

CCX Agricultural Grass Soil Carbon Sequestration Offset Project Guideline

I. Introduction

Carbon is removed from the atmosphere and sequestered into soils through growth of crops and grasses. When left undisturbed in grasses, soils can accumulate carbon for several decades, with significant side benefits. CCX rules allow offsets to be earned by farmers who enroll newly-planted grasslands.

II. Applicability

This protocol applies to aggregators and producers that have enrolled in the CCX Agricultural Soil Carbon Sequestration Offset program in eligible regions of the United States and Canada. A list of eligible territories is included as the Appendix of this document. Additional regions may be added based on expert input.

IV. Eligibility

Projects involving specified agricultural soil carbon sequestration activities in designated states, counties, provinces and parishes in the U.S. and Canada shall be eligible to earn CCX Exchange Soil Offsets (XSOs) as per the rates provided for regions described below. XSOs will be issued to land managers who commit to maintain increases in soil carbon stocks realized as a result of grass cover plantings that were undertaken on or after January 1, 1999. Such grass cover must be maintained through 2010 on the acres specified upon project registration.

Zone A:

States and counties included in Zone A are provided in the appendix below. Canadian provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia are included in Zone A.¹ Exchange Soil Offsets will be earned at a rate of 1.0 metric tons of CO₂ per acre per year to land managers who commit to maintain increases in soil carbon stocks realized as a result of grass cover plantings that were undertaken on or after January 1, 1999. Such grass cover must be maintained through 2010 on the acres specified upon project registration.

Zone B:

States and counties included in Zone B are provided in the appendix below. Exchange Soil Offsets will be earned at a rate of 0.4 metric tons CO₂ per acre per year to land managers who commit to maintain increases in soil carbon stocks realized as a result of grass cover plantings that were undertaken on or after January 1, 1999. Such grass cover must be maintained through 2010 on the acres specified upon project registration.

V. Offset Issuance

¹ For eligible regions within Canada, please contact CCX Staff.

Offset issuance rates are as specified above for each eligible zone.

An Owner of an Exchange Soil Offset Project may be issued additional XSOs if it presents evidence that actual increases in soil carbon exceed the rates stipulated above, provided such evidence is deemed acceptable by the Committee on Offsets.

Soil Carbon Reserve Pool

Each CCX XSO Project shall be required to place 20% of the Offsets it earns into a CCX Soil Carbon Reserve Pool. Such XSOs shall remain the property of the Project Owner(s) (pool participants in the case of aggregated Projects) and all XSOs that remain in the Soil Carbon Reserve Pool shall be released to Project Owners near the end of the contract period. In the event that a Project Owner does not conform to the XSO performance requirements listed above, such event shall be promptly reported to CCX (such reporting shall occur through a Project's Aggregator if the Project is registered through an Aggregator). CCX will then cancel XSOs held in the Soil Carbon Reserve Pool in an amount equal to the quantity of XSOs previously issued to the Project.

Project Owners will be responsible for replenishing the Soil Carbon Reserve Pool by replacing the XSOs that are cancelled in instances of Project non-performance. Each previously issued XSO must be replaced with one CCX Exchange Allowance or Exchange Offset.

In the case of noncompliance with the terms and conditions for CCX Exchange Soil Offsets the owner of the noncompliant Project shall transfer to the Soil Carbon Reserve Pool (as specified below) a quantity of CCX Exchange Offsets and/or Exchange Allowances that is equal to the total quantity of XSOs that have been issued to the Project during the years for which the contract was enrolled. The Owner of the non-performing Project shall be prohibited from further participation in CCX.

VI. Third Party Verification

Verifier entities designated by CCX shall conduct in-field inspections of enrolled XSO Projects. Such inspections shall examine field conditions, documentation of Project start dates (when applicable) and other records as specified by CCX.

Appendix - Zone A Counties that Qualify for Exchange Soil Offsets for Grassland Planting

Entire State	Colorado	Colorado
Alabama	Adams	Logan
Arkansas	Alamosa	Mineral
Connecticut	Arapahoe	Morgan
Delaware	Archuleta	Otero
Florida	Baca	Ouray
Georgia	Bent	Park
Illinois	Boulder	Phillips
Indiana	Broomfield	Pitkin
Iowa	Chaffee	Prowers
Kansas	Cheyenne	Pueblo
Kentucky	Clear Creek	Rio Grande
Louisiana	Conejos	Routt
Maine	Costilla	Saguache
Maryland	Crowley	San Juan
Massachusetts	Custer	Sedgwick
Michigan	Denver	Summit
Minnesota	Douglas	Teller
Missouri	Eagle	Washington
Montana	El Paso	Weld
Nebraska	Elbert	Yuma
New Hampshire	Fremont	
New Jersey	Garfield	
New York	Gilpin	
North Carolina	Grand	
North Dakota	Gunnison	
Ohio	Hinsdale	
Pennsylvania	Huerfano	
Rhode Island	Jackson	
South Carolina	Jefferson	
South Dakota	Kiowa	
Tennessee	Kit Carson	
Vermont	Lake	
Virginia	Larimer	
West Virginia	Las Animas	
Wisconsin	Lincoln	

Zone A Counties that Qualify for Exchange Soil Offsets for Grassland Planting

Idaho	New Mexico	Oklahoma
Adams	Colfax	Adair
Benewah	Rio Arriba	Alfalfa
Boise	Taos	Atoka
Bonner		Beaver
Boundary		Bryan
Clearwater		Canadian
Custer		Carter
Idaho		Cherokee
Kootenai		Choctaw
Shoshone		Cimarron
Valley		Cleveland
		Coal
		Craig
		Creek
		Delaware
		Garfield
		Garvin
		Grady
		Grant
		Harper
		Haskell
		Hughes
		Jefferson
		Johnston
		Kay
		Kingfisher
		Latimer
		Le Flore
		Lincoln
		Logan
		Love

Zone A Counties that Qualify for Exchange Soil Offsets for Grassland Planting

Oklahoma	Oregon	Texas
Major	Benton	Anderson
Marshall	Clackamas	Angelina
Mayes	Clatsop	Aransas
McClain	Columbia	Austin
McCurtain	Coos	Bastrop
McIntosh	Curry	Bell
Murray	Douglas	Bosque
Muskogee	Grant	Bowie
Noble	Hood River	Brazoria
Nowata	Jackson	Brazos
Okfuskee	Josephine	Burleson
Oklahoma	Lane	Burnet
Okmulgee	Lincoln	Caldwell
Osage	Linn	Calhoun
Ottawa	Marion	Camp
Pawnee	Multnomah	Cass
Payne	Polk	Chambers
Pittsburg	Tillamook	Cherokee
Pontotoc	Union	Collin
Pottawatomie	Wallowa	Colorado
Pushmataha	Washington	Comanche
Rogers	Yamhill	Cooke
Seminole		Coryell
Sequoyah		Dallas
Stephens		Delta
Texas		Denton
Tulsa		Eastland
Wagoner		Ellis
Washington		Erath
Woods		Falls
Woodward		Fannin
		Fayette
		Fort Bend
		Franklin
		Freestone
		Galveston
		Gonzales
		Grayson
		Gregg
		Grimes

Zone A Counties that Qualify for Exchange Soil Offsets for Grassland Planting

Texas	Texas	Utah
Guadalupe	Newton	Cache
Hamilton	Nueces	Carbon
Hardin	Orange	Daggett
Harris	Panola	Duchesne
Harrison	Parker	Morgan
Henderson	Polk	Rich
Hill	Rains	Summit
Hood	Red River	Utah
Hopkins	Refugio	Wasatch
Houston	Robertson	
Hunt	Rockwall	
Jackson	Rusk	
Jasper	Sabine	
Jefferson	San Augustine	
Johnson	San Jacinto	
Kaufman	San Patricio	
Lamar	Shelby	
Lampasas	Smith	
Lavaca	Somervell	
Lee	Tarrant	
Leon	Titus	
Liberty	Trinity	
Limestone	Tyler	
Madison	Upshur	
Marion	Van Zandt	
Matagorda	Victoria	
McLennan	Walker	
Milam	Waller	
Mills	Washington	
Montgomery	Wharton	
Morris	Wise	
Nacogdoches	Wood	
Navarro		

Zone A Counties that Qualify for Exchange Soil Offsets for Grassland Planting

Washington	Wyoming
Clallam	Big Horn
Clark	Campbell
Cowlitz	Converse
Ferry	Crook
Grays Harbor	Goshen
Island	Hot Springs
Jefferson	Johnson
King	Laramie
Kitsap	Lincoln
Lewis	Niobrara
Mason	Park
Pacific	Platte
Pend Oreille	Sheridan
Pierce	Sublette
San Juan	Teton
Skagit	Uinta
Skamania	Weston
Snohomish	
Stevens	
Thurston	
Wahkiakum	
Whatcom	

Zone B Counties that Qualify for Exchange Soil Offsets for Grassland Planting

Entire State	Colorado	Idaho
Arizona California Nevada	Delta Dolores La Plata Mesa Moffat Montezuma Montrose Rio Blanco San Miguel	Ada Bannock Bear Lake Bingham Blaine Bonneville Butte Camas Canyon Caribou Cassia Clark Elmore Franklin Fremont Gem Gooding Jefferson Jerome Latah Lemhi Lewis Lincoln Madison Minidoka Nez Perce Oneida Owyhee Payette Power Teton Twin Falls Washington

Zone B Counties that Qualify for Exchange Soil Offsets for Grassland Planting

New Mexico	Oklahoma	Oregon
Bernalillo	Beckham	Baker
Catron	Blaine	Crook
Chaves	Caddo	Deschutes
Cibola	Comanche	Gilliam
Curry	Cotton	Harney
De Baca	Custer	Jefferson
Dona Ana	Dewey	Klamath
Eddy	Ellis	Lake
Grant	Greer	Malheur
Guadalupe	Harmon	Morrow
Harding	Jackson	Sherman
Hidalgo	Kiowa	Umatilla
Lea	Rogers Mills	Wasco
Lincoln	Tillman	Wheeler
Los Alamos	Washita	
Luna		
McKinley		
Mora		
Otero		
Quay		
Roosevelt		
San Juan		
San Miguel		
Sandoval		
Santa Fe		
Sierra		
Socorro		
Torrance		
Union		
Valencia		

Zone B Counties that Qualify for Exchange Soil Offsets for Grassland Planting

Texas	Texas	Texas
Andrews	Culberson	Hockley
Archer	Dallam	Howard
Armstrong	Dawson	Hudspeth
Atascosa	Deaf Smith	Hutchinson
Bailey	DeWitt	Irion
Bandera	Dickens	Jack
Baylor	Dimmit	Jeff Davis
Bee	Donley	Jim Hogg
Bexar	Duval	Jim Wells
Blanco	Ector	Jones
Borden	Edwards	Karnes
Bowie	El Paso	Kendall
Brewster	Fisher	Kenedy
Briscoe	Floyd	Kent
Brooks	Foard	Kerr
Brown	Frio	Kimble
Callahan	Gaines	King
Cameron	Garza	Kinney
Carson	Gillespie	Kleberg
Castro	Glasscock	Knox
Childress	Goliad	La Salle
Clay	Gray	Lamb
Cochran	Grimes	Lipscomb
Coke	Hale	Live Oak
Coleman	Hall	Llano
Collingsworth	Hansford	Loving
Comal	Hardeman	Lubbock
Concho	Hartley	Lynn
Cottle	Haskell	Martin
Crane	Hays	Mason
Crockett	Hemphill	Maverick
Crosby	Hidalgo	McCulloch

Zone B Counties that Qualify for Exchange Soil Offsets for Grassland Planting

Texas	Texas	Utah
McMullen	Starr	Beaver
Medina	Stephens	Box Elder
Menard	Sterling	Davis
Midland	Stonewall	Emery
Mitchell	Sutton	Garfield
Montague	Swisher	Grand
Moore	Taylor	Iron
Motley	Terrell	Juab
Nolan	Terry	Kane
Ochiltree	Throckmorton	Millard
Oldham	Tom Green	Piute
Palo Pinto	Travis	Salt Lake
Parmer	Upton	San Juan
Pecos	Uvalde	Sanpete
Potter	Val Verde	Sevier
Presidio	Ward	Tooele
Randall	Webb	Uintah
Reagan	Wheeler	Washington
Real	Wichita	Wayne
Reeves	Wilbarger	Weber
Roberts	Willacy	
Runnels	Williamson	
Sabine	Wilson	
San Saba	Winkler	
Schleicher	Yoakum	
Scurry	Young	
Shackelford	Zapata	
Sherman	Zavala	

Zone B Counties that Qualify for Exchange Soil Offsets for Grassland Planting

Washington	Wyoming
Adams	Albany
Asotin	Carbon
Benton	Fremont
Chelan	Natrona
Columbia	Sweetwater
Douglas	Washakie
Franklin	
Garfield	
Grant	
Kittitas	
Klickitat	
Lincoln	
Okanogan	
Spokane	
Walla Walla	
Whitman	
Yakima	