CALIFORNIA BIORESOURCES ALLIANCE

11TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM **WEST SACRAMENTO**

NOVEMBER 1st 2016

REVERSING GLOBAL WARMING

SAN FRANCISCO

Idaho Fescue *(Festuca idahoensis)*

Grass plants are straws that sip carbon from the air.

Grasslands store one-third of the world's soil carbon

Grasses allocate a large percentage of their photosynthate belowground to roots, exudates and soil biota, including mycorrhizae Organic amendments increased soil carbon by 50 Mg C ha⁻¹ in the top meter of soil

- Extensive
- Intensive (organic amendments)

In 1996, French Nuclear testing Released a very unique Carbon Isotope Into the atmosphere. Scientists use this isotope as a "Distinct Time Stamp."

"We were looking for a needle in a haystack, and we found **bricks** of 10 year old French carbon a meter deep in Marin County soils!"

Occluded Light Fraction: -Physically Protected -Holds Lots of Water

Heavy Fraction: Chemically Protected,

Compost addition increased soil respiration over the first two years of the experiment

Browns Valley, Ryals and Silver in prep

Organic amendments increased system carbon by over 14.8 Mg C/ha in year 1; net gain, beyond compost additions was approx. 0.8 Mg C/ha.

Soil C from amendments can be stored in soil C pools with long turnover times

OLF: decades to centuries HF: centuries to millennia

Welcome to Century Homepage!

CENTURY 4

The CENTURY model is a general model of plant-soil nutrient cycling which is being used to simulate carbon and nutrient dynamics for different types of ecosystems including grasslands, agricultural lands, forests and savannas.

The CENTURY is composed of a soil organic matter/ decomposition submodel, a water budget model, a grassland/crop submodel, a forest production submodel, and management and events scheduling functions.

It computes the flow of carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulfur through the model's compartments. The minimum configuration of elements is C and N for all the model compartments. The organic matter structure for carbon(C), nitrogen(N), phosphorus(P) and sulfor(S) are identical; the inorganic components are computed for the specific inorganic compound.

On behalf of the entire CENTURY group, thank you again for your interest in the model. If you have any question about the Century, please contact our webmaster.

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FIG. 3. The black line shows simulated decomposition of the compost following application to grassland soils. Gray circles show the monthly change in total ecosystem carbon, not including compost carbon. Values are averages across site characterizations, with standard error bars in

light gray. Ryals et al, 2015. Ecological Applications, 25(2): 531–545.

AND PERHAPS ¼" WOULD PRODUCE THE SAME RESULTS.

A SINGLE APPLICATION OF ½"COMPOST WILL RESULT IN 30 – 100 YEARS OF ONGOING SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION!

Life Cycle Assessment suggests significant GHG mitigation potential statewide

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California Rangelands and Carbon Sequestration

23 million hectares of rangeland statewide Assume 50% available for C sequestration

NON-FOREST / NON-RANGELANDS RANGELANDS FOREST

At a rate of 1 MT C ha⁻¹ y ⁻¹ $= 42$ MMT CO₂e/y At a rate of 5 MT C ha⁻¹ y ⁻¹ $= 211$ MMT CO₂e/y At a rate of 10 MT C ha⁻¹ y ⁻¹ $= 422$ MMT CO₂e/y

•Livestock \sim 15 MMT CO₂e/y

•Commercial/residential ~ 41 MMT $CO₂e/y$

•Transportation emits \sim 188 MMT CO₂e/y

•Electrical generation \sim 109 MMT CO₂e/y

Units: Hectare = 2 .45 acres MT = Metric ton MMT= Million metric tons $CO₂e = CO₂$ equivalents MT=Mg=Metric ton

Moderating Climate Change with Soil Carbon Management

CARBON CYCLE INSTITUTE MARIN CARBON PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

- Climate change is ongoing with changes in weather patterns and increases in extreme events, such as the current California drought.
- Biosequestration removes carbon from the atmosphere and stores it in plants and soil, increases soil water holding capacity, increases net primary productivity, and enhances other ecosystem services.
- Marin Carbon Project (MCP) research showed increases in soil water holding capacity (WHC) associated with topical applications of compost.
- The 25% WHC increase modeled here is based on first year increases in soil carbon on MCP treatment plots. (Ryals, R and W. Silver, 2013, Ecological Applications, 23(1), pp. 46-59).
- Composting is a particularly powerful biosequestration strategy due to both the avoidance of methane production by diversion of organic materials away from anaerobic decomposition in landfills and manure lagoons, and through enhanced NPP resulting from soil quality improvement following compost application. (DeLonge et al. 2013, Ecosystems 16: 962-979).

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HYDROLOGY

- The hydrologic impacts of climate change include changes in water availability and increases in demand for water.
- This translates into environmental stress that relates to wildfire, forest die-off, desertification, and loss of riparian zones and groundwater.
- Climatic water deficit is a key indicator of landscape stress.

CLIMATIC WATER DEFICIT (CWD)

- Annual evaporative demand that exceeds available water
- \bullet CWD = potential actual evapotranspiration
- Defines the level of hydroclimatic stress on the landscape
- Integrates climate, energy loading, drainage, and available soil moisture storage and addresses irrigation demand

Climatic water deficit is shown for a wet year, 1998. and dry year, 1977, for a slice across the Central Valley and up into the Tuolumne River basin. Also shown is the change in CWD when soil water holding capacity is increased by 25%. Whereas in a dry year compost only contributes to reducing CWD in relatively shallow soils (because there isn't enough precipitation to fill the increased WHC in deeper soils), in wetter years all soils see a big decrease in CWD due to filling of soils including the increased WHC. Thus, all else being equal, benefits of increased WHC accrue primarily in shallower. non-irrigated soils in drier vears. In addition, when rainfall occurs in less frequent, more intense events, as expected in CA under climate change scenarios. the effects of increased soil organic matter, including increased rates of infiltration, increased pore space, and increased hydraulic conductivity, result in the capacity to absorb and hold more rainfall, and sustain the landscape through the season.

IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- Climate change is likely to reduce the extent and productivity of both rangelands and arable lands due to increases in climatic water deficit.
- Increases in evaporative demand and irrigation demand will reduce groundwater and surface water availability.
- Increases in soil water holding capacity and infiltration rate can increase ecosystem resilience by reducing the climatic water deficit, increasing productivity and available water, and helping to compensate for changing climatic conditions, including drought, increased rainfall intensity, and decreased rainfall predictability.
- Amendments of compost to rangelands can sequester carbon in soils, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and increase soil water holding capacity and infiltration rate.
- Sensitivity analyses can help identify soil types that may benefit the most from strategic soil management and addition of compost.
- Local experimentation is needed to provide confidence in the mapping of climatic water deficit and changes due to compost amendments.
- These quantification and mapping methods can be applied to regions, river basins, or continents

NRCS Practice Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction and Carbon Sequestration

Dissolved Organic C, Dissolved Organic N, Mineral N

Evaluate potential carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reductions from
adopting NRCS conservation practices

NRCS Conservation Practices included in COMET-Planner are only those that have been identified as having greenhouse gas mitigation and/or carbon sequestration
benefits on farms and ranches. This list of conservation practi

Please contact Amy Swan (Amy.Swan@colostate.edu) for more information

ONRCS USDA Colorado

This tool was developed with the generous
support of the Rathmann Family Foundation
and the Marin Carbon Project

Carbon Farm Plans

CARBON FARM PLANNING in Marin

Assistance is available for farmers and ranchers!

Plan for carbon sequestration and climate adaptation conservation practices with Marin RCD!

Potential List of Conservation Practice(s)* in a Carbon Farm Plan:

- Compost Application Anaerobic Digester
- · Silvopasture/ Shrub & Tree Establishment
	- · Windbreak/ Shelterbelt/ Hedgerow
	- Riparian and Wetland Restoration
	- Filter Strips Grassed Waterways
		- Forage & Biomass Planting
		- Rangeland Management
- Prescribed Grazing and Range Planting
	- Nutrient Management
- . Residue & Tillage Management, No-Till
	- Cover Crops

*NRCS Standard Conservation Practices

We will complete 20 Carbon Farm Plans in the next 3 years, thanks to RCPP!

FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THERMOPHILIC COMPOSTING

EXPANDED FEEDSTOCKS

Humanure temperature and oxygen

High Pressure Liquid Chromatography

One of the key features of this device is the extremely low amount of sampling that is needed.

In a compost sample with hundreds of thousands of different types of molecules, we are able to differentiate all of them.

> It is not just a matter of having a very sensitive set of detectors, our uniqueness is the expertise to look at ALL of the chemical and biological reactions during the compost process.

HPLC UNIT AT LBNL

In the middle of the HPLC unit you see an area that holds small, 2 ml glass vials with black screw caps on top.

It can hold up to 100 different samples. Each vial is automatically sampled, one at a time through the HPLC, it takes about 7 minutes to feed the Mass Spec the fractionated set of compounds from one sample

Nano-Electro Spray ionization (nano-ESI) mass spectrometer.

You can barely see a very thin tube crossing the front of the Thermo Mass Spec unit which is the only connection between the 2 machines.

The HPLC separates the material from the compost into tens of thousands of different fractions based on their polarity. Each of these fractions is sent on to the nano-electrospray ionization mass spectrometer. Combined, we are able to separate a sample into thousands of different samples, each containing a fraction of the original number of compounds and then accurately identifying the exact mass of each compound to back-calculate the molecular structure.

WWW.THERMOPILEPROJECT.ORG

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Compost Additions to Grazed Grasslands

The American Carbon Registry (ACR), a non-profit enterprise of Winrock International, has approved a voluntary methodology for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions from Compost Additions to Grazed Grasslands. This methodology accounts for the carbon sequestration and avoided greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to compost additions to grazed grasslands. The methodology was developed by Terra Global Capital with support from the Environmental Defense Fund, Silver Lab at the University of California Berkeley, and the Marin Carbon Project.

Adding compost to grazed grasslands has been demonstrated to be an effective way to increase soil carbon sequestration and avoid emissions related to the anaerobic decomposition of organic waste material in landfills. Grazed grasslands represent a large portion of agricultural working lands, and a number of recent studies have highlighted that globally grasslands are in a state of degradation.

The methodology provides a quantification framework for emissions reductions from a number of activities including avoiding anaerobic decomposition of organic material used in compost production, directly increasing soil organic carbon (SOC) content by applying compost to grazed fields, and indirectly increasing SOC sequestration through enhanced plant growth in amended fields. Apart from the economic benefit of increased forage production, applying compost to grazed grasslands also has many environmental co-benefits such as improved soil quality, decreased risk of water and wind erosion by increasing soil aggregation, and increased nutrient and water availability for vegetation.

Current approved version

• El Compost Additions to Grazed Grasslands v1.0

Process documentation

- · El Public comment draft
- El Public comments and responses
- A Peer review comments and responses

Sectoral Scope

14. Agriculture, Forestry, Land Use

Filed under: Land Use Approved

Registry | Credits | Contact Us | ACR Admin

American Carbon Registry - c/o Winrock International 2121 Crystal Drive, Suite 500 - Arlington, VA 22202 ph 703-302-6500 - fax 703-302-6512

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Date Saved: 5/20/2014 4:26:29 PM

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE STRATEGY

An Integrated Plan for Addressing Climate Change

VISION

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions to 40% Below 1990 Levels by 2030

GOALS

 $50%$ reduction in petroleum use in vehicles

50% renewable electricity

Double energy efficiency savings at existing buildings

Carbon sequestration in the land base

Reduce short-lived climate pollutants

Safeguard California

MLRA 4B: *Coastal Redwood Belt***;**

sites in Marin (compost already spread; data collection only) and San Mateo

MLRA 5: *Siskiyou-Trinity Area***;** site in Mendocino

MLRA 15: *Central California Coast Range;* sites in Alameda, Sonoma, and Yolo

MLRA 16: *California Delta;* sites in Contra Costa & Solano

MLRA 17: *Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys;* sites in Kettleman City, San Joaquin (NRCS Plant Materials Center, ungrazed), Stanislaus, Tulare, and Yolo

MLRA 18: *Sierra Nevada Foothills***;** sites in Fresno & Yuba (compost already spread; data collection only)

MLRA 20: *Southern California Mountains***;** sites in San Diego & Santa Barbara

Throughput of Compost Facilities and Organic Waste from Cities, Perennial Crops, and Dairies

and Agricultural Waste Management Handbook (1992). Compost facility throughouput is from CalRecycle (2015).

THE CALIFORNIA CARBON PROJECT

Comparative Research

Organic Sources: Processes: Fates:

Food Waste Dairy Manure Woody Biomass

Landfill Mulching Composting Bio Digestion Reactive Processes Pyrolysis Incineration Soil Systems Emissions Water Energy

