

# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MARKETING CARBON CREDITS FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MEETING TO BE HELD**

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (AVSWCD) is hosting a **"Marketing Carbon Credits for Agriculture and Forestry"** meeting **Thursday, June 18 at Fort Western in Augusta, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.** Space is limited and pre-registration is required. There is a \$15.00 advance registration fee due before June 10<sup>th</sup>, \$20 after that date up to June 16<sup>th</sup>. R. Neil Sampson, the featured speaker, is technical advisor to the National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC), a career conservationist, private consultant and author/editor of numerous publications. Recent work, published by the Global Institute for Sustainable Forestry at Yale University, is entitled *"Dynamic Models of Land Use Change in Northeastern USA,"* done in collaboration with Mary Tyrrell of Yale and Myrna Hall of SUNY. Also recently released from the Pew Center on Global Climate Change is *Agricultural and Forest Lands: Carbon*

*Policy Strategies for the United States*, done in collaboration with Kenneth Richards and Sandra Brown. He serves as an Affiliate Professor in the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Idaho and a Research Associate at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The NCOC, comprised of seven Montana Resource Conservation and Development Councils and a non-profit watershed group, is an aggregator of carbon credits. Their goal is to promote resource conservation while assisting in the development of economic opportunities for landowners. The NCOC is seeking local affiliate members and/or a sub-aggregator. Mr. Sampson will be available to discuss what this entails with interested individuals and organizations after the general meeting.

The meeting will be a comprehensive overview of the carbon markets. Meeting topics include: marketing and aggregating ecosystem services to promote sustainable agriculture; the current carbon markets, their history, current and future role in encouraging farmers and forest landowners to adopt conservation practices; the opportunities available for landowners to participate in the voluntary carbon market; aggregating locally and the steps necessary to aggregate small farms; and the history and work of the NCOC. The final agenda may include other topics.

Since 2007, AVSWCD and their partners (see the carbon credit program at [www.androscogginswcd.net](http://www.androscogginswcd.net) for the list of contributing partners) have been working on the development of a soil carbon baseline in the state and participating in outreach to landowners to increase knowledge of the issues concerning agriculture, forestry and climate change and the mitigation role agriculture and forestry will play in the future. The goal is to provide opportunities that have not previously been available to Maine's agricultural and forestry landowners while potentially increasing their income stream through adoption of conservation and management practices that will increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These stewardship practices will also increase sustainability through co-benefits, such as increased productivity and reduced operating costs. Aggregation of ecosystems services on a local level is a critical link between the landowners and the markets. Mr. Sampson is uniquely qualified to help with our efforts and provide expertise that will enable achievement of our goals, one of which is to establish the necessary local infrastructure needed for our landowners to participate in the carbon markets.

Mr. Sampson's attendance at this event has been funded by a Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Speaker Fund grant. The registration fee will provide a coffee break and lunch for participants.

For more information, contact Susan Gammon at AVSWCD. 753-9400  
X404 or [susan.gammon@me.nacdnet.net](mailto:susan.gammon@me.nacdnet.net). AVSWCD is an equal  
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