



OpenTEAM

Open Technology Ecosystem for Agricultural Management



## American Farmland Trust Climate-Smart Beef PCSC<sup>1</sup>: Microgrant Financial Assistance Eligibility Criteria

### Overview:

- Beef producer.
- Located in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama or Mississippi.
- Seeking to enroll new climate-smart practices, or if not new to the producer, at least on new acres, in a carbon market (i.e., payment for reduced &/or sequestered greenhouse gas emissions).
- 2025 eligible climate-smart practices include: prescribed grazing, no-till, reduced tillage, cover crop (see extensive list below for additional practices to be added).
- Must enroll or be enrolled in USDA Farm Service Agency.
- Must share production data required for reporting climate outcomes.
- Must be enrolled in AFT's Grazing Mentor Network as a mentor or mentee.

### Additional information:

Eligible producers must be actively farming beef cattle in one of the following states: Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, or Mississippi. Additionally, the Climate Smart Beef program is specifically targeted towards and strongly encourages participation of underserved producers. Underserved producers include Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, beginning and limited resource farmers, veteran farmers, women farmers, small-scale farmers, and other socially disadvantaged groups.

Participants must be willing to share farm/production data for the purpose of reporting climate outcomes (modeled estimates of changes in CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions), and to provide valuable management, productivity, profitability, and marketing information. **(Participants retain ownership of and access to their data. Privacy will be highly protected, and all publicly shared data resulting from this project will be aggregated and non-identifiable.)**

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<sup>1</sup> PCSC = Project for Climate Smart Commodities, a USDA-funded program.

Producers must enroll or be enrolled with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to identify eligible farms and fields. American Farmland Trust can provide guidance and technical assistance to producers through the FSA enrollment process. Producers should note that farms and fields already enrolled in practices that are funded through any USDA program or any other Project for Climate Smart Commodities (PCSC) Programs may not be eligible.

In order to receive financial assistance, participants must commit to implementing one or more of the following practices on a portion of their farm. **Note: In 2025 we will be focusing on the first four practices, listed in bold below.**

- **Prescribed grazing**
- **Residue and tillage management, no till**
- **Residue and tillage management, reduced till**
- **Cover crop**
- Feed management
- Nutrient management
- Vegetative barrier
- Range planting
- Pasture and hay planting
- Hedgerow planting
- Filter strip
- Riparian forest buffer
- Riparian herbaceous cover
- Silvopasture
- Soil carbon amendment

In addition to financial assistance for implementing a new climate-smart practice, there is also additional direct financial assistance to help cover data recording requirements and to encourage underserved producer participation.

Finally, participants must be willing to participate in a peer-to-peer Grazing Mentor Network, as a mentor or mentee, promoting best management practices that enhance beef productivity, profitability and environmental outcomes. The Grazing Mentor Network will also serve as a robust farming community, where members can share ideas, best management practices, and market access opportunities across the Southeast and Mid Atlantic.

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