NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: A WIN-WIN SOLUTION FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OUR ECONOMY
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

- Protecting farm and ranch land
- Promoting sound farming practices
- Keeping farmers on the land
The Role of Soils

We have lost more than half of the organic carbon originally stored in U.S. soils.

The soil organic carbon pool is up to 4X the amount of carbon stored in the vegetation on land.

Rebuilding soil health is crucial to sustain agriculture.
CO-BENEFITS OF COVER CROPS & NO-TILL

SOIL TEMPERATURE AND MOISTURE REGULATION

WINTER AND EARLY SEASON WEED SUPPRESSION

IMPROVED SOIL STRUCTURE

REDUCED SOIL LOSS FROM WIND AND WATER

INCREASED DIVERSITY OF SOIL BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

NUTRIENT CAPTURE AND AVAILABILITY
Cover Crops on the Farm!
Soil Health Case Studies

PARTIAL BUDGET ANALYSIS

• Estimate the net economic benefits farmers have experienced from investing in soil health practices (e.g., no-till, strip-till, cover crops).

USDA’S NUTRIENT TRACKING TOOL & USDA’S COMET-FARM TOOL

• Quantify the water quality and climate benefits of these practices.

https://farmland.org/soil-health-case-studies/
Carbon Markets

- Open to all
- Designed for Permeance
- Fair to Farmers
- Transitional for the Economy
- Real & Verifiable

Carbon Markets

- Open to all
- Designed for Permeance
- Fair to Farmers
- Transitional for the Economy
- Real & Verifiable
Cover Crop Initiative

01. Establish a national goal

02. Increase cover crop focus within NRCS programs

03. Expand on-the-ground TA

04. Additional research and data

05. Crop insurance role in adoption
Crop Insurance Premium Discount Program

Leveraging State, Federal and Private funding

If cover crops were planted on 25% of rowcrop acres in Illinois, it would be equal to removing 633,323 passenger vehicles from the road for a year.

Innovative, efficient approach to accelerating cover crops on a big scale.
NUTRIENT, SEDIMENT, & GHG REDUCTIONS FROM THE 2021 FCSS PROGRAM

+167,000 lbs of nitrate-N
   Kept in the field

~15,000 lbs of phosphorus
   Kept in the field

3,612 truckloads
   of sediment kept out of waterways

The carbon dioxide equivalent of removing

5,359 passenger cars from the road
Farmland Protection as a Climate Tool

✓ **11 million acres lost** or threatened between 2001-2016

✓ Agriculture is **necessary for achieving** climate goals

✓ When farmland is developed, we lose both:
  ✓ Existing carbon
  ✓ Future sequestration potential

✓ Development **disproportionately impacts the nation’s best land**, pushing production to marginal lands

✓ Low-density residential is associated with **higher emissions** than urban high-density