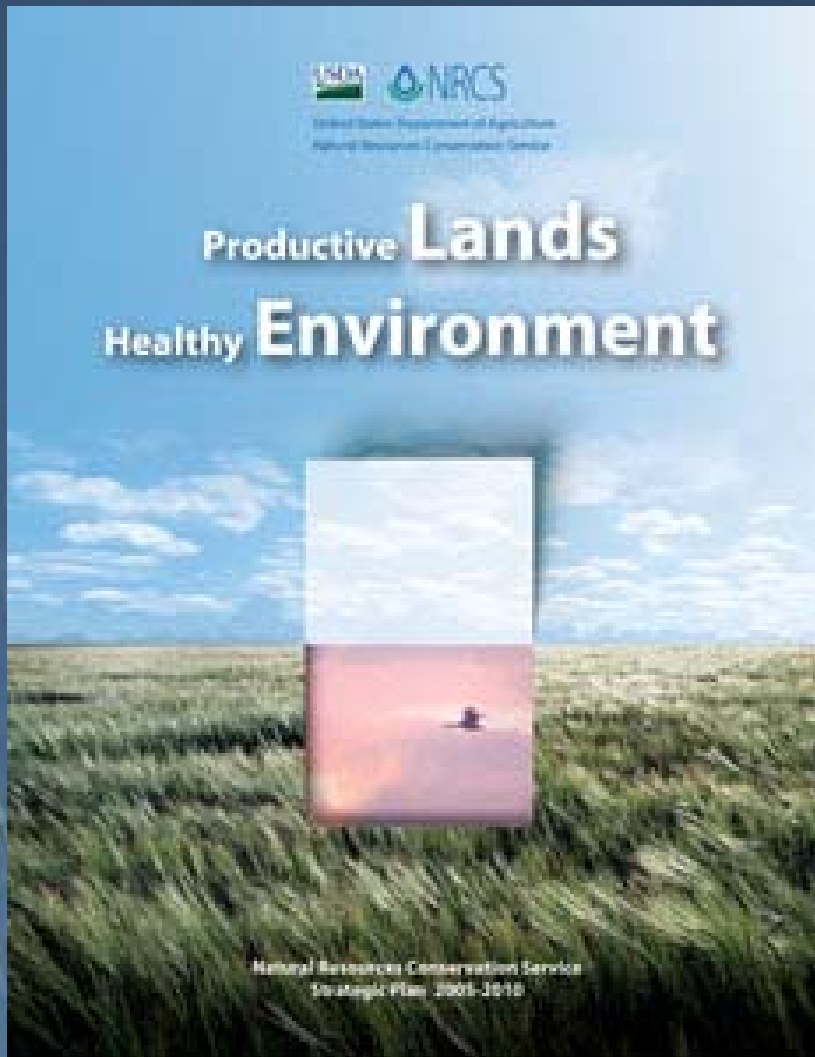


Agricultural Air Quality Activities at the USDA-NRCS

Ronald L. Marlow
Associate Deputy Chief, Science and Technology
USDA-NRCS
Washington DC



NRCS 5-year Strategic Plan



- **Foundation Goals:**

- High-quality, Productive Soils
- Clean and Abundant Water
- Healthy Plant & Animal Communities

- **Venture Goals:**

- *Clean Air*
- Adequate Energy Supply
- Working Farm & Ranch Lands



NRCS: Air Quality & Atmospheric Change

- NRCS has been active in Air Quality and Atmospheric Change for more than 10 years
- NRCS has leadership responsibilities for the AAQTF since its beginning in 1996
- The NRCS Air Quality and Atmospheric Change Technology Development Team was formed in 2004

Helping People Help the Land....and the Air



NRCS: Air Quality & Atmospheric Change

- *Developing an Infrastructure to Support Air Quality and Atmospheric Change:*
 - Nearly every state now has a NRCS Air Quality & Atmospheric Change Contact Person
 - Leadership at National Headquarters:
 - Diane Gelburd, AAQTF Designated Federal Official
 - Michele Laur, National Atmospheric Resource Spec.
 - Ron Heavner, National Air Quality Specialist



NRCS: Air Quality & Atmospheric Change

- *Developing an Infrastructure to Support Air Quality and Atmospheric Change:*
 - National Technology Development Team, Portland
 - Greg Johnson, Leader
 - Susan O'Neill, Air Quality Engineer
 - Roel Vining, Air Quality Specialist
 - Greg Zwicke, Air Quality Engineer



NRCS: Air Quality & Atmospheric Change

- Air Quality & Atmospheric Change Emphases:
 - Training and Education w/focus on face-to-face multi-day training, and online self-paced training
 - Technology Development w/focus on easy-to-use tools for agency personnel and land managers
 - Review/Recommendations w.r.t. AQ Regulations
 - Conservation Planning
 - Conservation Programs



NRCS: Air Quality & Atmospheric Change Conservation Planning



- AQ & Atmos Change now fully part of Planning
- AQ/AC Resource Concerns, Practice Standards, Activities



NRCS: Air Quality & Atmospheric Change Conservation Planning



- Resource Concerns:
 - Particulate Matter
 - Ozone Precursors
 - Odors
 - Ammonia
 - Greenhouse Gases
- 165 Practice Standards: All reviewed for AQ/AC relevance, updated



NRCS: Air Quality & Atmospheric Change Conservation Programs

- **EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program**
 - \$444 million EQIP total in 2005
 - \$31 million Air Quality-related
 - Conservation Innovation Grants (CIGs) under EQIP
 - 66 funded in 2006
 - 7 with full or partial air quality focus
 - Total AQ dollars: \$3.28 million



NRCS: Air Quality & Atmospheric Change Conservation Programs

- **CSP: Conservation Security Program**
 - 2007: 51 watersheds, 50 states
 - 2006: 60 watersheds
 - 2005: 220 watersheds, 12,800 farmers
 - 2004: 18 watersheds, 2,200 farmers
- **Air Quality Related Enhancements**
 - Over \$18 million in contracts (2006)



CSP 2006 Enhancement EAM-40: Scenario Testing with COMET-VR

- Eligible CSP land managers paid a one-time payment of \$500 for generating soil carbon storage scenarios with COMET-VR
- 899 contracts; \$449,500
- 18 states participating to date



NRCS: Air Quality & Atmospheric Change Information, Contacts:

- **Diane Gelburd, DFO, AAQTF:**
 - 202.720.2587 diane.gelburd@wdc.usda.gov
- **Michele Laur, Natl Atmos Resource Spec.**
 - 202.720.1858 michele.laur@wdc.usda.gov
- **Greg Johnson, Leader AQAC Tech Dev Team**
 - 503.273.2424 greg.johnson@por.usda.gov



NRCS: Air Quality & Atmospheric Change Information, Contacts:

- **NRCS AQ/AC Web Site:**
 - <http://www.airquality.nrcs.usda.gov/>
- **USDA Ag Air Quality Task Force:**
 - <http://www.airquality.nrcs.usda.gov/AAQTF/>
- **COMET-VR:**
 - <http://www.cometvr.colostate.edu/>

