



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Air Quality & Atmospheric Change

Air Quality Conservation Activities – Ozone Precursors



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

Ozone is formed through a photochemical reaction chiefly between nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOC's)—compounds that are typically referred to as ozone precursors. The following activities will reduce emissions of these precursors from agricultural operations.

- Use an integrated pest management (IPM) system to decrease usage of chemical pesticides

- Purchase new or retrofit engines which offer more complete combustion of fuel and reduce VOC emissions
- Properly store fuels, chemicals & pesticides
- Implement a prescribed burning management plan (especially in ozone non-attainment areas) to minimize VOC emissions from incomplete combustion of fuels, to manage fuel load, and to prevent or reduce wildfires
- Adopt biological control of pests to minimize reliance on chemical pesticide usage
- Utilize a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides

