



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Air Quality & Atmospheric Change

Air Quality Enhancement Activities – Greenhouse Gases



Photo Courtesy of USDA NRCS

Conservation Activities

There are a variety of conservation activities that directly or indirectly address air quality and atmospheric change issues related to agricultural operations. Some of these may be applicable for payments under USDA Conservation Programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), or the Conservation Security Program (CSP).

Benefits

These activities will provide improvements in air quality by: reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide from agricultural operations, feedlots, and transportation; increase soil carbon in croplands and grazing lands through carbon sequestration; increase forest carbon stocks through forest management; provide greenhouse gas offsets through the use of agriculture residues and manure management.

- Utilize forest management to sequester carbon in a growing forest.
- Utilize residue management, cover crops, and reduced fallow periods to sequester carbon in soils.
- Utilize nutrient management to reduce nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture fields.
- Use feed management to reduce methane generation in ruminant animals.
- Utilize grazing management to sequester carbon in soils from range and pasture lands.
- Utilize manure management and/or anaerobic digester technology to capture methane and use as an energy supply.
- Participate in carbon trading and/or voluntary reporting of greenhouse gas programs.
- Utilize agriculture residues to produce bio-based products.
- Utilize implements which combine operations to reduce the number of trips across a field.
- Increase engine efficiencies.
- Use bio-based fuels.