

High Standards

The Farmed Smart certification standards will provide a clear understanding and quantified benefits of these practices. Points are awarded on a best management practices rating scale that allows for a variety of management methods and equipment to be used, with an overall high cumulative score being achieved with no disqualifying practices.

Certification Categories

Criteria are evaluated in six categories that provide a holistic evaluation of the environmental and economic practices needed to achieve Farmed Smart certification. The six categories and several key criteria within each category are:

1. Water Quality

- Required low Soil Tillage Index Rating
- Required use of precision ag tools for nutrient management application
- Required riparian buffer implementation along waterways

2. Air Quality

- Maintain maximum crop residue
- No systematic field burning

3. Soil Health

- Evaluate organic matter and maintain positive Soil Condition index
- Use of cover crops and diverse crop rotations
- Use soil tests to develop nutrient management plans

4. Wildlife Habitat

- Implement practices to improve shelter and forage for wildlife

5. Energy Conservation

- Reduction of fossil fuel and use of renewable energy sources

6. Economic Sustainability

- Track input costs, yields, returns

Responsibilities of Agriculture

Major social issues related to global food security and meeting future production demands revolve around climate change and energy conservation. Climate change and an environmental degradation are a threat to production sustainability. The Farmed Smart Sustainable Agriculture Certification plays a key role in addressing the National and Global resource challenges and demands we face:

Produce enough food to feed 9 billion people by 2050

Farmed Smart farms have healthy and productive soils and produce as much food with up to 40% less costs.

Protect rivers, lakes, and oceans while keeping working lands working

Farmed Smart farms have high residue, low disturbance, and precise placement of nutrients that reduces runoff and hold nutrients on the land, keeping the water clean.

Reduce the impacts of climate change and mitigate air pollution

Farmed Smart farms use less fossil fuels, emit less emissions into the atmosphere, and sequester carbon in their soils. Farmed Smart farms' use of cover crops and residue to keep their ground covered throughout the year, reduce dust storms and keep the soil and atmosphere cooler.

Protect against drought and floods

Farmed Smart farms allow 10-20% more water to infiltrate into the ground, reducing runoff and providing water to plants where they need it, when they need it.

Farming in concert with the environment

Farmed Smart farms increase wildlife habitat through the use of riparian buffers along streams improving fish habitat, keeping residue on fields providing forage and shelter, use diverse crop rotations and cover crops to provide natural weed and disease management, improve soil biology and nutrients in the soil.



FARMED SMART Sustainable Agriculture CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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Stakeholder Benefits

The Farmed Smart certification program provides different value and benefits for each of the stakeholder groups:

Farmers

- Receive regulatory assurance for meeting water quality standards.
- Eligible for environmental market programs such as carbon credits.
- Access to sustainable commodity markets, additional conservation programs, and incentives such as tax exemptions.

Environmental & Regulatory Agencies

- Proactive implementation of conservation practices proven to reduce soil erosion by 5 tons/acre/year, improve air quality, and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- Supports voluntary conservation programs that reduce non-point source pollution and achieve TDML regulations.

Grocers and Food Manufactures

- Access to large scale sustainable products and production regions with assurance products are grown under sustainable ag practices.
- Achieve corporate goals for sourcing sustainable products, reducing carbon footprint, and environmental impact within supply chain.

Consumer

- Meets consumer demands for sustainable products that are proven socially and environmentally responsible.



Certification Process

- 1) Become a member of the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association for \$100 basic or \$250 supporter membership
- 2) Complete and submit Farmed Smart Application
- 3) If notified to continue, pay certification fee and provide additional information on current conservation programs, RUSLE, nutrient management plans, etc.
- 4) Once payment and requested information is received and audit will be scheduled with a certified farm planner.
- 5) Farmer will be notified of certification decision.



Certification Summary

A sustainable farm certification program has been developed by the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association and a conservation farming technical stakeholder committee, comprised of conservation producers, managers from conservation districts and Washington State Department of Ecology, and researchers with NRCS and Washington State University. The certification criteria was developed using best management practices from multiple environmental and conservation entities, including EPA, NRCS, and Washington State Department of Ecology. The certification program has been vetted by a 3rd-party certification company with positive feedback that this certification program provides defensible and auditable conservation standards that support environmental and market concerns.

Certification Objectives

- Define a set of conservation standards that provide clear understanding and quantifiable economic and environmental benefits.
- Certify dry-land farmers in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho that are utilizing these sustainable practices.
- Educate stakeholders and develop environmental markets and value for Farmed Smart certified products and farms.

Technical Review and Recertification Process

Certification Criteria Review

Each year the technical stakeholder committee will review the criteria against current best management practices, conservation practice standards, and any field expectations or criteria review requests that have developed over the year. The criteria will be updated as approved by the committee.

Recertification Process

Each year 10% of the currently certified farmers will be randomly selected for a recertification audit to ensure they continue to qualify for the current certification standards. They must show they are meeting or improving upon the certification standards to remain certified. Any producer implementing riparian buffers will be evaluated every two years to ensure they are meeting their phased-in certification standards.