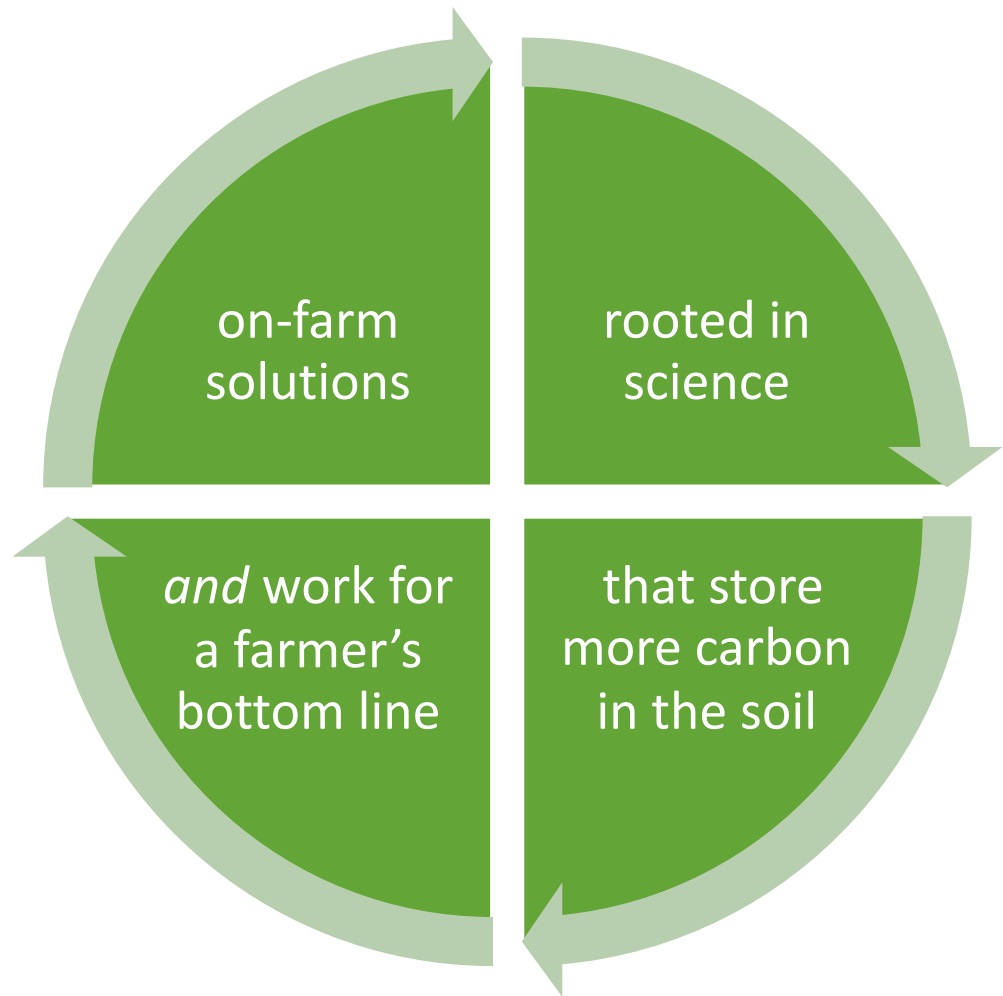
- Shared interest: conservation practices on working lands
- Farmers as land stewards
- Soil Water Conservation Districts: trusted farm service providers
- Collaboration is how we do our work.

OrCAN's Vision

A RESILIENT FARM ECONOMY FOR OREGON THAT
CAN THRIVE THROUGH DISRUPTIONS BIG AND
SMALL.

Critical Pathway to Getting to this Vision

Our producer driven
network will look to:



Farming for Climate Resilience

Implementing best management practices for soil health:

- reduced tillage
- no till
- cover cropping
- composting
- other organic amendments like biochar
- hedgerow and riparian plantings
- rotational grazing
- silvopasture and agroforestry
- alternative manure management

Farming for Climate Resilience

Other critical strategies for resilience may also include:

- irrigation modernization,
- nutrient (nitrogen fertilizer) management and other innovative practices,
- localized (on-site) renewables

OrCAN's Work in 2020 and Beyond...

1. Network Building
2. Education: focus on farmer-to-farmer
3. Policy: producer driven advocacy

Network Building

A producer driven network

A collaborative network

- recognize work that's already underway
- the scale and scope of the problems we seek to solve require collaboration

Build bridges between:

- researchers – policy wonks – farm service providers – training programs – and farmers and ranchers

Education Programming

A person wearing a grey hoodie, a blue cap, and orange overalls is working in a greenhouse. They are pulling a large, white, translucent sheet or plastic covering over a row of young green plants. The greenhouse has a curved metal frame and a white plastic covering. The ground is dark brown soil with rows of plants and black plastic mulch.

Farmer to Farmer
Education Program

Train the Trainer
Program: Farming for
Climate Resiliency with
OSU Extension

Rancher, Loren Poncia on the benefits of Healthy Soils Projects

“The ultimate kicker is we now store more water in the soil....the perennials stay green during the summer.

We now import less hay, and run more cattle on the same amount of land.

Instead of being a grass farmer, now I’m a soil farmer,” Loren said.



1990



2010

In my short lifetime we have made tremendous positive change in water quality, habitat, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and profitability.

What will this riparian area look like in another 100, 200, or 300 years?

Beavers? Salmon? Will the stream flow year round?



2018

Loren's land:

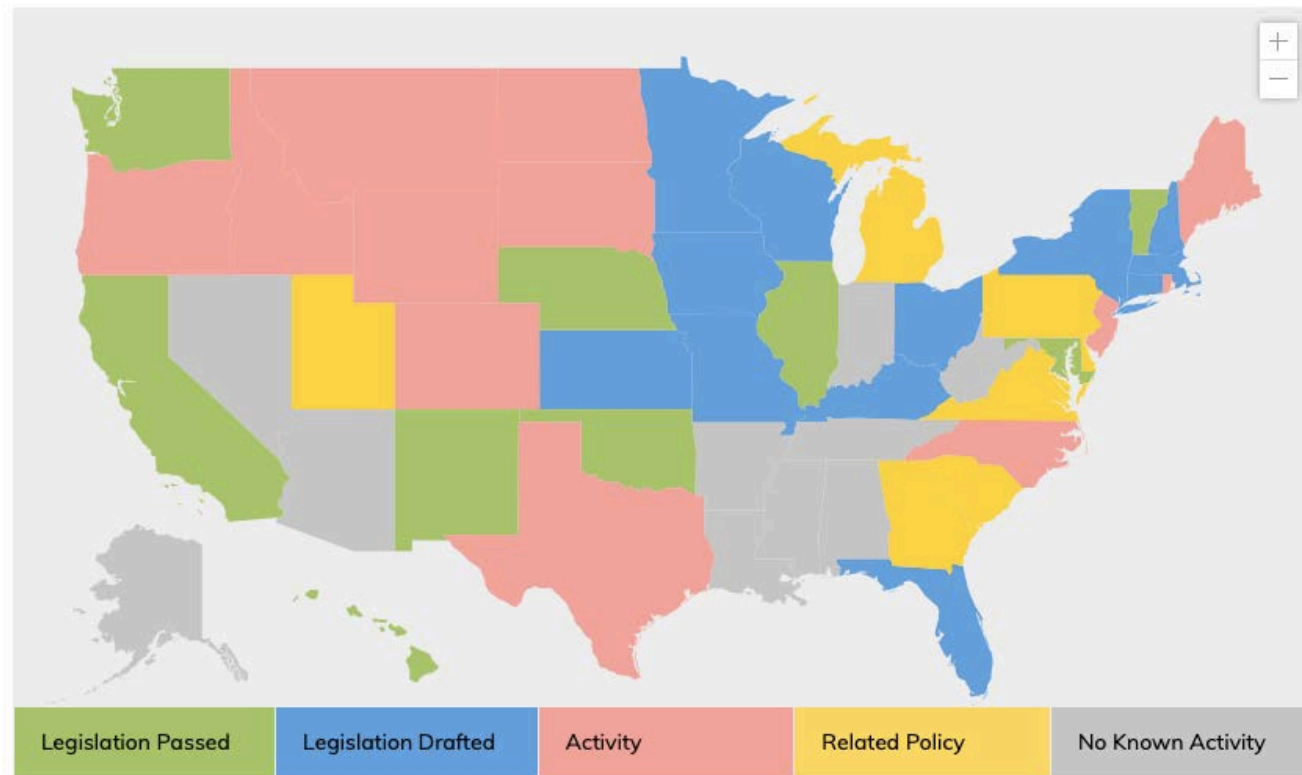
Oregon Climate Action Plan

- Directs ODA and the Oregon Global Warming Commission and other state agencies and commissions to help the state achieve its new climate mitigation and GHG reduction goals by:
 - Considering and integrating climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's GHG emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgets, investments, and policy making decisions;
 - Prioritizing and expediting any processes and procedures that could accelerate reductions in GHG emissions;
 - Proposing state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's *agricultural lands, based on best available science.*

OrCAN's potential policy recommendations

- Support for ODA's plans to conduct a Soil Health Inventory
- Incentivize agricultural practices that sequester carbon in the soil, through grant programs similar to California's Healthy Soils Program.
- Investments in technical assistance for ag practices that sequester carbon. TA could be provided by:
 - Soil and Water Conservation Districts,
 - Oregon State University Extension,
 - NGO's
 - Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Setting the stage for Healthy Soils Legislation

Building on a successful healthy soils movement that is happening on farms and ranches from Maine to Montana, from California to Iowa. From big commodity crop farms to small diversified vegetable operations and everything in between.



All the states with colors are engaging in healthy soils policy and program development.



Thank you! We look forward to collaboration

Photos by Jamie Thrower/Studio VIII Photography

OrCAN

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