



Carbon Policy Options: Engaging Agriculture in Developing Solutions

Jon Scholl, President

The logo for the American Farmland Trust, featuring a white silhouette of a farm scene with a barn, silo, and trees, set against a green background.

American Farmland Trust



Who is AFT?



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**



Three Reasons to Act



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**



Three Reasons to Act



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**



Electricity Generation



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**





American Farmland Trust



American Farmland Trust
www.farmland.org

