



## Environmental Stewardship in Food Production

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IMI Global, Inc.



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## Agriculture has a historic Role in Environmental Stewardship

- Since the earliest civilizations, man has tilled, grazed and grown produce on our lands to support the needs of a growing population
- There is a time tested relationship between agriculturalists and their land
- A growing population, competing for diminishing natural resources has put pressure on current agricultural activities
- Agriculture has been linked to environmental issues such as deforestation, desertification, increased air and water pollution



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## The Future of Environmental Stewardship in Agriculture

- Agriculture has responded to environmental pressures in many ways (crop rotation, drip irrigation, no till farming, sustainable grazing patterns, renewable energy development, etc.)
- There is continual development of new programs to ensure that we are consuming healthy, earth friendly food (source & age, no hormone, grass fed, humanely treated, all natural, etc.)
- Recent science suggests that Agriculture can play a significant role in reducing global green house gas emissions




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## There are many ways for agriculture to promote environmental stewardship

**Conservation**



**Renewable Energy**



**GHG Reduction**



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## WhereFoodComesFrom Verified Green Certification

- **New Retail Marketing Program to promote sustainably produced food products**
- **USDA endorsed Process Verified Program (PVP)**
- **Stringent Independent Third Party Verification Requirements**
- **Management tool for improved stewardship**
- **Allows for agricultural producers to gain both brand distinction and price premiums**
- **Patent Pending model for attaching environmental credits to agricultural products (cattle, fruits, vegetables, dairy, etc.)**

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## Program Requirements

- Producers must demonstrate an understanding of environmental stewardship through the use of best management practices.
- Products must be source verifiable.
- Producers must meet a minimum number of stewardship points in the following areas:


- 1. Stewardship Philosophy**
- 2. Habitat, Air or Water Conservation**
- 3. Renewable Energy / Energy Efficiency**
- 4. Green House Gas Reduction (GHG)**

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## GHG Reduction through Carbon Sequestration

**The Carbon Sequestration Process works like this:**  
 The grass takes in Carbon Dioxide from the atmosphere; the animals trample the grass into the soil, where the Carbon Dioxide is absorbed; new grass sprouts and the process is repeated over and over again, absorbing more and more Carbon into the soil and emitting Oxygen back into the atmosphere through photosynthesis.



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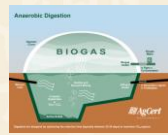


## What about Methane?

↑ Organic Matter = ↑ Forage Quality = ↑ Feed Efficiency =  
 ↓ Methane Emissions


**Carbon sequestration is directly linked to a decrease in Methane production**

One of the most significant contributors of methane in the livestock industry is manure management in confinement operation settings.




1) BMP's    2) Methane Digesters

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## Agriculture is the key to a reduced CO2 Footprint



- 788 million acres in the U.S. (excluding Alaska) is grazed by livestock every year. That is 41.4% of the total land mass.
- An acre of pasture can sequester more carbon dioxide than an acre of forest.
- Two-thirds of all potential carbon dioxide offsets come from Agricultural producers.
- Scientists agree that organic matter in topsoil is on average 50 percent carbon up to one foot in depth, and bumping that upward by as little as 1.6 percent across all the world's agricultural land would have a significant impact on decreasing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.


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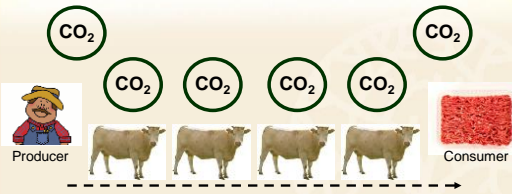
## The Current CO2 Credit Trading Model is Inefficient



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## Now There is a More Efficient Way to Transport CO2 Credits




**Credits travel WITH the cattle/commodity**

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## Food with Carbon Credits

**There is an opportunity to tie food products to Verified Carbon Credits**



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### A New Kind of Food Production Process

**Producers** – GENERATE commodities with Verified Carbon Credits Cattle, vegetables, nuts, fruits, etc...

**Consumers** – IDENTIFY food products with a reduced carbon footprint.

**A Market Driven Solution to Promoting Environmental Stewardship in Food Production**

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### The Perfect Green “Closed Loop” of Food Production

- Utilizes existing market infrastructure
- Allows consumers to easily pick those products that are “Verified Green”
- Improves animal and environmental health AND gives the producer a premium for it



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### WhereFoodComesFrom Verified Green Certification

**Socially Focused...**  
**Environmentally Driven...**  
**Economically Motivated...**  
**...Part of the Solution**



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