



# 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



# Legislation (2001-2003)

---

- ❑ Oklahoma Carbon Sequestration Enhancement Act
- ❑ 1<sup>st</sup> state to authorize state agency to verif/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)

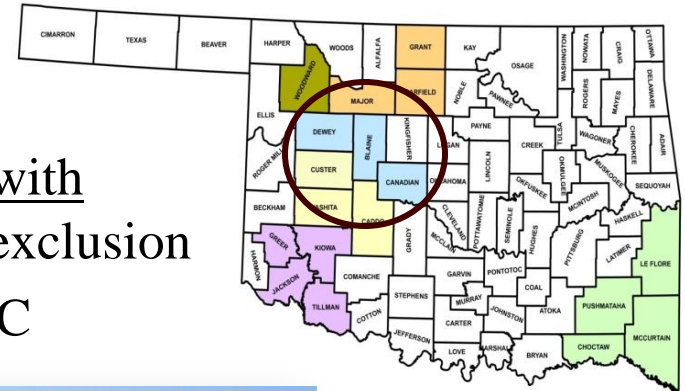
Purpose: 1. Gauge interest 2. Test methods 3. Encourage BMPs 4. PR value

- ❑ \$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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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**

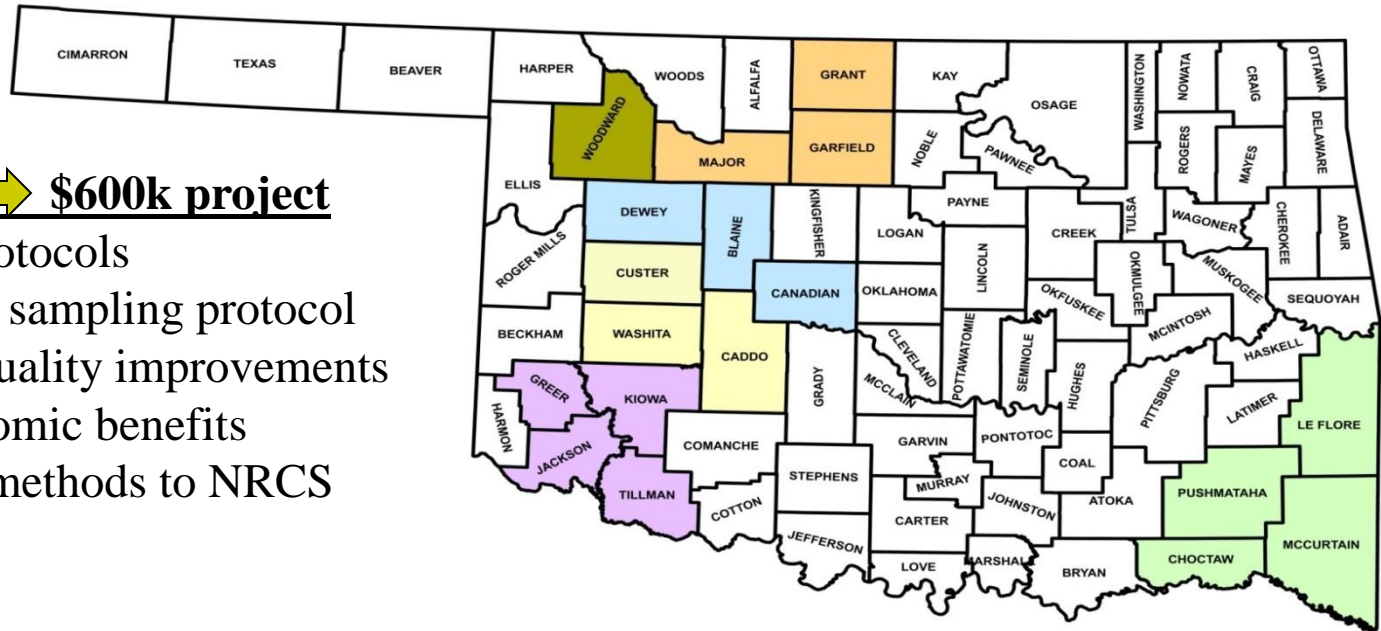
*Agriculture Sector  
Greenhouse Gas  
Practices and  
Quantification Review  
From Agriculture  
Projects M-AGG Phase  
One Report*

**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

---

Stacy Hansen

Oklahoma Carbon Program

[stacy.hansen@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:stacy.hansen@conservation.ok.gov)

405-522-4739

[www.conservation.ok.gov](http://www.conservation.ok.gov)

