

Reducing plant and animal carbon footprint

Land-grant university researchers are addressing the need to reduce the carbon footprint from agricultural production involving plants, soil and animals.

Successful examples include:

- Evaluating the efficiencies of cover crops and how they can improve soil health, protect water quality and sequester carbon are part of studies throughout the Midwest region.
- In **Arkansas**, nitrogen compounds derived from excess amino acids in crude protein ingredients in swine feed are studied in manure and urine. Excessive amounts of nitrogen compounds can be oxidized by soil and air, released into the atmosphere as nitrous oxide – a greenhouse gas that’s even more of a threat than carbon dioxide.
- Carbon fixation, overall photosynthesis, season bulb weight yield and maturation date in onions are evaluated in **New Mexico** with an overall goal of identifying superior genetics that will help produce high-quality bulbs.

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