



FARMER AND RANCHER-LED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS LISTENING SESSIONS

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING AND INNOVATION



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EXECUTIVE ORDER N-82-20



Office of Governor
GAVIN NEWSOM



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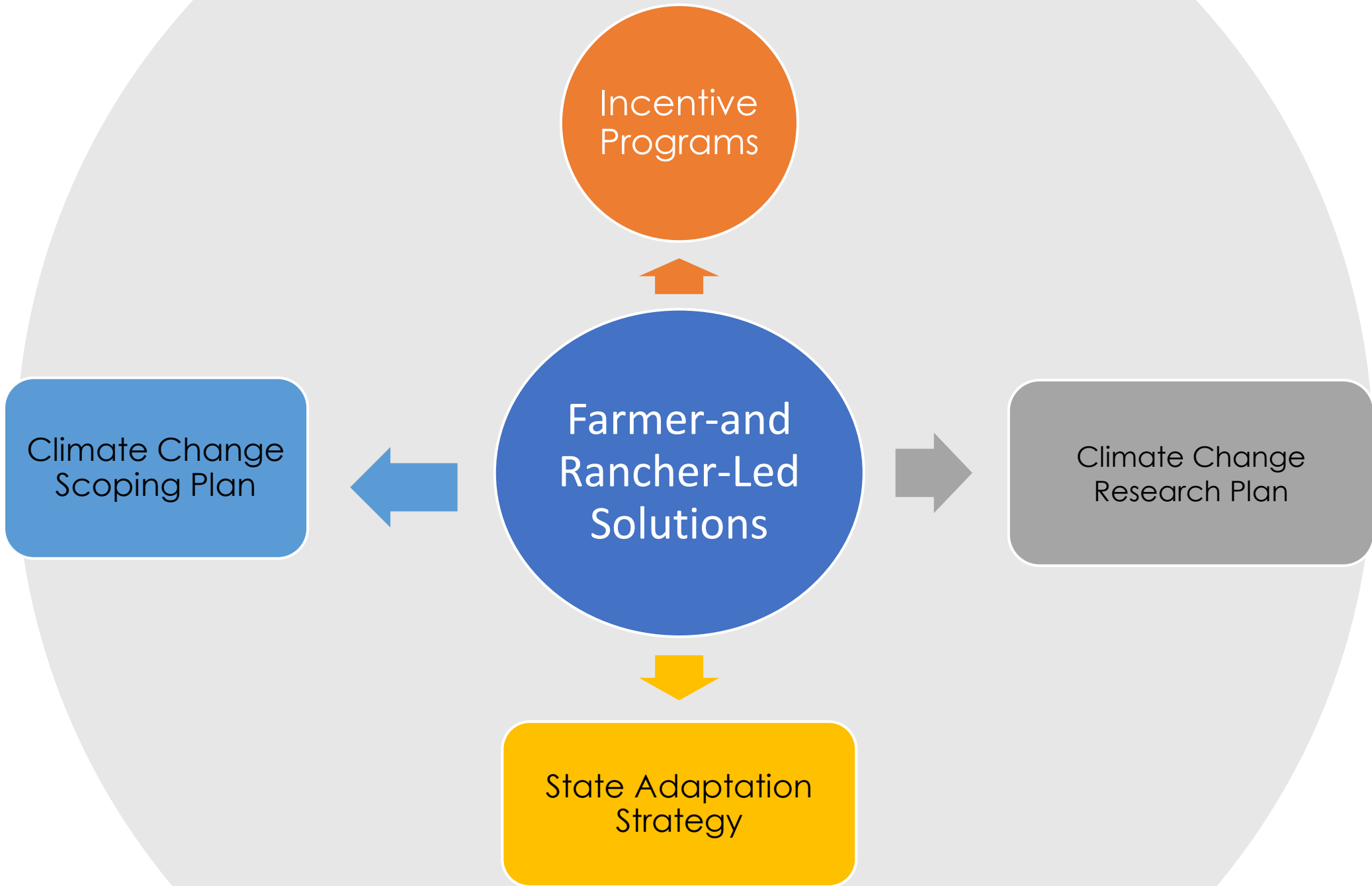


Appointments

Governor Newsom Launches Innovative Strategies to Use California Land to Fight Climate Change, Conserve Biodiversity and Boost Climate Resilience

Published: Oct 07, 2020

8. The California Department of Food and Agriculture shall work with agricultural stakeholders to identify farmer- and rancher-led solutions to inform the next Scoping Plan process.



Meetings and Participation

In February 2021

6 online Listening Sessions

2 Sessions for each of 3 Areas:

- **Dairy and Livestock**
- **Perennial Crops**
- **Annual Crops**

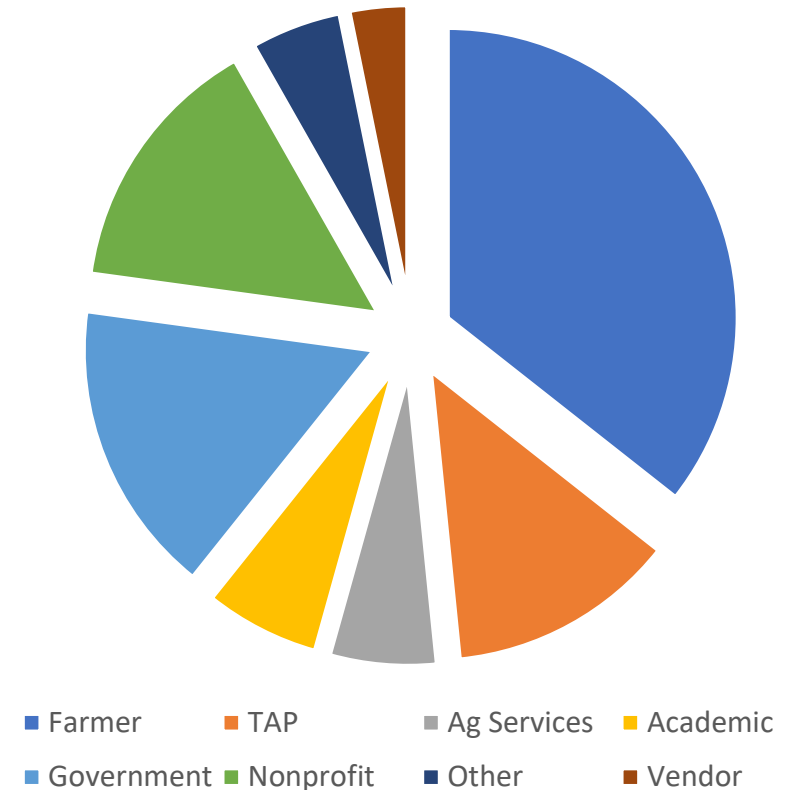
323 attendees

Oral and typed comments recorded

In April, Public Comments to Draft Report

Letters from 11 citizens and 15 Stakeholder Groups

Annual and Perennial Sessions Attendee Roles



Priority Questions:

- What **additional management practices** can farmers and ranchers use as climate change solutions?
- What **technologies** could facilitate farmer- and rancher-led climate solutions?
- What **research gaps** are impeding potential farmer- and rancher-led climate solutions?
- How can CDFA **gather economic information** to show the benefits of existing (and new) farmer- and rancher-led solutions?



Discussion can include food processors, renewable energy and engine replacement and barriers to wider adoption (e.g., risk; economic benefits, shortage of labor, technical assistance)

Main Themes

- Farmers and ranchers feel burdened by regulations and program requirements. They support voluntary incentives but are concerned that incentives may become regulations.
- The climate change benefits of keeping land in agricultural use (rather than converting it to urban use) should be recognized and promoted by CDFA and other agencies.
- Farms, and especially smaller farms, need greater support, particularly financial support required for the cost and financial risk associated with investments in new technology and equipment.

Comment Summary by Topic

1. Overall State Policy
2. Incentives over Regulations
3. Incentives and Financial Offsets
4. Streamlining Regulations
5. Tools
6. Research
7. Technical Assistance
8. Outreach
9. Potential Cost/Benefit Study



Overall State Policy

- Leverage connections between healthy soils and water (quality and supply), air quality, biodiversity and pollinators.
- Streamline regulatory reporting requirements.
- Enhance circular economies for agriculture by addressing regulatory, supply chain and market barriers for:
 - Organic materials, including manure, food waste, animal carcasses and orchard/vineyard material.
 - Non-organic material recycling, such as drip tape
- Address barriers to methane reduction in manure management.

Financial Incentives

- Ensure that practices are voluntary
- Invest in a suite of climate solutions from land conservation to management practices to transportation and processing
- Ensure that market solutions are accessible to growers of all sizes, historically underserved farmers and tribes, and are available to the diversity of crops in California.
- Invest in technical assistance and conservation planning as well as practices.
- Leverage federal and private partnerships.



Tools

- Continue to partner with USDA on consistent methodologies for carbon accounting for state and federal incentives and market-based frameworks that:
 - Take into account regional differences, including specialty crops and western irrigated agriculture.
 - Are accessible by small and socially disadvantaged producers.
 - Layer climate benefits, with water, air and biodiversity co-benefits.
- Tools should incorporate additional measures that are useful for farmers:
 - Pest and disease models
 - More specific crop sensitivities to heat/chilling hours
 - Water holding and quality
 - Economic cost-benefits of practices

Technical Assistance

- Broad calls for more extension-type services
 - Regenerative and climate smart ag practices
 - Increase “carbon farming” education
 - Increase collaboration with NRCS
- Provide Technical Assistance beyond application and initial awardee assistance
 - Especially for long-lived practices like hedgerows
- Encourage “systems” and not “practices”
- Peer-to-peer support and networking



Preliminary next steps;

- Developing matrix based on over 300 comments
- Evaluating the comments to see what can be implemented on a short, medium and long timeframe
- Evaluating the comments to see what can be implemented with current resources, and which ones might require additional resources and/or research
- Working to make all findings available in a transparent manner via website

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/climate/>



Questions or comments;
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