

Prairie soil carbon balance project

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SPG Contributions	Project Status	Duration/Timeline of Project (Year to Year)	Total Project Cost
\$32,000.00	Completed	April 2009 – April 2011	\$32,000.00

Project Description

To assess the soil analyses for the above years to determine whether soil organic carbon (SOC) is increasing, decreasing, or exhibiting no change in Western Canada soils that were converted to direct seeding in 1996 or 1997 and to determine if it is feasible to measure SOC change on individual farm fields using one or more microsite using repeated sampling with a slight spatial displacement.

Outcome

Adoption of direct seeding increases soil organic carbon (SOC) on the Canadian prairies. The SOC increases were both substantial and greater than expected. The new information supports documentation of reduced carbon footprint for direct seeded cropland on the Canadian prairies as increasing SOC represents removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere. The results also support, indirectly, carbon offsets from adoption of direct seeding.

Research Objective

OBJECTIVE 1

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