

# Climate Change



Family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities are feeling the effects of climate change. Rising average temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, a historic megadrought in the western U.S., and increasingly frequent extreme weather events, are making farming and ranching more difficult.

While the challenges are enormous, farmers and ranchers hold great power to address this crisis—and many already are doing so. They have implemented conservation practices that build soil health, making the land more resilient to shifts in precipitation, temperatures, and pest pressure. Many of these practices help sequester atmospheric carbon in the soil. Farmers are also reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by producing renewable energy on their land and growing biofuel crops.

These efforts offer many benefits, but they are often expensive, technically demanding, and time consuming to implement. To make on-farm climate action accessible, farmers and ranchers need financial and technical support, new market opportunities, and robust climate change research and extension.

Thankfully, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 in August, which includes historic investments to help farmers, ranchers, and rural communities tackle the climate crisis through agriculture conservation, renewable energy programs, and support for biofuels. USDA has stepped up by committing more than \$1 billion through its new Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities initiative. Also, the next farm bill offers the opportunity to advance farm policy that supports and accelerates farmers' and ranchers' climate stewardship for years to come.

- ***The 2010s were the hottest decade on record.***
- ***The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 includes more than \$300 billion over the next decade in climate and clean energy investments, including approximately \$40 billion to help farmers, ranchers, foresters, and rural communities tackle climate change.***

## What We Can Do:

- **The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 includes critical investments to help farmers and rural communities tackle the climate crisis. Ask your lawmakers to preserve this funding, which includes:**
  - **\$20 billion for farmers to address climate change adaptation and mitigation through voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs, including \$1 billion for additional Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA).**
  - **\$14 billion in renewable energy investments, including for the USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), biofuels infrastructure, and for rural electric cooperatives.**
- **Encourage Congress to pass the Growing Climate Solutions Act (GCSA) to reduce barriers for farmer participation in carbon and other environmental credit markets.**
- **Encourage lawmakers to invest in public agricultural research and extension that will help farmers adapt to climate change and reduce GHGs.**