

2024 Local Work Group (LWG) Meeting

Discussion Questions

The USDA Hollister Service Center and the North Santa Clara, Loma Prieta and San Benito Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) are committed to developing service priorities from a local perspective. The local work group helps us coordinate with the communities we serve to develop natural resource and conservation priorities specific to local needs. The following questions will be asked during the meeting to help inform development of NRCS resource priorities for the coming year. If you prefer, you are welcome to submit written answers to these questions in lieu of public participation by completing this form and submitting it via email to gcrccd@gcrccd.org by February 26, 2024.

1. Please rank the following resource concerns or focus areas according to priority (high, medium, low):

Resource Concern	Examples of Related Agricultural Practices	Low	Medium	High
Air quality	Maintaining soil surface cover; managing particulate emissions (dust from ag production, rural road usage, etc.); reducing smoke; reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.			
Biodiversity	Creating and/or enhancing habitat for native plants, beneficial insects (including pollinators), and wildlife; increasing crop diversity; hedgerow installation.			
Fire risk	Stand thinning; brush management; rangeland planting; prescribed fire.			
Livestock production	Water source development and distribution; cross-fencing; grazing management.			
Organic transition	Organic pest management; intercropping; crop rotation.			
Pest Management	Integrated pest management; insecticide management/reduction.			
Soil health	Soil amendments (gypsum, mulch, compost); increased soil organic matter; water infiltration and retention; cover crops; crop rotation; nutrient management.			
Water quality	Erosion control; sediment removal; nutrient management; riparian restoration.			
Water quantity	Access and outlets for agricultural uses; irrigation efficiency.			
Weed management	Herbaceous and woody noxious weeds management; pesticide management/reduction; cover crops; integrated weed management.			
Wildlife habitat	Riparian restoration; oak tree protection and mitigation; pollinator habitat; aquatic and terrestrial vertebrates protection.			

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). For persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), please contact NSCRCD at gcrccd@gcrccd.org. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

2. What additional working lands resource concerns do you have and how would you rank their priority (high, medium, low)?

3. What technical assistance services would be helpful for your operation to receive from USDA and/or the RCDs?

4. Please share with us your knowledge of historically underserved communities that you believe would benefit from expanded outreach and access to USDA programs.

5. Are you aware of any barriers agricultural producers face that limit their ability to access services or implement conservation practices?

6. Are there other types of services or programs you would like to see offered in the future?

7. Please share any additional questions or comments related to natural resources, resource concerns, agricultural practices, and/or available programs and services.