

SCIENCE COORDINATION WORKSHOP

DEVELOPMENT OF A SUMMERFALLOW REDUCTION PROTOCOL:

NOVEMBER 18, 2008



BACKGROUND

Carbon credits or “offsets” generated from the agriculture sector are currently a compliance option for large greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters in Alberta and also under the Federal “Turning the Corner” Climate Change Plan. In the Alberta 2007 compliance period, over 600,000 tonnes of agricultural offsets were created, verified and used for compliance purposes by regulated entities. **Government approved Quantification Protocols are a requirement under both systems for creating compliance-quality offsets.**

Climate Change Central is coordinating a technical science review on behalf of the Government of Alberta, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. Part of their mandate is to promote made-in-Alberta offset opportunities by creating standardized “quantification protocols” available for producers or other groups who wish to create offset credits for sale in the evolving compliance-based carbon markets in North America.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development are continuing their efforts to creating agricultural related protocols for use in the Alberta Offset System. A Technical Working Group (TWG) has committed to providing a standardized protocol, based on the best available science on GHG emission reductions associated with reducing the area of summerfallow in the Canadian Prairies, to the Alberta Protocol Development Process. The group is following the established process for coordinating scientific information and consensus-building according to the ISO 14064-2 GHG Project-Based Standard and past procedures under collaborative Federal-Provincial-Territorial Offset Quantification Team processes.

PURPOSE

To engage key scientific researchers, technical experts and project developers at home and abroad, to provide advice and agreement on standardized protocols, and best available science on GHG emission reductions from reducing summerfallow.

The workshop will:

- Focus on and achieve, either during the one-day workshop or through follow-up work, the desired workshop outcomes listed below. These will be used to support the developing Prairie-wide, GHG offset opportunities related to summerfallow reduction operations.
 - Acceptable GHG reductions that can be confidently advanced for summerfallow reduction opportunities building upon established knowledge and science;
 - GHG reductions that can be achieved with confidence, using methodology already identified (with uncertainty ranges), and addressing areas of similarity with current Government Approved Protocol(s) within the Alberta Offset System (i.e. Tillage System Protocol);
 - Assessing and addressing risk of reversal related to practice changes, within the ISO 14064-2 framework;

- Discussion on a preferred baseline approach;
- Identification of and priority for areas where research gaps exist and must be addressed.

General Process:

- Use a combination of a literature review in the form of a Technical Seed Document, sharing recent research results, researcher experience and group discussion of ideas and recommendations to achieve the workshop outcomes.
- The day will be spent on understanding the synthesis science and work towards consensus on proposed options for quantification science and links to summer-fallow reduction practices.

AGENDA – NOVEMBER 18, 2008

9:00 – 3:00PM

LOCATION:

JG O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Boardrooms A&B
Edmonton, Alberta

- 9:00 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Review and Confirm agenda
Karen Haugen-Kozyra, Climate Change Central
- 9:15 **SETTING THE SCENE** – Carbon Offsets and the Policy Approaches in Alberta
Karen Haugen-Kozyra
- 10:15 **OVERVIEW OF THE NCGAVS-NATIONAL EMISSIONS INVENTORY WORK** – How the Summerfallow Coefficients were Derived; Canada's Quantification Approach
Brian McConkey, AAFC
- 10:45 **N2O CHANGES WITH SUMMERFALLOW REDUCTION** – Comparison with Cropped Conditions
Reynald Lemke, AAFC
- 11:00 **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
- 11:15 **BUILDING ON EXISTING KNOWLEDGE** – The Summerfallow Technical Seed Document
Rob Janzen, ClimateCHECK
- 12:00 **LUNCH**
- 1:00 **DEALING WITH BASELINE CONDITIONS, ADDITIONALITY, AND PERMANENCE** – Proposed Approach
Karen Haugen-Kozyra and Rob Janzen
- 2:00 **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
- 2:15 **DISCUSSION AND RATIFICATION OF OPTIONS**
- 4:15 **SUMMARY AND WORKSHOP CLOSE**
Karen Haugen-Kozyra, Climate Change Central