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Pulaski County AG Newsletter

Winter, 2021



Upcoming Events

December 9: Grain Post-Harvest
& Recertification Workshop

January 7th: Top Farmer Conference

Carbon Markets By Phil Woolery

Recently, there has been increase interest in selling carbon credits from farmland. Right now all the carbon markets are private and voluntary. Companies that are interested in offsetting their own carbon emissions, are paying other groups to sequester carbon. This is now including storing carbon in agricultural soils. In this article we will look at how this will work in agriculture and will it pay to take part in carbon markets.

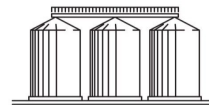
Some farming practices that will store carbon in the soil includes no-till farming, cover crops, converting cropland to permanent pasture, and converting cropland to forest. The most common practice for row crops is the use of no-till and cover crops. To participate in some of these markets, you must be a new adopter of these practices. So, if you already use no-till and cover crops, you may be eligible sell carbon credit from your farm in most cases. There are a few companies that offer a “look back” and credit changes that have been made in practices in the past 5 years. If you also sign up with a government program to adopt conservation practices, you may not be eligible to participate in some carbon markets. According to the Center for Commercial Agriculture, most contracts are paying \$10-\$20 per metric ton. Estimates for carbon sequestration for adopting cover crops and no-till are in the range of 0.5 to 1 metric ton per acre per year. You will have to decide for your operation if this will be enough to pay for the adoption of these practices on your farm. Each company has a different algorithm to determine the amount of carbon sequestered based on soil and farming practices. So, they might not do much soil sampling on your farm. Another aspect to consider is the length of the contract. Most right now are between one year and 20 years. The longer the contract, the higher the payout will be. It is possible to sign up leased ground, but you might have to sign up for shorter contracts unless you have a longer-term lease. Contracts will also specify terms if carbon is released from tillage. Some companies will pause payments until the carbon has been sequestered back into the soil. Looking to the future, there is the possibility that the government might get involved. There is legislation in congress that seeks to provide a framework that assists farmers participating in carbon markets by providing reliable information and establishing a series of standards for certification for carbon offsets. The USDA would set up the guidelines and certification systems to be used by third party verifiers. Payments for carbon credits can offer some financial incentives to farmers to sequester carbon. Currently there are challenges with prices and uncertainty with government regulation. If you had been thinking about adding no-till or cover crops to your operation, this might be an opportunity for your operation to consider.

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Grain Post-Harvest & Recertification Workshop Thursday, December 9, 2021

Beck Agricultural Center, West Lafayette

The Grain Post-Harvest & Recertification Workshop, hosted by the Purdue DTC, is geared toward farmers, commercial grain storage handlers, pest management professionals and food processing quality-control managers. The workshop goal is to help attendees effectively manage postharvest grain storage and handling systems to reduce pests, choose appropriate pest-control strategies, adopt integrated pest management systems and prevent grain from going out of condition in storage. Workshop check-in begins at 8:30 a.m., and programming runs from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the Beck Agricultural Center at Purdue's Agronomy Center for Research and Education, 4550 US-52, West Lafayette, IN 47906. The workshop also will serve as this year's last opportunity for Indiana's certified advisers to earn continuing certification hours (CCHs). Offered CCHs for this course: 7A (7 CCHs), 7D (7 CCHs), RT (4 CCHs). Space is limited, so reserve your seat using our online registration tool today. <https://am.ticketmaster.com/purdue/ism/R1JBSU4=>



Top Farmer Conference 2022

Take part in one of the most successful and longest-running management programs geared specifically for farmers — the Purdue Top Farmer Conference, featuring faculty and staff experts from Purdue's Center for Commercial Agriculture. Surrounded by farm management, farm policy, agricultural finance and marketing experts, and a group of your peers, the conference will stimulate your thinking about agriculture's future and how you can position your farm to be successful in the years ahead. The 2022 Top Farmer Conference will be held virtually again this year due to the on-going pandemic, but you will still be able to hear from thought leaders and experts and have an opportunity for dialog and discussion during this interactive, live, online program. Registration for this year's conference, scheduled for **January 7, 2022**, is \$50 and includes access to the live conference, video recordings and presentation slide decks. Registered participants will receive an email with a link to join the conference live at its scheduled time. Conference video recordings and slide deck presentations will not be available to non-registered individuals. Please stay tuned for more details on the 2022 Conference. To register for the conference, email comagctr@purdue.edu or call 765-494-7004.

