

NRCS and Environmental Credit Trading

“Bridging the Gap”

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Environmental Credit Trading – What are Some Barriers?



- ❑ No Formal Market place
- ❑ Uncertainty
- ❑ High Transaction Costs
- ❑ Lack of Knowledge



Environmental Credit Trading – What Do We Need?



- ❑ Uniform set of Standards
- ❑ Clear Rules
- ❑ Credible Measurement Protocols
- ❑ Knowledge and Expertise



Environmental Credit Trading – What Can We Do?



- ❑ Enable our Partners
- ❑ Promote the use of ECT
- ❑ Establish a role for Ag
- ❑ Develop innovative Tools
- ❑ Conduct Outreach
- ❑ Increase Awareness



NRCS Technical Resources



Tools

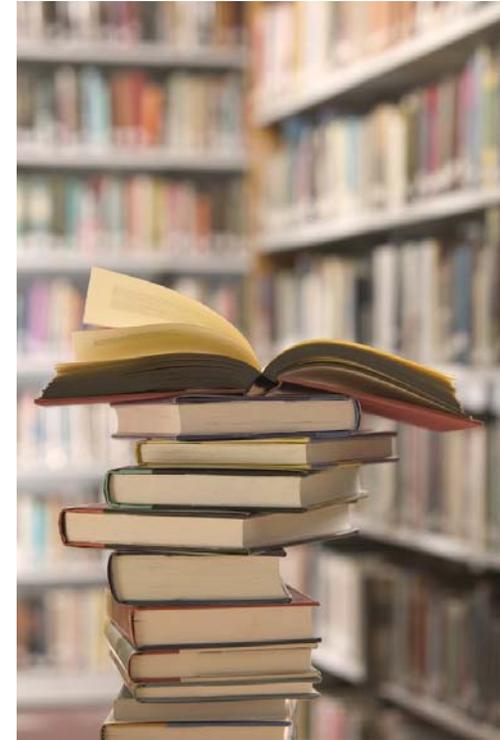
- ❑ Nutrient Trading Tool
- ❑ COMET-VR
- ❑ 1605(b) Voluntary Registry



Technical References



- ❑ Environmental Credit Trading Handbook
- ❑ Environmental Credit Trading Information Series
- ❑ Environmental Credit Trading Courses



NRCS ECT Handbook



- ❑ Contract with Iowa State University
- ❑ *“How to”* handbook for NRCS field staff and our partners
- ❑ Includes chapters for air, water, biodiversity and wetlands
- ❑ In Final Agency Review



ECT Information Series



Types in the Series:

- ❑ **Carbon Sequestration**
 - ❑ On Crop Land
 - ❑ On Range Land – *completed*
- ❑ **Nutrients**
 - ❑ Nitrogen – *in development*
 - ❑ Phosphorus – *In development*
- ❑ **Biodiversity**
 - ❑ Habitat – *completed*
 - ❑ Wetlands



ECT Courses



AgLearn

- ❑ **Carbon Course**
 - ❑ Overview of Comet –VR, COLE and 1605(b)
 - ❑ Understanding of GHG
 - ❑ Sequestration, emission reductions, registering of credits and market mechanisms
- ❑ **Environmental Credit Trading Course**
 - ❑ Parallels the ECT Handbook



Collaborative Efforts



- ❑ **USDA/EPA WQT Partnership**
- ❑ **USDA/FWS/AFWA HCT Partnership**
- ❑ **Cosponsor of the 12th Mitigation and Conservation Banking Conference**
- ❑ **Sponsor of Ecosystemmarketplace.com**



Conservation Innovation Grants



CIG Projects:

- ❑ Customized Training on Water Quality Trading for Agriculture and Wastewater Facilities (CTIC)
- ❑ Building a Transparent and Trusted Accounting System for environmental credit trading - Willamette Partnership (OR)
- ❑ Piloting Point source to Non-Point Source Nutrient Trading in the Upper Chesapeake Bay (MDA)



Conservation Effects Assessment Project



*CEAP is an Inter-agency Effort to Quantify
Environmental Effects of Conservation Practices*

CEAP Projects:

- ❑ *14 ARS Benchmark Research Watersheds*
- ❑ *10 NRCS Special Emphasis Watersheds*
- ❑ *13 CSREES Watersheds*



Environmental Services Markets



Technical Guidelines :

- ❑ *Science-Based Guidelines and Protocols*
- ❑ *A Registry*
- ❑ *Verification Guidelines*



Environmental Services Markets



The Notion is to help *build a more unified, transparent market system* where landowners can actively participate in emerging markets and investors can trust that they're purchasing a real conservation benefit.



End

For more info...



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