

Photo: Amelia Skinner

# PCC Farmland Trust | Advancing Farm Sustainability

PCC Farmland Trust's (PCCFT) Advancing Farm Sustainability program supports our current tenants and easement landowners in their adoption of new approaches to sustainable land management. The purpose of the program is to provide the financial support our tenants and landowners need to protect and steward the natural resources on their farms.

## Program Criteria

- Projects must be focused on one of the following goals:
  - Water quality improvement or conservation.
  - Soil quality improvement or conservation.
  - Habitat maintenance or improvement for native species such as pollinator species, listed species such as salmon, or beneficial insects and birds.
- Applicants must be current tenants in good standing on PCCFT owned properties, or landowners of properties conserved by PCCFT through a conservation easement. Properties must be farmed during the season immediately following the application deadline.
- Projects must be carried out in accordance with applicable law and meet all local, county, state, and federal regulations.

## Program Details

Applicants may request up to 100% of one project's cost, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per funding cycle. Funding is available on a reimbursable basis only. If selected, grantees must submit records and receipts, along with photo-documentation of the project completion prior to payment. In some cases, PCCFT may request a site visit prior to payment. There will be no reimbursement for purchases made before the grant contract is signed. Grantees are encouraged to use PCCFT dollars as a match for other funding programs.

There is no lifetime maximum on the number of projects a grantee can fund through the program, however the grantee must complete and receive reimbursement for a funded project before a new application will be considered.

PCCFT may be able to offer assistance recruiting volunteers to support project implementation.



**PCC Farmland Trust** protects and stewards threatened farmland in Washington. We aim to keep land in production by making it accessible to future generations of farmers.



Photo: Amelia Skinner

## Selection Process & Considerations

A team of PCCFT staff will rank and select projects based on alignment with program criteria and anticipated impact.

PCCFT considers the National Organics Program (NOP) regulations related to land management, soil fertility, crop nutrient management practices, crop rotations, crop pest management, weed management, and disease management as important guidelines for good natural resource management on farmland. Priority will be given to projects that meet the criteria outlined in Sections 205.203, 205.205 and 205.206 of the NOP regulations, relating specifically to the protection of water, soil, and habitat natural resources on farms.

Priority will be given to projects that incorporate other funding sources into the project budget, such as projects that use PCCFT funds as a match for the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program dollars.

## Project Ideas

The following projects have the potential to be funded by the Advancing Farm Sustainability program:

- Labor and material costs for invasive species removal and management
- Pollinator hedgerow planting
- Winter or summer cover crop practices
- Organic soil amendment purchases
- Cultivation equipment that limits the use of herbicides
- Pest traps that limit the use of pesticides
- Irrigation system upgrades for improved water conservation
- Livestock fencing to protect critical areas
- Consultant hours for the creation of a natural resource management plan

Additional project ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

**APPLY NOW.** Contact Rusty Milholland, our Farmland Stewardship Manager at [rusty.milholland@pccfarmlandtrust.org](mailto:rusty.milholland@pccfarmlandtrust.org) to receive application materials, learn about past awarded projects, or to find out more information about the program. We accept applications quarterly, and review them on a rolling basis.



**PCC Farmland Trust** protects and stewards threatened farmland in Washington. We aim to keep land in production by making it accessible to future generations of farmers.