Proposed Programs for Farm Scale Monitoring of Carbon Sequestration. (A05-dick082103-Poster)

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Abstract:

Establishing a C baseline and developing measurement systems to confirm gains or losses of C in soil are needed if credible estimates of soil C sequestration are to occur. A pilot scale program is being developed in Ohio to determine the strengths and weaknesses of various C monitoring approaches. Farms in Ohio, selected to be part of this pilot scale program, had to be at least partially managed using conservation tillage (especially no-tillage) or are being converted to conservation tillage. Farm history data (crops, tillage, drainage, fertilizers) are being sought from the farmer using a data inventory sheet. This data will be combined with information from soil maps and additional soil sampling to produce estimates of organic C. For each farm, the baseline will be developed on a field or other major management unit basis and then combined to create a whole farm estimate. Sampling points will be identified by GPS to provide a means for resampling in subsequent years to confirm changes predicted by other means. This pilot scale program will identify the best approaches for monitoring C changes that can be easily adopted by farmers to facilitate C trading.

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