# Digging Up The Facts On Soil Carbon Sequestration

(NAPSA)—Scientists are warming to a workable solution to reduce global warming. It's called carbon sequestration. Carbon sequestration, sometimes called carbon recycling, is the storage of carbon in the soil, either in agricultural, crop lands, grazing lands, or forests. Here are some facts about the benefits of carbon sequestration that may surprise many Americans.

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The storage of carbon—carbon retained in plant leaves, branches, stems, and roots and in soils themselves—offers dual benefits to humans. It fuels plant life, food crops become more abundant and it reduces the concentration of carbon in the earth's atmosphere.

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Scientists believe that a potential now exists to offset significant amounts of carbon dioxide emissions by sequestering carbon in the soils of land now in agricultural production.

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Pasture lands have the greatest opportunities for increased soil carbon with improved practices such as planting appropriate species, rotational grazing and the application of fertilizers, say experts at the Department of Energy.

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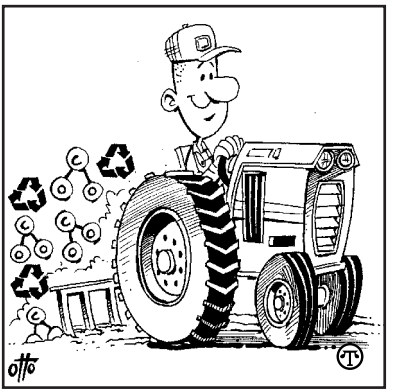
Grazing lands, comprised of pasture and range lands, represent the largest and most diverse single land resource in the U.S.




**WIN-WIN—The storage of carbon dioxide in plant leaves, roots and the soil helps crops become more abundant and reduces the concentration of carbon in the earth's atmosphere.**

and in the world. Grazing land comprises more than half the land surface in the world and 55 percent of the total land in the U.S.

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Experts at the Environmental Protection Agency say there are numerous opportunities for increased soil carbon pool in croplands. The strategy is to adopt recommended management practices that lead to intensification of agriculture. The object is to conserve soil and water and recycle nutrients, and minimize losses due to erosion, leaching and evaporation.

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More information about carbon sequestration is available at www.co2andclimate.org.