

# Water Management

The **USDA Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities Grant** was developed to help a diverse set of farmers and ranchers expand markets for agricultural commodities. Growers will get to choose from one of the six Climate Smart Practices below to trial in their operation with the support of the USDA so these practices can be observed across a variety of settings.

## USDA Climate-Smart Practices: Climate Smart Commodities Grant

1. **Water Management**
2. Nutrient Management
3. Residue and Tillage Management
4. Alley Cropping
5. Short Season Cover Crops
6. Soil Amendments

The "**A Vibrant Future**" pilot project is intended to incentivize growers of specialty crops to adopt climate-smart production practices in order to establish a consumer-driven, climate-smart market for fruits and vegetables. The project is funded by the USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Grant.

This informational fact sheet provides a brief overview of the Climate Smart Practices related to **Water Management**. These practices aim to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHGs) associated with agricultural operations and promote Carbon sequestration.

## NRCS Description and code (required by USDA)

**Drainage water management (Ac. 554)**- The process of managing the drainage volume and water table elevation by regulating the flow from a surface or subsurface agricultural drainage system.

**Filter strip (Ac. 393)**- A strip of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow. Environmental assessment may be required.

**Grassed waterway (Ac. 412)**- A shaped or graded channel established with suitable vegetation to convey water. Environmental assessment may be required

**Irrigation Water Management (Ac. 449)**- The process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water.

**Micro irrigation (Ac. 441)**- An irrigation system for frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface as drops, tiny streams, or miniature spray through emitters or applicators placed along a water delivery line. Environmental assessment may be required.

**Riparian forest buffer (Ac. 391)**- An area predominantly covered by trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from a watercourse or water body. Environmental assessment may be required.

[For more information view Conservation Practice Standards](#)

### **Incentives for Growers:**

**Funding** - Negotiated prior to enrollment and customized based on growers chosen practice and trial acreage

Up to 90% reimbursement for the direct cost associated with the implementation of climate-smart production practices (Materials, labor, testing, equipment, rentals, etc.), not to exceed \$10,000 per grower per year.

Remaining 10% of direct costs associated with practice implementation will be treated as cost share with grower

Each grower will receive a modest incentive, depending on complexity of the practice, market value of the crop, acreage committed to the practice.

**Technical support** - provided by and through a network of partners and resources available to accommodate producer inquiries and needs

International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) conducting field days, fostering communities of practice, demonstration projects, virtual town halls, case studies, podcasts, peer-peer information sharing

Measure to Improve (MTI) providing grower support, one on one meetings, site visits, access and networking with Agronomists, PCAs, Crop Advisors, USDA researchers

Vibrant Future Grant Partners- International Fresh Produce Association, University of Florida, Data Services Provider, Measure to Improve, and Alcorn State University

Vendors provide technical support as required under program participation rules

### **Criteria For Participation:**

**Commitment** - grower must commit to carry out climate smart practice during 4 year trial period and commit a total of 50 work hours/year

**Eligibility** - grower must complete all required forms and establish farm records with USDA Farm Service Agency. Some practices may require environmental assessment.

**Data Collection/Sharing** - must allow access to sites for data collection and be willing to document and share practices and \*data outcomes for modeling purposes

*\*data will remain anonymous and aggregated without personal identifiable information*

**New Practice** - demonstrate that the practice is new to the operation and/or site

### **Conservation Practice Benefits**

**Water Management** - Improve water use efficiency, mitigate runoff and minimize erosion, manage salts in the root zone, protect surface and groundwater quality, modify microclimate, reduce energy use, improve poor plant productivity and health

### **Academic Resources:**

- a. Link outlining Irrigation Water Management factsheet: [View resource here](#)
- b. Irrigation water management supporting literature: [View resource here](#)
- c. Link to drought resistant varieties: [View resources here](#)
- d. Link to information on soil moisture monitoring technology: [View resource here](#)
- e. Link to information on plant monitoring technology: [View resource here](#)
- f. Link outlining Deficit irrigation: [View resource here](#)

### **Informational Links:**

IFPA Opportunities to Participate Climate Smart Practices Pilot Program [here](#)

IFPA Grower Participation Form Webpage [here](#)

USDA Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities webpage [here](#)

### **Contact Information:**

Organization	Contact	E-mail	Phone
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