



## **Measuring Working Land's Ecological Benefits**



# America's farmland offers a variety of ecological benefits.

## **Ecosystem Services:**

Benefits derived from the environment  
(mostly centered on human well-being)  
*e.g., food production*

## **Ecological Benefits:**

Benefits derived from the environment  
(can be a function, not exclusively human)  
*e.g., nutrient cycling*

## **Environmental Processes:**

The function and performance of the natural world  
(does not need to be a benefit)  
*e.g., nutrient loading*

## **Agroecosystems:**

Integrated agricultural and environmental processes  
(focused on both farming and the environment)  
*e.g., no-till production*

**For this session, we can bundle ecosystem services with ecological benefits since farms play such a vital role to human well-being.**

America's farmland offers a variety of ecological benefits.





# An avoided conversion example measuring ecological benefits of working lands:

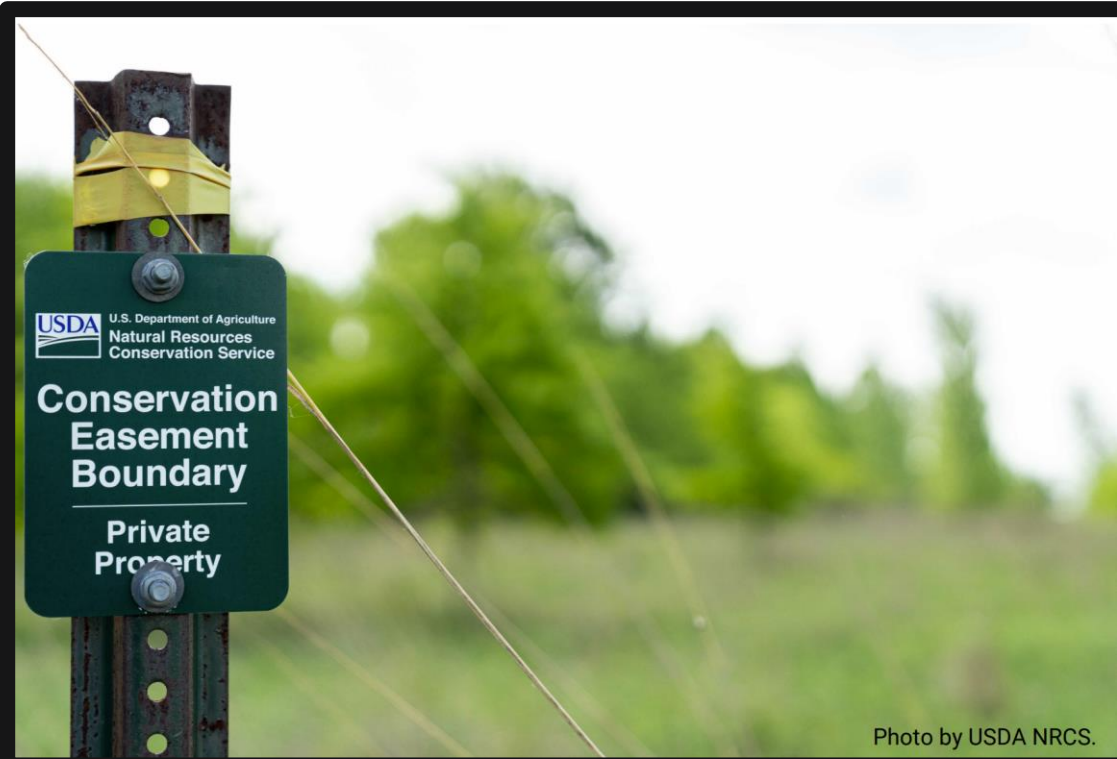


Photo by USDA NRCS.



Rural	Low Density Residential	Urban and Highly Developed

No Farms  
No Food








# An avoided conversion example measuring ecological benefits of working lands:



The climate mitigation from the avoided CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions equate to:

-  avoiding 48.5 million miles driven in a gasoline-powered passenger vehicle
-  5 wind turbines running for a full year
-  323,112 tree seedlings grown for 10 years

Of the avoided emissions, 40% are from reduced electricity consumption, 38% from reduced driving, and 20% from avoided soil carbon loss.

# Measuring Working Land's Ecological Benefits

**Dr. Theresa Nogeire-McRae**  
Landscape Ecologist  
American Farmland Trust



**Considerations**

**Dr. Katie Pisarello**  
Senior Scientist  
American Farmland Trust



**Methods**

**Michael Delbar**  
CEO  
California Rangeland Trust



**In Practice**



**Panel**



# Questions?

**Sam Smidt**

**National Director of Land Use and Protection Research**

**American Farmland Trust**

**[ssmidt@farmland.org](mailto:ssmidt@farmland.org)**



**American Farmland Trust**