Oklahoma Carbon Program

A Voluntary Program for
Verification, Certification & Registration of
Oklahoma Carbon Offsets

X-AGG, October 2010

Agriculture • Forestry • Geologic
Oklahoma Conservation Commission

- To conserve, protect and restore Oklahoma's natural resources, working in collaboration with the conservation districts and other partners, on behalf of the citizens of Oklahoma through voluntary programs.

- District services
- Small watershed upstream flood control
- Abandoned mine land reclamation
- Water quality protection & monitoring
  - EPA NPS 319 Program lead agency in OK
  - Priority watersheds projects using funds as cost-share
  - Wetlands conservation
  - **Carbon program** (only fee-based program)
Timeline

- 2001-2003 Legislation & Reports
  - Oklahoma Carbon Sequestration Enhancement Act

- 2007 Discussion

- 2008
  - Pilot program begins
  - Soil carbon sampling begins (OSU)
  - Emergency rules passed

- 2009
  - Final rules approved
  - Protocol & policy development begins
  - Began accepting applications
  - Verifier training program begins

- 2010-2013
  - Selected for funding from FY2010 NRCS CIG

- Oklahoma Carbon Sequestration Enhancement Act
- 1st state to authorize state agency to verify/cert carbon offsets?
- Findings
  - Improved ag, forestry, injection of CO2 reduce atm CO2
  - In the interest of citizens to quantify C seq resulting from improved stewardship
  - Efforts to document and quantify C seq will enhance the ability of Oklahomans to participate in future C markets
- OCC authorized to administer “Carbon Sequestration Certification Program”
- Shall develop program to be as “consistent as possible with other gov programs designed to create carbon reserves for the purpose of voluntarily reducing GHG.”
- $0 funding
Pilot Program (2008-2011)

Purpose: 1. Gauge interest 2. Test methods 3. Encourage BMPs 4. PR value

- $90,000 for carbon offset payments (electric co-op)
- $20,000 for soil testing (electric co-op)

Practices: no-till and grassland conversion

- $3.50/metric ton CO2 pmt incentive paired with $19.70/ac NT, $90/ac GC, $90/ac Riparian exclusion

- Aggregation by OACD; Verification by OCC

Results

- 22 producers / 100 fields
- 9,290 acres
- $12,943 to producers – Yr 1
- 3,698 tons CO2 sequestered
Soil Carbon Research (2008-2013)

- Oklahoma State University – Dr. Jason Warren
- Electric co-op, legislators, producers want Oklahoma-specific C seq rates
- $202,500; ~ ?? samples
- Evaluate SOC seq potential of soils
- Gather baseline data for long-term evaluation of SOC in soils after conversion
- Determine how many samples needed to assess avg seq rate of aggregated acres in project area
- Create hand soil sample collection protocol to accompany performance based verification
- Assess: total carbon, inorganic carbon, bulk density, pH, 5 year tillage history, crop rotation, fertilizer application, crop yield
Program Rules (2008-2009)

- VOLUNTARY program
- Application process for verification
- Verify C seq ag, forestry, CCS w/EOR
- Resource management plan required
- Application/screening/approval process for “state approved” aggregators & verifiers
- Performance criteria for aggregators & verifiers
- Application process for carbon offset registration
- Oklahoma Carbon Offset Registry
- Fees
- Restrictions on certification: Project has not broken the law nor intentionally disturbed soil
Verifier Training Program (2009- )

Dev w/NRCS for approved verifiers with background/experience in agriculture

Level 1 – Trainee
- Attended at least one classroom and one field training

Level 2 – Apprentice
- Has accompanied a Senior Verifier during verification of at least 2 grasslands and/or 2 no-till fields

Level 3 – Independent Verifier
- Has been observed to accurately verify at least 3 grasslands and/or 3 no-till fields
- Certification by the Director of the Oklahoma Carbon Program

Level 4 – Senior Verifier / Trainer
- Has successfully instructed at least 1 classroom and/or 1 field session on grasslands and/or no-till verification
- Certification by Director of the Oklahoma Carbon Program
Protocol Development (2009-2011)

- Program identity, scope, standard, policies, guidance, protocols, methods
- NRCS, EPA, USA Office of Ecosystem Markets, CCX, others as resource
- Methods first
- Field verifiers are collectors of information, make no determination of credit
- Currently use 1999 as baseline date except when buyer prefers more recent
- Performance based visual verification
- OACD in-state OTC projects driving pace of program/protocol development
- Co-op support of developing program allows leeway/flexibility, trial and error

Thank You: M-AGG
Agriculture Sector Greenhouse Gas Practices and Quantification Review From Agriculture Projects M-AGG Phase One Report

Defines: GHG Standard, program guidance, quantification protocol, quantification method
CIG Project Areas (2008-2013)

$90k pilot $600k project
1. Verification protocols
2. SOC testing & sampling protocol
3. Model water quality improvements
4. Quantify economic benefits
5. Manual of all methods to NRCS

We encourage your collaboration.
CONTACT

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