

**STAFF DRAFT:
Defining Regenerative Agriculture for State Policies and Programs**

NOTE:

The proposed Staff Draft Definition is to inform State Agencies, Boards and Commissions on CDFA’s definition of regenerative agriculture as it relates to state programs and policies. This is not a definition for certification.

The Staff Draft Definition reflects that “Regenerative agriculture” is not an endpoint, but a continuous implementation of practices that over time minimize inputs and environmental impacts and further enhances the ecosystem while maintaining or improving productivity, economic contributions and community benefits. “Regenerative agriculture” is an ongoing continuum of sustainability for California’s farmers and ranchers.

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**STAFF DRAFT FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:
NOT REVIEWED OR APPROVED BY THE BOARD**

1 “Regenerative agriculture,” as defined for use by State of California policies and programs, is an
2 integrated approach to farming and ranching rooted in principles of soil health and informed by
3 the traditions and innovations from the original Indigenous stewards of the land.
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5 Examples of target outcomes include:

- 6 • Increased statewide implementation of [conservation practice standards](#) that improve
7 soil health, sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gases;
- 8 • Furthering California’s sustainable pest management through conservation practice
9 standards. (USDA NRCS [pest management conservation system](#));
- 10 • Protecting the welfare and care of animals in agriculture; ([Animal Care Program](#))
- 11 • Build healthy, local communities; ([Ag Vision](#))
- 12 • Protecting spiritual and cultural traditions as well as supporting Native-led stewardship
13 practices;
- 14 • Minimizing negative impacts to other target outcomes;
- 15 • Maintaining positive impact on the economic vitality/livelihoods of farmers and
16 ranchers.

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18 Regenerative agriculture will require processes, practices, monitoring, evaluation, and
19 innovation to be customized to specific production systems, ecoregions, and local Indigenous
20 cultural regions. Practice selection is based on the best available science and practice,
21 including organic and traditional ecological knowledge, for production systems.
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23 State agencies and departments shall coordinate with the Department, contingent upon
24 resources, in the development of measurable and verifiable outcomes related to individual
25 policies and programs and are responsible for incorporating verification and reporting.