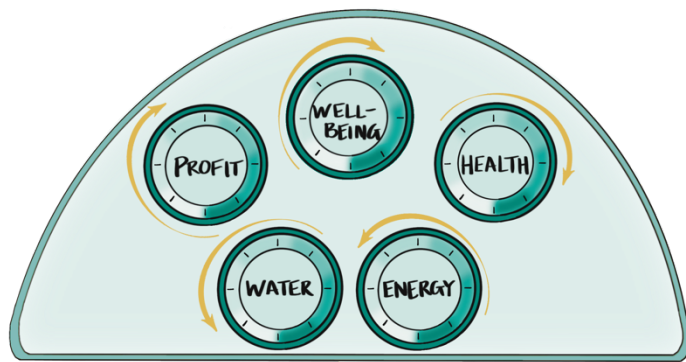


STEP 5: MY REGENERATIVE WHOLE-FARM CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLAN



Congratulations!

You are ready to take the last step to complete your climate resilience plan. This step invites you to dig deeper into the specific practices you selected in Step 4 in order to make a detailed implementation plan for each practice. Your climate resilience plan includes the specific steps required to implement each practice in your operation, along with the cost and timing of each step. The final part of your implementation plan involves selecting a few simple observations or measurements that you can make over time to evaluate the effectiveness of each practice and your plan as a whole. This is the monitoring step in whole-farm planning. Read on to learn more about how to create a simple monitoring plan.



Monitoring Your Regenerative Whole-Farm Climate Resilience Plan

Keeping track of how your management decisions influence farm performance over time and how well your farm supports progress toward your business and family goals can mean the difference between success and failure — especially in conditions of high uncertainty, like those created by disruptions of all kinds (including climate change).

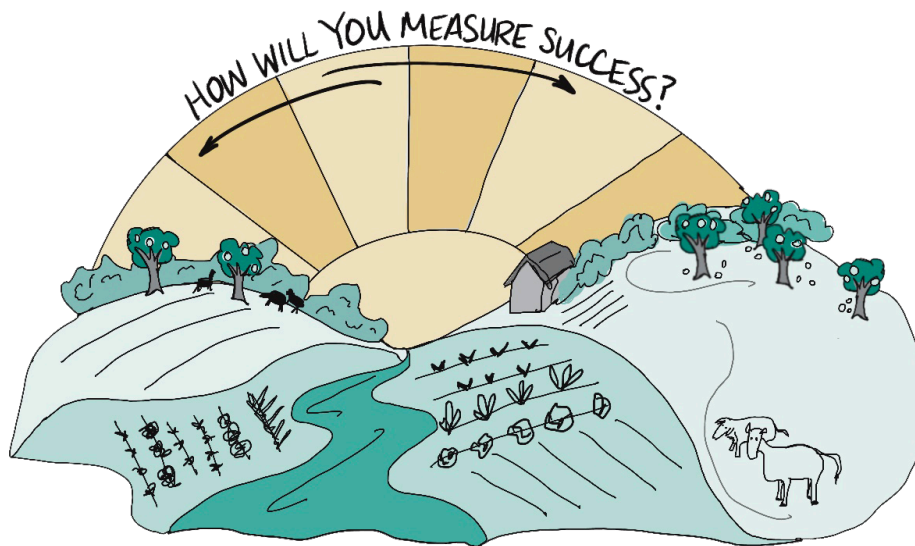
You can use the whole-farm planning practice called monitoring to track how well the climate resilience strategies that you have implemented are working. To do this, you can use a small set of simple measurements, or **indicators**, that measure progress toward your farm and family goals over time.

Indicators are useful for farm decision-making in a variety of ways. In whole-farm planning, indicators can be used to measure progress toward farm and family goals, to make planning decisions (e.g., choosing among different crops, value-added products, or markets), and to evaluate the success of changes in farm practices. Furthermore, indicators can be particularly useful as **early warning signals** that a change in management is not going as planned or that changing conditions could become a threat to the success of your operation.

Consider the ways in which you are already monitoring farm performance — for example, by keeping records of production costs and revenues, crop yields, soil fertility, or seasonal cash flow — and how you might use these indicators of farm performance, plus some new ones, to evaluate the success of your climate resilience strategies over time.

Review *Table 2: Recommended Farm Performance Indicators* to select some specific observations or measurements you can use to evaluate the success of your climate resilience plan. Table 2 summarizes some farm performance indicators recommended in three of the Step 5 resources on the [companion website](#). [The Monitoring](#)

Toolbox introduces monitoring as a best management whole-farm management practice and includes detailed instructions for measuring a number of farmer-approved farm performance indicators. The AATRA bulletin titled Applying the Principles of Sustainable Farming provides a general introduction to sustainable farming practices; describes farming practices that promote ecological health on farms through the management of healthy energy flow, water and mineral cycles, and community dynamics; and recommends environmental, social, and economic farm performance indicators. The Sustainable Decisions Toolbox is a do-it-yourself guide to monitoring farm and family well-being as a sustainable whole-farm planning practice.



Don't skip the monitoring step in your climate resilience planning! Take some time now to review Table 2, select at least three indicators relevant to each practice you have included in your climate resilience plan, gather the information you need to monitor these indicators, and then plan to review the performance of each practice as a regular part of your annual planning process. You'll be glad you did!

Complete *Worksheet 7: My Regenerative Whole-Farm Climate Resilience Plan* to create a summary of your practice implementation and monitoring plans to use during your annual operations and strategic planning. This is also a good time to take another step back and review your plan to be sure that you have selected a group of strategies and practices that draws on a diverse group of assets (natural, human, social, financial, and physical/technological) and cultivates all three kinds of adaptive capacity (response, recovery, and transformation) needed to sustain the performance of your farm in the face of change.



Table 2: Recommended Farm Performance Indicators

This table summarizes several ways to track farm performance over time that are recommended in three publications among the Step 5 resources on the [companion website](#). You can make these observations and measurements on your farm to evaluate the success of your climate resilience plan. These kinds of observations are often referred to in business management as key performance indicators (KPIs) or sustainability indicators. You can also choose some indicators from this table to track progress toward your holistic goal (Worksheet 1) and changes in your business position (Worksheet 2) over time. You can learn more about simple methods of measuring the indicators you select by reading the source publications referenced in each column.

Type of Indicator	Applying the Principles of Sustainable Farming, SARE	Monitoring Toolbox, Land Stewardship Project	The Sustainable Decision Toolbox, Lengnick and Kask
Environmental Sustainability & Ecological Well-being	% bare ground, soil quality, water quality, wildlife abundance, landscape biodiversity	Soil quality, stream quality, bird diversity and abundance, frog and toad diversity and abundance, grassland diversity and biomass production	Presence of earthworms, balanced nutrient budget, balanced carbon budget, energy efficiency, water efficiency, biodiversity, pest pressure
Social Sustainability & Community Well-Being	Support for local businesses and families, local purchases, local rural population stable or rising, farm stays in family, college graduates return to farm/community	Community-focused values in action, quality of life objectives, family activities calendar	Proportion of local sales, farm income compared to average regional income, on-farm jobs for permanent residents, local purchases, cooperation with other farmers, cooperation with non-farming neighbors, community on farm, development pressure, local identity, farm attractiveness
Economic Sustainability & Family Well-being	Family savings/net worth increasing and debt decreasing, farm enterprises consistently profitable, purchase of off-farm inputs decreasing, reliance on government payments decreasing	Family-focused values in action, quality of life objectives, family activities calendar, reliance on government programs, use of equipment, chemicals, and non-renewable energy, creation of jobs, balance between feed use and feed production	Total family income, time for family activities, family health, satisfaction from farming, farm succession plan, family education, participation in community activities, ratio of family to other farm labor, ratio of family to other farm residents

Worksheet 7: My Regenerative Climate Resilience Plan

Use your analysis of the best-fit climate resilience practices you identified in Step 4 (see Worksheet 6) to complete this worksheet. For each best-fit practice that you plan to incorporate into your farm operation over the next one to three years, note the climate resilience strategy, the specific best-fit practices associated with each strategy, and the main asset type(s) associated with each practice. Complete each row by noting the specific steps and timeline to implement each practice and some specific measurements you will use to monitor the effectiveness of each practice. Note that there may be more than one specific practice associated with each climate resilience strategy.

Climate Resilience Strategy	Specific Practice/ Asset Type(s)	Implementation Steps & Timeline	Monitoring Plan

Find a completed version of this worksheet on [pages 34 & 35](#).