

# **Agricultural Air Quality 2 Years of Progress**



Lawrence E. Clark  
Deputy Chief, Science and Technology  
USDA-NRCS

# Overview

- **Strategic Direction**
- **Air Quality Personnel**
- **Practice Standards**
- **Tool Development**
- **Effects**
- **Training**
- **Funding**

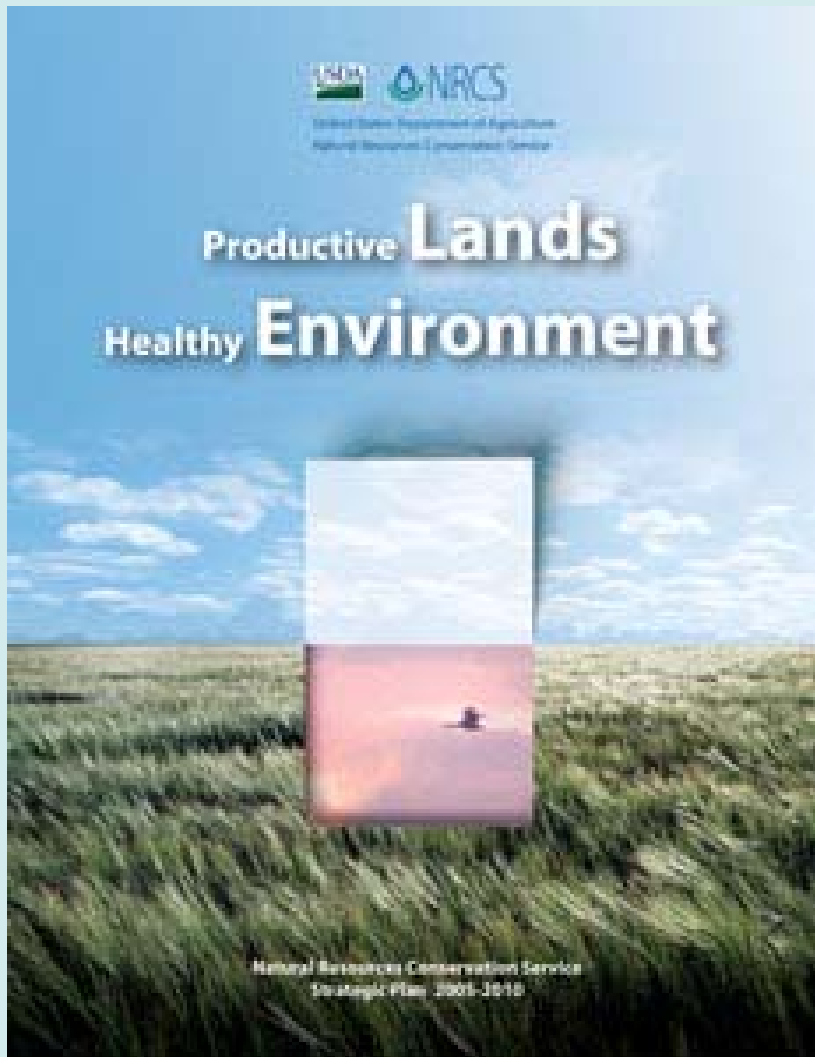
# ***Progress in the past 2 years***

- **Air Quality and Atmospheric Change Technology Development Team**
- **Established 45 NRCS State Air Quality Contacts**
- **Emphasis on air quality and atmospheric change in programs (EQIP, CSP)**

## ***Progress in the past 2 years***

- **Increased emphasis on air quality within the Department**
- **Strong working relationship with producers, conservation partners and regulatory agencies**
- **Engaged with EPA and others on the National Clean Diesel Campaign**

# NRCS 5-year Strategic Plan



- **Foundation Goals:**

- High-quality, Productive Soils
- Clean and Abundant Water
- Healthy Plant & Animal Communities

- **Venture Goals:**

- **Clean Air**
- Adequate Energy Supply
- Working Farm & Ranch Lands



# Revising Air-related Resource Concerns and Practice Standards

- **Particulate Matter**
- **Ozone Precursors**
- **Ammonia**
- **Odor**
- **Greenhouse Gases**



# **NRCS Air Quality Tools Now Under Development or Planned**

- **Sandard NRCS Air Planning (SNAP) Tool**
- **Animal operations siting tool**
- **Various emission calculation tools (PM; Ozone precursors, etc.)**
- **COMET-VR Enhancements**

# Training

- **2-3 Day Agricultural Air Quality Basics  
(Under development-rollout in 2007)**
- **Online Ag AQAC Modules  
(Under development-rollout in 2007)**
  - **Animal agricultural air quality issues**
  - **Air Quality 101**
  - **Greenhouse Gases and Carbon Sequestration**



# Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) and Air Quality

**Watershed-based estimates of:**

- **Carbon Sequestration**
- **Wind Erosion**
- **Pesticide Drift**
- **Nitrogen Volatilization**

***Preliminary estimates January 2007;  
some not complete until January 2008***

# Air Quality Funding

- **CSP: *Rewarding and Incentivizing***
  - **2004: 18 watersheds, 2,200 farmers  
(2 million acres)**
    - Payments in FY04 = \$216,545
    - Payments in FY05 = \$357,929 (+65%)
  - **2005: 220 watersheds, 12,800 farmers  
(10.2 million acres)**
    - Payments in FY05 = \$4,481,924
  - **2006: 60 watersheds**

# **CSP Air Quality-Related Enhancements**

- **Over \$18 million in contracts 2006**
- **Major Activities for Payment:**
  1. **No-till, strip-till, direct seeding**
  2. **Alternatives to burning**
  3. **Injecting animal waste**
  4. **COMET-VR usage**
  5. **Use of low volume sprayers & calibration**
  6. **Roadway dust abatement**

# CSP 2006 Enhancement EAM-40: Scenario Testing with COMET-VR

- Eligible CSP land managers paid a one-time payment of \$500 for generating soil carbon storage scenarios with COMET-VR
- 899 contracts; \$449,500
- 18 states participating to date



# **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

- **\$444 million EQIP total in 2005; \$31 million Air Quality-related**
- **Largest expenditures by state in 2005:**
  - **California (\$5.90 million)**
  - **Arizona (\$3.37 million)**
  - **Michigan (\$2.69 million)**
  - **New Mexico (\$1.77 million)**
  - **Texas (\$1.64 million)**
  - **Washington (\$1.49 million)**
  - **New York (\$1.44 million)**

# **Conservation Innovation Grants (under EQIP)**

- **66 funded in 2006**
- **7 with full or partial air quality focus**
- **Total AQ dollars: \$3.28 million**
- **Examples:**
  - **Colorado State Univ.: Odor and Ammonia reduction BMP demo on feedlots and dairies**
  - **WA Wheat Growers: Undercutter demo and promotion for dust control in wheat/fallow region of PNW**

# Engaged in Support of Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases (DOE 1605(b) Program)

- ***Enhancing NRCS' COMET-VR Tool***
  - Updated soils and rotations, based on MLRA scale
  - Improved feedback and user response
  - Tool evaluations/questionnaires
  - Working with CSU on adding nitrous oxide and methane estimates



Questions???

**FARMERS DO THEIR SHARE  
TO CLEAN THE AIR**



*America's Private Lands  
Conservation Agency*

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**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT