

North Coast Hub

Gold Ridge RCD, Humboldt County RCD, Lake County RCD, Marin RCD, Mendocino County RCD, Napa RCD, Sonoma RCD

Agricultural Summary

Source: 2017 and 2018 County Crop Reports

Rangeland/Field Crops **1,550,357 acres**

Fruit & Nut Crops **159,043 acres**

Truck Crops **1,573 acres**



Agricultural Demographics – 2017 Census of Agriculture

White 90%	Latinx 6%	American Indian 1%	Asian 2%	Multi-Race 1%
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Important Characteristics of the Hub

California’s North Coast is a diverse agricultural region with approximately 1.5 million acres used for crop and livestock production. While a range of different crops are produced across the region, dominant crops are winegrapes, apples, pears, and walnuts. Winegrapes are the primary cash crop, and there are about 3,000 farmers growing 127,000 acres of winegrapes in this area. The industry is a major employer and economic driver in the region. Small organic dairies are an important industry in Marin, Sonoma, and Humboldt counties.

Carbon farming in the region has been focused primarily on actively managed lands, especially vineyards, orchards, dairies, and pasture-based livestock operations. Demand for carbon farming assistance is very high in the wine and organic dairy industries, while interest in climate beneficial grazing practices and agroforestry are growing in the ranching community.

Ag Sector Partnerships

RCDs in the North Coast Hub have built strong partnerships with the wine industry, including the CA Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, to improve soil health and reduce the carbon footprint of vineyard operations. RCDs are also working directly with Organic Valley Co-op, Clover Sonoma, and Straus Family Creamery to mitigate dairy emissions through carbon farming. The RCDs in this Hub have played a strong leadership role in local climate action planning and bringing a diverse group of agricultural stakeholders into the planning process. In 2017, the North Coast RCDs formed the first Soil Health and Carbon Farming Hub in the state, and continue to expand regional coordination, outreach and education, and resource sharing.

Carbon Farming Success Stories

There are currently twelve (12) trained RCD carbon planners in the Hub, with 103 carbon farm plans completed or in progress encompassing 33,495 acres of agricultural land.

Marin RCD has worked with **Straus Family Creamery** for over a decade on carbon farming. Albert Straus has now committed to becoming the first **carbon neutral dairy farm** in the nation.

RCDs in Marin, Mendocino, Sonoma and Napa counties are working to integrate carbon farming into local climate action plans.

Sonoma RCD is helping **Jackson Family Wines** to become one of the first **carbon neutral vineyards** in the nation. **Napa RCD** is partnering with Napa Green to incorporate carbon farm plans into its existing sustainability certification program.