

FACT SHEET

Sequestering carbon in soil in grazing systems

An abatement method under the Emissions Reduction Fund



The Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) allows farmers and other landholders to generate extra income by storing carbon in vegetation and soils, or reducing greenhouse gas emissions from their operations.

Participants can earn carbon credits by setting up a project using an approved ERF abatement method, which specifies the rules for the activity.

This fact sheet provides an outline of the ERF method for [Sequestering carbon in soil in grazing systems](#).

What is the method about?

Carbon can be stored – or sequestered – in grazing systems by increasing the amount of organic matter retained in agricultural soil. This may be achieved by activities that either:

- increase the amount of biomass in soil, such as growing more pasture within a certain area, or
- reduce the amount of organic matter that is released from soil, for example by limiting soil disturbance.

The method is about rewarding landholders for undertaking activities that build soil carbon on their land. Within broad parameters, landholders will have a choice of which management activities to implement to build soil carbon. Activities must include at least one new management activity. Some activities, such as permanent destocking, are not eligible.

Types of activities that could potentially be implemented include, but are not limited to, converting cropland to permanent pasture, rejuvenating pastures, or changing grazing patterns.

Site-specific factors such as soil type, climate and management history all influence the potential for building soil carbon. There is no guarantee that any one or more of the eligible activities chosen by landholders will build soil carbon at any particular project site. Landholders interested in starting a project under this method should seek expert advice on the management actions that will best suit their operation.

How does it work?

In order to assess the extent of soil carbon stored as a result of new activities, landholders must first determine the baseline level of soil carbon at the project site. Once a baseline is established, they must then measure the soil carbon stocks at regular intervals during the project.

Measuring the change in soil carbon stock involves preparing a soil sampling plan and undertaking regular rounds of sampling and analysis.

Emissions from other sources that have changed as a result of the project such as emissions from livestock, tillage events and applications of lime or synthetic fertiliser must be calculated to find the net abatement of the project.

Carbon credits are awarded when landholders demonstrate that soil carbon has been increased as a result of their activities.

Who is eligible?

This method can be applied to land that has either been under permanent pasture or has been continuously cropped for at least five years prior to the start of the project.

Farmers and other landholders who decide to implement a project under this method must first register their project with the Clean Energy Regulator:

<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Want-to-participate-in-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund>

For more information:

Visit the Department of Environment website for more information about the soil carbon method:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-reduction-fund/cfi/methodologies/determinations/sequestering-carbon-in-soils>

Visit the Clean Energy Regulator website for more information about how to participate in the Emissions Reduction Fund:

<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/About-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund>



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This fact sheet was developed by the National Livestock Methane Program (NLMP). The NLMP aims to provide Australian livestock producers with practical strategies and tools to help them increase productivity and profitability and at the same time lower methane emissions. It is managed by MLA and supported by funding from the Australian Government.

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