

Registry Update: Agriculture Protocols at the Climate Action Reserve



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C-AGG Meeting
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Reserve Agriculture Protocols

- Rice Cultivation Project Protocol
 - Version 1.1 (June 2013)
- Nitrogen Management Project Protocol
 - Version 1.1 (January 2013)
- Livestock Project Protocol
 - Version 4.0 (January 2013) – *voluntary market only*
 - ARB Compliance Protocol for Livestock Projects (based on CAR v3.0)
 - ARB Early Action Protocols – CAR v1.0 through v3.0



Reserve Agriculture Protocols

- Mexico Livestock
 - Version 2.0 (September 2010)
- Organic Waste Digestion
 - Version 2.1 (January 2014)
- Organic Waste Composting
 - Version 1.1 (July 2013)

Nitrogen Management Protocol



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- Reserve scoping exercise completed:
 - Case Study Evaluation of Colorado irrigated corn dataset against Minimum Data Standard:
 - Mostly positive. But, insufficient replicate (or similar) studies
 - Review of USDA’s N₂O Methodology:
 - Promising option. Mostly positive. Following future updates.
 - Determination not to move forward with expansion at this time.
- Public Comment Period on Minimum Data Standard completed
 - 15 sets of comments submitted (EDF + 14 sets from scientists)
 - Still reviewing & following up. Next steps unclear.



Rice Cultivation Protocol

- Available for use in the voluntary market
- Newest version 1.1 released June 2013
 - Improved clarity between protocol requirements and guidance on DNDC modeling
- ARB is working to develop a compliance protocol, in part based on Reserve Rice Protocol
 - Reserve serving as an active participant in ARB's Technical Working Group supporting compliance protocol development.
 - Reserve's Rice Protocol will hopefully be early action protocol
- Strong and growing interest in protocol, but still no active projects listed with the Reserve

Future Grasslands Protocol Development



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- Reserve continues to seek funding for moving forward with Grasslands protocol development
- Strong continued interest from stakeholders; Have not yet convened a workgroup
- Scoping work on Grasslands to date:
 - Grasslands Issue Paper (December 2012)
 - Peatlands Research Brief (January 2013)
 - Scoping Meetings held in Minneapolis, MN and Sacramento, CA (Feb/March 2013)
 - Further internal staff analysis on state of the science, existing methodologies, business as usual conversion trends, and other additionality considerations



Livestock Protocol

- Projects implemented to the Reserve’s U.S. Livestock Protocol, versions 1.0 through 3.0, are eligible for early action, as long as:
 - Vintage 2005-2014
 - Listed before January 1, 2014
- CRTs issued to these projects are “EAOCs” and can be converted to ARBOCs by applying to ARB and undergoing a “regulatory verification”
- Early action projects must transition to the ARB compliance protocols by February 28, 2015.
 - Crediting period starts over when the project begins using the new protocol.

Trends Observed by the Reserve



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- Uptick in activity and interest in Livestock projects
 - Many early action projects converting to ARBOCs.
 - Early action projects thought to be inactive coming back online
 - Verifying as early action
 - Resubmitting as compliance
 - New projects being submitted under compliance protocol
 - Start date of January 1, 2007 or later
- “Chicken-and-Egg” Dynamic.
 - Until now: Weak price signal & lack of certainty → contributed to inactive projects (i.e. verification didn’t pencil out, but project cont’d)
 - Now: Stronger price signal & growing certainty → increased interest & activity.
 - The Reserve expects a similar pattern with Rice (and eventually Nitrogen Management).

Interest, Demand, & Success (so far)



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- **Interest:** *Lots (and increasing).*
 - Uptick in inquiries in parallel w/ ARB protocol development
 - To-date, interest seemingly driven more by environmental groups, technical consultants, and aggregators, than farmers and the rice industry
 - Regular requests for additional verification training.
- **Demand:** *Mixed.*
 - Compliance market: potentially large demand due to limited offset supply (especially for non-sequestration protocols)
 - Voluntary market: unknown due to limited supply

Interest, Demand, & Success (so far)



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- **Success (building supply): *Limited.***
 - No projects submitted to the Reserve for listing to date.
 - Lack of certainty of eligible project activities
 - Project developers encountering additional barriers (e.g. willingness of landowner to commit? Low or uncertain price signal?)
 - Providing ongoing guidance & education on the protocol
 - Responding to inquiries from potential project developers
 - Verification training completed (trained 5 individuals from 3 companies, including both verifiers and project developers), with ongoing requests for training.

Contact Information



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