



CARBON FARMING NEWS

ISSUE 1, SEPTEMBER 2008

Tēnā koe - Hello and welcome to the first Carbon Farming Group newsletter.

It has been two months since the launch of the Carbon Farming Group website. We have had over 40,000 website hits and a good number of enquiries, with over 100 people registering for our newsletter. Feedback has

overwhelmingly supported the existence of an independent group providing relevant information on issues surrounding carbon farming and the Emissions Trading Scheme.

We also made a brief television appearance on Rural Delivery, talking about our work and some of the issues for farmers. You can watch the programme [here](#) (please note it takes a while to load and has an advert at the start).

PASTURE AND SOIL CARBON

We have had a number of enquiries, some very passionate and direct, suggesting that our calculator should include carbon absorbed by pasture and stored in soil. These have not been included in our calculator as they are currently not included in the rules of the Emissions Trading Scheme. We will modify our calculator if the situation changes if and when the ETS is finalized.

In addition, there is no robust nationally averaged data for soil and pasture carbon to use in such a calculation. We would be interested to talk to anyone who could help provide accurate information on the current legislative and scientific situation.

EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

The Emissions Trading Scheme legislation had a second reading at the end of August, including recommendations from the select committee (see below). A third reading is due early this month, which if passed will enact the legislation.

The Climate Change Select committee report on the Emissions Trading Scheme Bill was released in July. There were a number of minor technical changes made to the bill. The two most significant changes affecting the rural community are:

- The liquid fuel sector will now enter the Emissions Trading Scheme in 2011, previously 2009;
- Free allocation for the agricultural sector has been pushed out 5 years. The agriculture sector will still enter the Emissions Trading Scheme in 2013 but the 90% free allocation based on 2005 levels will continue to 2018, at which point the allocation will drop to zero in 2030 (was 2025). If you would like to read more about the Climate Change Select committee report please see the "news/events" page on our website [here](#).

If you have any questions about climate change and the rural sector or have ideas/suggestions that you'd like to share please contact us on 0800 123 733 or info@carbonfarming.org.nz

Best regards, Clayton Wallwork

WEBSITE UPDATES

Recent updates to the Carbon Farming Group website include:

- Link to the list of New Zealand Institute of Forestry Registered Consultants in our links page
- Climate Change Select Committee Report
- Added a sheep and beef example which has completely de-stocked, allowing native vegetation to regenerate, see it [here](#).

NEXT ISSUE...

- Possible update on the Emissions Trading Scheme legislation, whether it has passed or not and what will happen next.
- What is the voluntary market? The voluntary market is gaining significant momentum internationally. The Carbon Farming Group is watching as this develops and may present a summary of what is happening in the next newsletter and also include this on our website.