United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA NRCS

NRCS Air Quality Update

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AAQTF
September 29, 2010

Topics

- ✓ AQAC Team
- ✓ GHG Pilot Initiative
- ✓ AQAC Conservation Standards
- ✓ National Engineering Handbook
- ✓ Comet-VR
- ✓ Rapid Soil Carbon Assessment
- ✓ Training Courses

Topics

✓ NRCS Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative

✓ Review of Regulations

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Air Quality Atmospheric Change Team

Dr. Adam Chambers – GHG/Carbon Expert

GHG Pilot Initiative

✓ *USDA (principally NRCS and FSA) will be announcing some type of GHG initiative in the coming month that will most likely feature cost-share for on-farm greenhouse gas-benefitting practices, as well as possible Conservation Innovation Grants aimed specifically at fostering local to regional carbon markets.*

AQAC Conservation Practices

- ✓ *Air Filtration and Scrubbing (371)*
- ✓ *Combustion System Improvement (372)*
- ✓ *Dust Control on Paved Roads (373)*
- ✓ *On-Farm Equipment Efficiency Improvements (374)*
- ✓ *Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces (375)*

Revision of Nutrient Management Conservation Practice Standard (590)

✓ Draft to is completed

✓ Review in October

✓ Adaptive Management

✓ Precision Agriculture

✓ Better N & P fertilizer management

✓ Clarification on Phosphorus Management

Engineering Handbook Additions

✓ *The NRCS National Engineering Handbook will feature five new chapters of Air Quality, and will be released over the coming few months:*

✓ *Introduction/Overview of Air Quality*

✓ *Particulate Matter*

✓ *Greenhouse Gases and Carbon Sequestration*

✓ *Odors*

✓ *Ozone*

COMET-VR and C-Farm

✓ **New version, 2.0 of COMET-VR—just released!**

✓ **www.comet2.colostate.edu**

✓ **Features new scenarios for agroforestry, orchards and vineyards**

✓ **Also provides estimates of nitrous oxide emissions (N_2O)**

Rapid Soil Carbon Assessment

- ✓ One of the Chief's top priorities
- ✓ Over 30,000 soil pits to be sampled in FY11 nationwide to 1 m depth
- ✓ Statistically reliable data for management systems within land uses within soil groupings
- ✓ Will aid assigning carbon benefits to conservation practices
- ✓ Will provide data for modelers and carbon traders

AQAC Training Courses in Development

✓ **Air Quality and Animal Agriculture**

✓ **Why Do We Care About Climate Change?**

✓ *In addition to the current 4 AQAC courses released in in past year*

NRCS Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative

✓ Significant effort in the agency to streamline conservation efforts and associated technologies, and get field people back into the field

✓ Revising air quality related resource concerns (how NRCS does conservation planning)

✓ Planning and quality criteria for these new resource concern areas:

  ✓ Emissions of PM

  ✓ Emissions of ozone precursors

  ✓ Odors

  ✓ Emissions of greenhouse gases

Questions?

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