

Discussion Guide for the Summerfallow Workshop

November 18, 2008

Purpose of the Workshop

To achieve the following objectives:

- Provide a common level of understanding on the basis for the Summerfallow-tillage intensity coefficients proposed for use in this protocol (National Inventory Report methodology and CanAg-Mars research).
- Decide whether the proposed Protocol will be independent, or will participation in the Tillage System Protocol be required to participate in the Summerfallow Reduction Protocol.
- Decide which approach is appropriate for ensuring additionality/incrementality in the Summerfallow Reduction Protocol, or will an alternative approach be used.
- Decide which approach to ensure permanence is appropriate for the Summerfallow Reduction Protocol.

Key Considerations and Recommendations for Discussion at the Workshop (as taken from the Science Discussion Document)

On determining net change in energy consumption:

- **Consideration 5.1.2.2:** The emission coefficients for energy consumption from the GHGFarm Calculator provide a basis to quantify net emission reductions associated with a transition to reduced summerfallow.

On determining N₂O emissions from fertilized fields and summerfallow fields (to be supported by research presented at the workshop): R. Lemke – presentation; on average emission from sf equivalent to fertilized continuous crop; N₂O loss from summerfallow – $N_2O_{crop} = N_2O_{summerfallow} = N_2O_{fallow_effect} = N_2O\ N\ inputs$

- **Consideration 5.1.2.1:** Emissions of N₂O from fertilized fields are similar to those from summerfallow fields. (restriction for the Canadian Prairies)

Polling results – 21 voting

67% Accept, 19% Accept more work, 14% Hold for now

On determining the interactivity between Summerfallow and Tillage Intensity:

- **Recommendation 5.1.3:** The Summerfallow Reduction Protocol should require co-implementation of the Tillage System Protocol.

On determining the Definitions of Tillage for the Summerfallow protocol:

- **Recommendation 5.1.4.2:** The definitions used in the Tillage System Protocol to address summerfallow area and tillage intensity should be used in the Summerfallow Reduction Protocol.

Considerations of Risk between Tillage and Summerfallow reductions:

- **Consideration 5.1.5.1:** The risk of reversal associated with transition to reduced summerfallow is higher than the risk of reversal associated with transition to Reduced Till or No Till cropping.

On determining the most appropriate approach to ensure permanence of soil organic carbon:

- **Consideration 5.1.5.2:** A 'market' approach, such as a pooled buffer or reserve hold-back, should be used to address permanence in the Summerfallow Reduction Protocol.

On determining whether the activity of reducing Summerfallow will meet additionality or incrementality requirements:

- **Consideration 5.2.1:** The proposed Summerfallow Reduction Protocol will generate offset credits in compliance with the requirement for additionality or incrementality.

On determining the baseline approach:

- **Recommendation 5.2.3.1:** The scale to determine the activity baseline of the Summerfallow Reduction Protocol should be farm-specific.
- **Recommendation 5.2.5:** The Summerfallow Reduction Protocol should use a farm-specific activity level baseline.

On establishing the baseline:

- **Recommendation 5.2.3.2:** Best practice guidance is to set the time period to determine the baseline of the Summerfallow Reduction Protocol the average of three years prior to the project.
- **Recommendation 5.2.4:** The discount/default approach similar to that used in the Tillage System Protocol is not appropriate for the Summerfallow Reduction Protocol