

STEP 4: SELECT BEST-FIT CLIMATE RESILIENCE PRACTICES



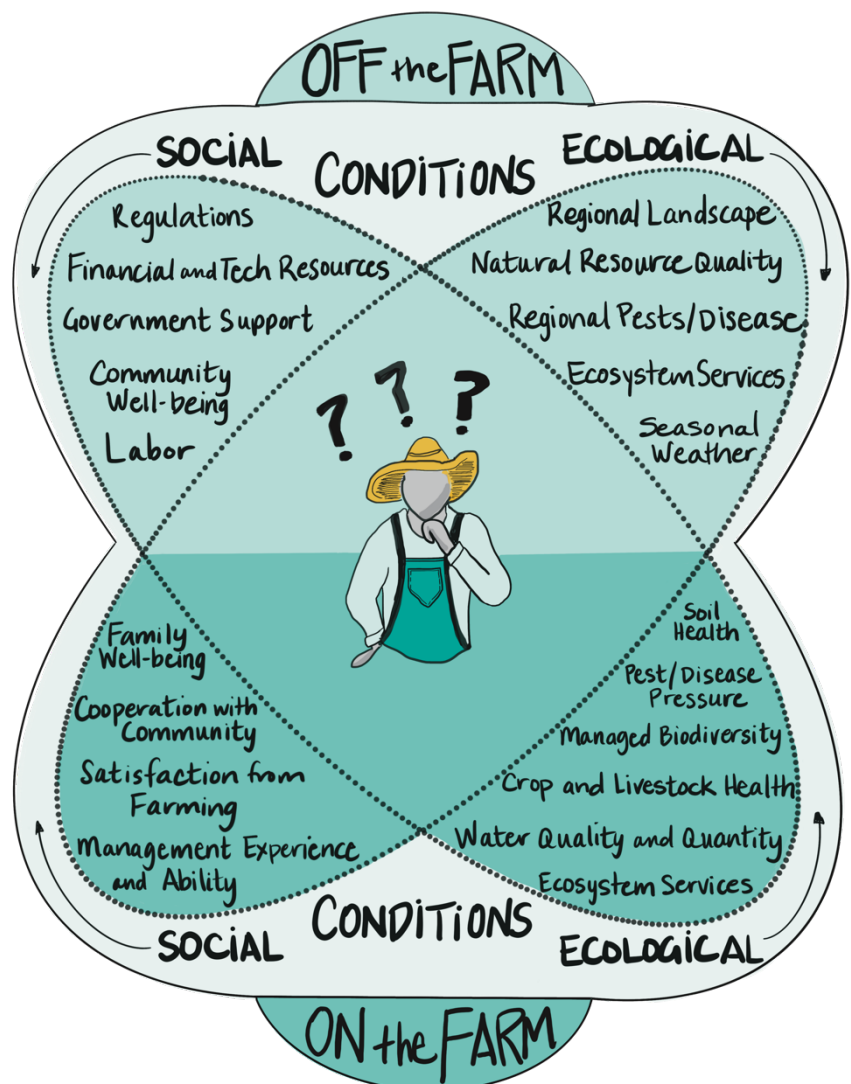
To complete this step, you are invited to do the research necessary to identify specific farming practices associated with each of the climate resilience strategies you selected in Step 3. Then, you are invited to evaluate how well these practices fit into your current operation. You will use this work to help you select a final set of climate resilience practices to include in your regenerative climate resilience plan. As you complete this step, remember to select a set of practices that draw on a diverse group of farm assets and cultivate all three kinds of adaptive capacity (response, recovery, and transformation) needed to sustain the performance of your farm in changing conditions.

Part 1: Your Best-Fit Climate Resilience Strategies

First, print out *Worksheet 5: Climate Resilience Strategies and Practices*, and note three to five of the climate resilience strategies you listed on Worksheet 4. Do the research necessary to identify some specific practices associated with each strategy that may be a good fit for your operation. For example, if you want to improve soil health as a climate resilience strategy, you will need to learn more about the various soil health practices that are recommended as best practices for farm operations similar to yours in your area.

Continuing with the soil health example, as you research best soil health practices, try to select practices that support your holistic goal (Worksheet 1) and take advantage of a strength, capture a new opportunity, or address a weakness in your operation (Worksheet 2).

BEST-FIT



This is also a great time to notice when a practice supports more than one climate resilience strategy. For example, healthy soils reduce the risks associated with both heavy rains and drought because they can absorb more water and are less likely to be damaged during heavy rains. Healthy soils also store more water for crops to use between rainfalls. Therefore, practices that promote soil health often cultivate both response and recovery capacity and could even promote transformation capacity if improved soil health is needed to prepare for expected weather changes.

After you have identified a set of best soil health practices for each climate resilience strategy, take a moment to step back and make sure that you have selected a complementary mix of practices that cultivate response, recovery, and transformation capacity and draw on all five types of farm assets (natural, human, social, financial, and physical/technological).

If your mix of practices depends mostly on just one kind of adaptive capacity or relies on only one or two asset types, do the additional research needed to adjust your practice mix before moving on to Part 2.

Part 2: Best Practices for Each Climate Resilience Strategy

Print out and complete *Worksheet 6: Selected Climate Resilience Practices* for a few of the most promising practices associated with each strategy you listed on Worksheet 5. Use your experience and draw on the experience of your trusted farm advisors to evaluate each practice in terms of its specific benefits, drawbacks, and barriers to adoption on your farm, and note your thoughts on Worksheet 6. For example, some promising practices will have higher costs than others; some may be eligible for technical and financial assistance; and some may require that you make adjustments of variable cost and complexity to your production practices, crop or livestock mix, infrastructure, labor, markets, or farm design and organization.

Once you have completed your initial evaluation of the selected climate resilience practices, take a moment to step back and think about the big picture by answering these questions for each practice: Does the practice support your holistic goal? Does the practice strengthen or weaken the current position of your farm, and does it reduce or eliminate a critical threat or capture a new opportunity? Note your answers on Worksheet 6.

To complete Worksheet 6, fill in the last row by noting whether you want to implement each practice on your farm. As a final check, take a look at the set of practices you have chosen to implement, and answer this question: Have I selected a mix of complementary practices that draw on a diverse mix of farm assets and cultivate the response, recovery, and transformation capacity of my operation? If your answer is no, revisit Worksheet 5 to see if you can replace one of the practices you selected for Worksheet 6 with another practice to create a more balanced mix of practices. If you can answer yes to this question, congratulations! You are ready to move on to Step 5: Your Regenerative Climate Resilience Plan.



Worksheet 5: Climate Resilience Strategies and Best Practices

Complete this worksheet by doing the research needed to identify three to five best practices associated with the climate resilience strategies you noted on Worksheet 4. After you have completed this worksheet, take a moment to step back and make sure that you have selected a complementary mix of best practices that draw on a diverse group of farm assets and cultivate all three kinds of adaptive capacity (response, recovery, and transformation) needed to sustain the performance of your farm in the face of change. If not, do the research needed to adjust your practice mix before moving on to Worksheet 6.

Climate Resilience Strategy	Practice 1	Practice 2	Practice 3	Practice 4	Practice 5

Worksheet 6: Best-Fit Climate Resilience Practices

Complete this worksheet for each best practice that you noted on Worksheet 5. Fill in this table to document your evaluation of each practice in terms of how well it fits into your current operation. Be sure to include in your evaluation how well each practice supports your holistic goal (Worksheet 1) and improves the current position of your farm business (Worksheet 2). Complete your evaluation by noting whether you will include each practice in your climate resilience plan and noting the most important reasons for your decision.

Climate Resilience Strategy:

Specific Practice:

Benefits	
Drawbacks & Barriers	
Other Considerations	
Supports Holistic Goal?	
Improves Current Status?	
Include in Plan? Why/Why Not?	