



Florida Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative 2021 Work Plan

Mission Statement: *The Florida Climate Smart Agriculture (FLCSA) initiative will identify and implement climate smart agriculture solutions and ecosystem services that benefit the public, producers and the planet.*

Planned Workstreams in 2021:

Ecosystem Services

- Quantifying and Valuing AgroEcosystem Services using Artificial Intelligence. The AI project design calls for layering management practices and examining ecosystems service deliverables using AI and computer modeling. Efforts are underway to secure necessary funding to underpin this important work.
- Attributes of an effective payment for ecosystems service program. The only way for PES programs to be successful is if they work for farmers, ranchers and foresters. With this imperative in mind, FLCSA leaders will discuss and define what it would take for them to participate.

Communications Outreach

- With support from the VoLo Foundation. FLCSA has committed to develop a series of public service announcements featuring farmers, ranchers and foresters delivering ecosystems services at scale. The first shoot took place on Dec 12th and featured Jim Strickland discussing ecosystems services generated through sustainable ranching operations. Their goal is to produce one PSA every two months. Each PSA will be accompanied by an op-ed that will be published in media outlets across the state along with feature articles that can help educate readers on these services.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment

- Necessary funding to support the construction of an agricultural vulnerability assessment for the state of Florida remains a barrier to moving forward. FLCSA will be exploring creative pathways and partnerships to do to operationalize work in this track.

Limited Resource Producer Engagement

- FLCSA leaders have committed to develop a manageable plan of action to engage minorities and limited resource producers by not only inviting minority farmers to the project, but building a concrete strategy for ways to identify and understand the unique needs of these communities and explore initiatives and policies that could help improve their livelihoods.

Clean Energy

- FLCSA leaders will explore distributed generation models of solar energy development where landowners would have an equity position in the project.

Field Day(s)

- Post COVID, FLCSA will host one or more field days in partnership with IFAS research stations to share knowledge about systems and practices that enable the delivery of high value ecosystem services. Preliminary plans call for hosting one in the northern half of the state in a second in the southern region. The viability of these options will be explored further as the COVID-19 situation in FL evolves.