



GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF

Climate Scientific Advisory Council

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Members Present:

Brenna Grant (Canfax)
Sara Place (Elanco)
Alice Rocha (UC Davis)
Andre Mazzetto (Ag Research)
Fernando Dias (EMBRAPA)

Isabel Schulze (GTPS)
Joe Proudman (UC Davis/CLEAR Center)
Sam Werth (USRSB)
Gracie Selva (Minerva)

Staff Present: Ruairaidh Petre, Katie Ambrose, Julie James

Opening Remarks

Brenna Grant

Meeting today focused on looking for brainstorming and conversation with regards to next steps for the committee. Also wanted to address what questions need to be summarized from existing literature and what needs further work.

1. Metrics Fact Sheet

The Metrics Fact sheet (summary of the FAO LEAP methane report) is designed to address questions on selection of metrics, given diversity of members with different goals, and a need to consider what is appropriate when assessments are being done at different levels (farm level vs. regional level).

Action item: Committee members to submit any requested changes or concerns about the metrics fact sheet document to B. Grant as soon as possible.

2. Next Steps for methodology and accounting?

Blonk has offered to dig deeper on the Appendix, role of bottom-up and top-down approaches. Topics to potentially be addressed moving forward: What are best practices and how do we communicate this? What is good enough data wise for emissions calculations for supply chain vs. national assessments, given representativeness of surveys or more national census data sources. Also, important to consider frequency when it comes to reporting data at different levels.

Case studies of how to best capture improvements over time seems valuable, looking at various programs to identify best practices for collecting data, measuring and reporting on GHG emissions. Two options include: Caldenes (AR) with bottom up approach using ISO; and [Silver Fern Farms](#) (NZ) has a recent Carbon Zero program: It is based on LCA of beef production and offsetting emissions. Focus needs to be placed on GHG emission reporting, how it is done and what works (not production practices that vary significantly from one region to another). Case studies will not harmonize anything, but could inform us about what people are doing around the world; more interested in seeing what people are doing in other countries that have not been heavily studied before.

Action item: create a scope of work for the group to approve at the next meeting.

3. Carbon Sequestration

- a. Is FAO's LEAP Guideline on Carbon Stocks and Changes adequate?
 - i. Does it need to be summarized? Are there further data gaps?

Currently there is a lack of good data. Time is needed to gather data and determine how much we can rely on modeling to estimate carbon stocks and sequestration rates. In-field validation of actually measuring carbon from a soil sample is not the issue, it's more about how robust of a sampling do you need and what kind of modeling can be supported. Similar issues in the US, difficulties lie in the empirical science, how do we get a robust sample to estimate carbon stocks and know what is under our control to change or not.

Is there something that can be done at a global level to support advancing the science in the area where gaps exist, if they are fairly similar. Global Satellite project in several different countries, the cost of soil sampling will need to be replaced with estimation and modeling. New Zealand sees some studies on flat lands, but do not consider sequestration as it is assumed to be in a steady state, but hilly regions are unknown.

4. Other Business

Is there an update on the C-Sequ methodology? No feedback has been heard from the pilot. R. Petre will follow up.

Carbon Footprint methodology

Katie Ambrose

A news release on Carbon footprint methodology was distributed. It is available on as a pdf on the website and social media. Had some confusion about what the calculator aid was and its limitations as a tool. Want to keep calculator separate for members only, provided upon request to professionals as needed. Agreed that the other documents like FAQs and fact sheets can be made publicly available. Everyone is encouraged to share of the social media posts. It was noted that Camillo from FAO LEAP was interested in the documents. It also aligns well with companies interested in hedging carbon prices.

Next meeting: TBD