



NORTH COAST
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Carbon Cycle Institute



North Coast Soil Health Hub

SoilHub.org

An information sharing network for farmers



The North Coast Soil Health Hub is a network of farmers, industry representatives, scientists, and agricultural professionals working together to help farmers improve soil health in Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino Counties. With funding from a CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grant, the North Coast Hub is focusing initial efforts on the region's vineyard industry in these three counties. The eventual goal of the Hub is to expand to include all agricultural industry sectors, and more counties in the region.

Principles of Soil Health

- Keep soil covered as much as possible.
- Use plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil.
- Keep living roots in the soil as long as possible.
- Disturb the soil as little as possible.

Practices such as reduced tillage, no-till, cover crops and compost can improve soil health by increasing organic matter and creating a healthy environment for soil organisms. This can lead to significant improvements in nutrient cycling, water holding capacity, soil structure, infiltration, erosion control and carbon sequestration. A growing recognition of these benefits has led to soil health becoming a leading topic in agriculture today.

The Hub will facilitate information sharing among farmers and resource professionals, particularly around the successes and challenges of farming for soil health in the North Coast Region—recognizing there is no one-size-fits-all way to manage for soil health.

Join Your Hub!

We need broad participation and your insight to make the network thrive

- Please begin by providing your input through a brief, anonymous survey to determine currently used soil health practices: Take the survey online '[Soil Health Vineyard Management Survey](#)' at SoilHub.org
- [Join the mailing list](#) to follow events and receive newsletters.
- Participate in the [farmer-to-farmer forum](#).
- Read about [local demonstration sites](#).

County Representatives

Mendocino: Kristin Cooper, kristin.cooper@mcrccd.org

Sonoma: Anya Starovoytov, Astarovoytov@sonomarc.org

Napa: Charles Schembre, Charles@naparc.org

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COORDINATORS

Mendocino County RCD
mcrcd.org

Napa County RCD
naparcd.org

Gold Ridge RCD
goldridgercd.org

Sonoma RCD
sonomarcd.org

PARTNERS

USDA-NRCS
nrcs.usda.gov

UCCE Hopland Research and
Extension Center
hrec.ucanr.edu

Carbon Cycle Institute
carboncycle.org

California Sustainable
Winegrowers Association
sustainablewinegrowing.org

Mendocino Winegrowers, Inc.
mendowine.com

Santa Rosa Junior College,
Shone Farms
shonefarm.com

WHY JOIN THE HUB?

Purpose and Benefits of the Hub

Participating farmers will learn about regionally appropriate soil health practices that can enhance marketability, profitability, farm resiliency, and further promote the North Coast as a world-class viticulture region.

Goals of the Hub

- Facilitate information sharing among partners, growers, and industry affiliates.
- Identify barriers to the adoption of soil health practices.
- Increase adoption of climate beneficial practices in Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties to increase carbon sequestration, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve drought resiliency by increasing water infiltration and soil water holding capacity, and enhance nutrient cycling by maintaining plant cover and active soil biota.

Ways to Participate

- Fill out a brief, anonymous [online survey](#) to help us identify current vineyard practices in your region
- Collaborate with partners, growers, and industry affiliates by attending round tables, [workshops](#), and [Forum](#) discussions.
- Evaluate your vineyard practices and their impact on soil health by improving nutrient cycling, water holding capacity, soil structure, infiltration, erosion control and carbon sequestration.
- Demonstrate and measure impacts of regionally appropriate soil health practices such as cover cropping, conservation tillage, composting, minimizing nitrogen inputs, and restoration of habitats.

What Can the Hub Do for Me?

- [Website](#), [Survey](#) & [Forum](#): SoilHub.org is a platform to share information, research, news and discussion.
- **Vineyard Field Trials** will measure and demonstrate the effect of different practices on soil health and crop production.
- **Carbon Farm Plans** identify carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reduction opportunities.
- **Workshops** provide hands-on learning and farmer-to-farmer communication.
- **Soil Health Assessments**: On-site evaluations and soil lab testing.

[Contact us](#) with questions or comments SoilHub.org