

Bay Area Agricultural Framework

Data and Mapping Dashboard - Agricultural Metrics Research Project

BACKGROUND

The Bay Area agricultural region is home to nearly 10,000 farms and ranches on approximately 2.5 million acres of agricultural land, accounting for \$3 billion in annual sales of agricultural products. Agriculture has much to offer the region; however, it also has much to lose as land continues to be threatened by and lost to urban development, and temperatures and extreme weather events increasingly impact farm/ranch viability. With 45 percent of the region's land base in agricultural use, investing in regional agriculture represents an opportunity to both improve its resilience and scale its critical contribution to climate mitigation and adaptation. Whether the region's agriculture survives and thrives into the future depends on our collective ability, across political boundaries, to address the risks and harness the opportunities that are in front of us today.

In response to these challenges and opportunities, the [Bay Area Regional Agricultural Plan Framework](#) was created. Strategy 1A in the Framework calls for the development of a “dashboard” of key data to inform the implementation and progress of the Ag Plan Framework goals and strategies.

[Plan Bay Area](#) offers a regional approach to agricultural and open space land conservation but it relies on the [Conservation Lands Network](#) (CLN) to set conservation targets, and the CLN does not fully reflect the scope of agricultural lands in the Bay Area. The [Bay Area Greenprint](#) offers some data, analysis, and reporting capabilities for agricultural land but its scope is also limited. The [Bay Area Food Futures Roadmap](#) (SAGE 2019) provides only preliminary parameters for tracking selected data across the regional food supply chain. **There is a need to define shared data, methods, criteria, and targets for working land conservation prioritization to better locate, quantify, and demonstrate the opportunities for investments in agricultural land and economic development.**

BAY AREA AGRICULTURAL METRICS RESEARCH PROJECT

The Metrics Research Project will inform the development of the dashboard. Before the data and mapping dashboard work commences, this Project will inventory 1) metrics that are already being tracked by various agencies throughout the Bay Area, as well as 2) what the data and mapping needs of potential stakeholders might be (e.g. what is required for reporting on grants). This inventory should reflect the goals outlined in the Framework and be organized around agency and planning purpose (e.g. San Mateo County Sustainability Office, Climate Action Plan, POLICY L-2: SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EDUCATION, AND DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS TO SCALE CLIMATE BENEFICIAL AGRICULTURE).

What data metrics are already being collected and/or what data is needed to support the following Framework goals and equity focus:

1. **Agricultural Lands Conservation and Land Tenure.** Goal: Permanent protection of key farm and ranch lands and capacity for new farmers to access and establish businesses on these lands.

Equity focus: Land conservation and access mechanisms should prioritize current low-income/indebted, BIPOC, or other systemically excluded community representative farmers and ranchers, including beginning farmers.

2. **Climate-Smart Agricultural Lands and Stewardship.** Goal: Implementation of land management practices that benefit water, habitats, and soil health; address climate threats; and provide social benefits. Equity focus: Leadership from Indigenous, BIPOC, women and veteran land managers will identify pathways to address specific local and regional priorities for climate-smart working lands while leveraging partnerships and networks, including philanthropic and NGO partners.
3. **Agricultural Economy & Infrastructure.** Goal: Development of a thriving agricultural economy, including sufficient processing and distribution infrastructure, equitable and sufficient labor and workforce development, and engaged agritourism and agricultural education sectors. Equity focus: Mechanisms and incentives will be inclusive of land-based, capital-focused, and market-driven tactics that can lead to long-term prosperity and improved/safer working conditions for systemically excluded community representatives.
4. **Agricultural Sector Housing.** Goal: Sufficient, affordable, and accessible housing for the region's farmworkers and limited resource farmers. Equity focus: Identification of mechanisms to support affordable agricultural housing that is connected to services, including transportation, grocery stores, schools and more.

TIMELINE AND COMPENSATION

This project will be guided by [Sustainable Agriculture Education \(SAGE\)](#). Please email Sibella Kraus to inquire: sibella@sagecenter.org

Duration: March 1-May 15

Compensation: \$2000