Energy, Air Quality and Climate Change are (new) NRCS Endeavors

- Energy: A new resource concern???
- Air Quality: 4 resource concerns; new regulatory pressures + GHGs (?)
- Climate Change: Agency commitment; future???
Energy and NRCS

• Maybe an official Energy resource concern coming??
• Energy audits
• Energy tools
• An Energy Team!
• State Energy Contacts
Energy Programs and NRCS

• EQIP Energy Conservation Activity Plans
• Conservation Stewardship Program
• Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)
Energy Enhancements for 2009 CSP

- Solar powered electric fence
- Locally grown and marketed farm products
- Recycling lubricants
- Pumping plant powered by renewable energy
- Field operations fuel reduction
- Energy Audits(?)
Energy Resource Concerns?

• Decision memo
• Practice effects matrix
• Conservation delivery streamlining initiative – 2 proposed energy resource concerns focused on excess fossil fuel use and land use
Air Quality and NRCS

- Air Quality is a major emphasis area
- An AQAC Team!
- USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force
- Air Quality resource concerns and practice standards
- Increasing regulatory pressures on ag.
- Increasing emphasis on GHGs
Air Quality and NRCS Planning

Air Quality

• Past (pre-1994)
  • Air quality = wind erosion
• Present (1994-Now)
  • Air quality is a resource that has to be addressed: The first ‘A’ in SWAPA+H
  • Air-related resource concerns --
    • Particulate Matter, Ozone, Odor, Greenhouse Gas
• NM/AZ AQ and NRCS: Smoke, dust, others??
Air Quality and NRCS Planning

NRCS Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI)

• Developed new quality and planning criteria for air quality (4 resource concerns)

• Integrating AQAC planning tool concept ("SNAP") with the CDSI conservation planning tool
2009 CSP Air Quality Enhancements

- Incorporating or injecting manure
- Dust treatments for roads & unpaved surfaces
- Alternatives to burning of orchard trimmings and residues
- Smudge pot replacement
- Pesticide Drift (2)
- Nutrient Mgmt. (9)—$\text{N}_2\text{O}$ reductions
Climate Change: International Agreement, Regulation or Legislation – What will be first?

**Regulation**

EPA becoming aggressive on GHG control

- July 2008 – Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- 2009 Policy and Regulatory Activity
  - GHG Reporting Rule
  - Endangerment finding for vehicular GHGs (MA vs. EPA)
    - impetus – the stage is set to regulate GHG emissions
- Principal Ag impact on largest CAFOs (methane)
- \( \text{N}_2\text{O} \) very important but hard to quantify
- Congress may try and stop EPA on this issue
Climate Change & NRCS

- Now one of the few agency Strategic Initiatives directly reporting to the Chief
- Have established 2 climate change-related teams to address these issues
- NRCS Programs GHG benefits analysis
  - For 2002, 2007, and out to 2020
- Now making plans for potential climate change legislation
  - Eligible practices and GHG/carbon seq. effects
  - Developing credit schemes