Sustainable Farms and Field: developing

- Draft programmatic guidelines are still in progress but coming along.
  - SFF foundation already established in statute
  - SFF’s flexibility, range of fundable projects, and wider eligibility (CDs and state/local entities requires more structure and detail.
  - Once draft is complete, it will be distributed to CDs and stakeholders for review before being presented to the Commission.

- Initial measurement and estimation verification (MEV) system created by WSU team.

- Outstanding collaboration and support from our partners at WSDA, NRCS, and WSU.
Sustainable Farms and Field: preparing

There is a lot of interest in SFF, so before funding materializes:

- Coordinate with CDs and other public entities interested in applying for funds to ensure training resources are available about topics including:
  - The SFF program
  - Climate-smart practices
  - COMET Planner and COMET Farm
  - Soil sampling
  - Carbon markets
- Educate farmers about carbon sequestration and climate-smart practices – collaborate and/or support existing efforts by WSU and WSDA and others
Sustainable Farms and Field: promoting

• Continue with outreach efforts to increase awareness about SFF and climate-smart opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and shellfish growers
  • Website, newsletters, social media, presentations, etc.
  • WSDA’s COMET-based climate-smart dashboard tool will be valuable resource for SFF applicants and for landowners interested in learning more about best climate-smart practices.
$2M budget request submitted for FY23.
SFF practices eligible for funding from Climate Investment Account created by the Climate Commitment Act.
Ongoing efforts to secure federal funding through USDA.
• 3 letters submitted to USDA from 1) Agencies; 2) Associations and producers; and 3) Six members of WA delegation
• 2 online meetings with FPAC staff
• Potential funding through Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
• Public-Private Partnership opportunities?
New bill to create SFF Program Advisors

- Representative Shewmake is drafting a bill for the upcoming legislative session that would create a pool of Sustainable Farms and Fields Advisors who would be shared by Conservation Districts.
- These advisors would develop SFF plans for producers and food processors to help them increase energy efficiency, utilize more green energy, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The advisors would also provide information to CDs, producers, and food processors about funding/grant opportunities to implement BMPs recommended in the plans.
- The SCC would have a SFF Coordinator to work with the advisors, disseminate information about funding opportunities, and write grants.
- Stay tuned……
WA Soil Health Initiative (WaSHI) progress:

• In November, WSU released its WaSHI Soil Health Roadmap.
• WSDA and WSU have been, with the assistance of several CDs, collecting soil samples to be used in the development of the State of the Soils Assessment.
• WSDA is also working on a soil health economic report to show the economic benefits a producer could see by implementing soil health BMPs.
• The SCC is working with NRCS, WSDA, and WSU on the formation of the Soil Health Advisory Committee 2.0 that will support efforts of WaSHI.
• The SCC and the CDs will help in the dissemination of soil health information and implementation of BMPs based on the findings of WaSHI.
Thank You!

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