Carbon Policy Options: Engaging Agriculture in Developing Solutions

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National conservation organization

- Protect farmland
- Promote conservation
- Ensure viable farms and ranches
Three Reasons to Act

Reason #1

Climate Change is Real and there is an IMMEDIATE Need to Act.

- Vast majority of scientists agree
- Political environment not friendly to inaction
- 2007 Supreme Court decision
Reason #2

Clean Air Act IS NOT the solution!

- Endangerment is a slippery slope
- Not designed for problem of a global nature
- DOES NOT address agriculture’s needs
Reason #3

Legislative deals with the problem more effectively and generates benefits for agriculture.

Examples:

- Offsets
- Electricity generation
Offset Market – Effectiveness

Carbon Credit Market estimated at $15 to $20 billion

In order for agriculture to capture opportunities, access to offset market must be widely available

Role for USDA

• Determine parameters
• Determine eligibility
Offset Market – benefits to ag:

- Biomass-corn stover could replace coal in power plants
- Biogas-captured methane replaces natural gas

Potential for billions of additional new revenue
Concern About Costs

Fertilizer Institute Study?

Two Nobel Prize economists say—
"The story for crop growers and other primary producers...appears to be quite a bit more favorable or less damaging than their estimates suggest."
Exciting time for Ag!

Agriculture as the solution!
- Better environment
- New revenue sources