



# OVERVIEW STATEMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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## Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Voluntary Carbon Data Project

### Overview

FSA's Voluntary Carbon Data Project will provide interested farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners with an estimate of the amount of carbon that their eligible tree planting practices are expected to sequester through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract term and beyond. For the project, FSA will develop a communications tool to facilitate information exchange of carbon sequestration needs and opportunities among interested parties. Carbon estimates will be provided for informational purposes only.

### Eligible Practices

Eligible CRP tree planting practices will include:

CP22 Riparian Buffer  
CP23 Wetland Restoration  
CP31 Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands  
CP36 Longleaf Pine Establishment

No additional incentives are authorized under this project.

### Additional Practice Background

Tree planting practices yield the highest sequestration rate, making them a better subject for evaluating the effectiveness of tools and protocols. Currently, all CRP practices taken together sequester about 47 million metric tons of carbon per year. Although tree planting practices make up only 11 percent of total CRP acreage, they account for 36 percent of the sequestered carbon.

### Carbon Sequestration Estimation

USDA Forest Service's Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) will be used to calculate an estimate of carbon sequestration based on practice specifications, anticipated management and prescriptions specific to the geographic area.

### Communications Tool

The proposed communications tool, CarbonNet, is expected to function in a manner similar to the popular HayNet website. On HayNet, both farmers and ranchers who have hay to sell and those who need hay as potential purchasers may post advertisements.

### Project Availability

The project will focus on Arkansas, Georgia, and Minnesota, areas with a history of significant tree planting. USDA hopes to obtain better representative samples for evaluation and comparison. The Voluntary Carbon Data Project is anticipated in early 2011. Once availability has been announced, interested farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners should contact their local FSA office to find out how to participate.

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