

Virginia farmers and farmlands are part of the climate solution.

Here's how.



Greene County producer and participant in AFT's Sustainable Grazing Project. (Photo by Rebecca Drobis for AFT)

Helping farmers be part of the climate solution is a low-cost, near-term, and untapped opportunity. Virginia can mitigate climate change with programs that help more farmers transition more acres to climate-smart systems of practices. These practices save farmers money, build resilience to extreme weather, and sequester carbon in the soil—all while also improving water quality and wildlife habitat.

TOOLS FOR CLIMATE-SMART FARMING

Soil health management systems and regenerative and climate-smart farming are approaches that include a suite of practices such as **cover crops, diverse crop rotations, and livestock integration**, among others. These practices minimize soil disturbance and maximize soil cover, biodiversity, and living roots as part of a holistic systems approach that also adapts technology as well as nutrient, pest, and manure management. These systems help farmers adapt to and mitigate climate change and they also benefit water quality.




COVER CROPS

A farmer with her diverse cover crop in Rappahannock County, VA (Photo by Rebecca Drobis for AFT)

A CLIMATE-SMART VIRGINIA AG SECTOR THROUGH SOIL HEALTH

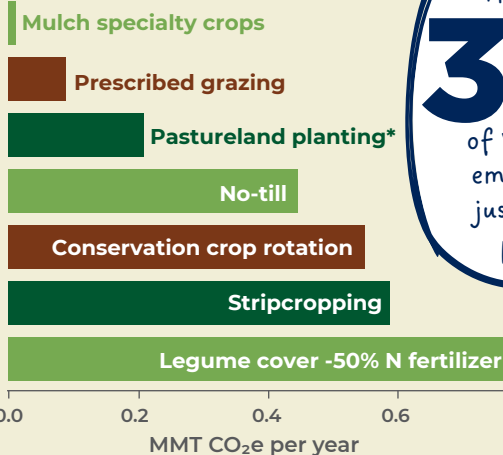
Agriculture contributes

6.8 MMT CO₂e per year, or about 9% of Virginia's net GHG emissions

BUT

if farmers successfully adopted the below systems of practices on 80% of farmland, Virginia could mitigate a total of

2.6 MMT CO₂e per year for 20 years



That's about **39%** of Virginia's ag emissions with just these few practices.

*Pastureland plantings on 20% of pastureland.

MMT CO₂e stands for million metric tonnes of CO₂ equivalents, meaning here how much carbon is stored or greenhouse gas emissions are reduced due to a practice.

