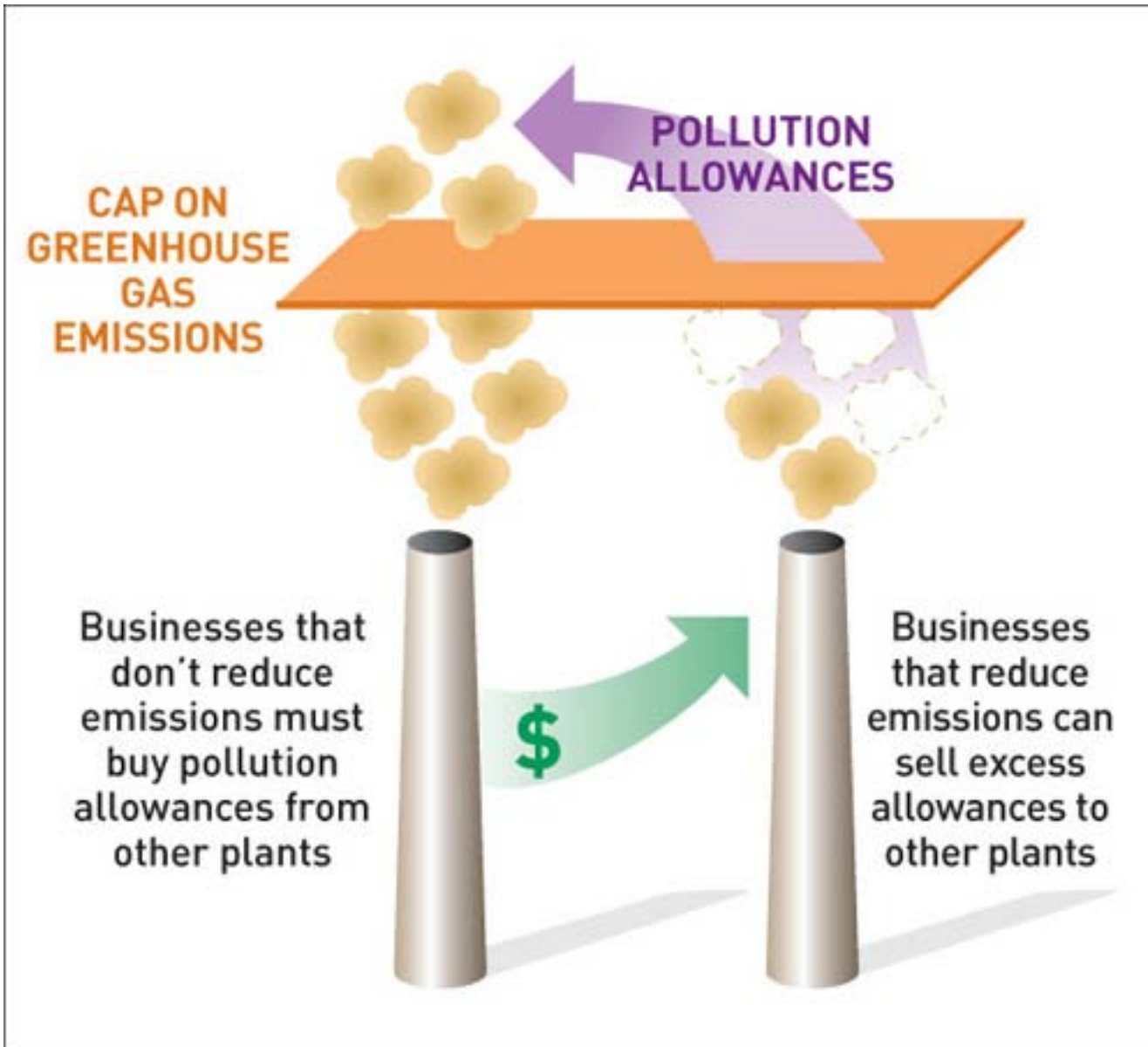


# Advising Landowners About CARBON OFFSETS

Mark Megalos  
Extension Forestry Specialist  
NC State University



# Carbon Market Overview

## Carbon Credit Generation

### Generators:

- Agricultural businesses
- Other entities producing quantified, verified CC

## Carbon Offset Purchase

### Polluters (purchasers):

- Coal-fired power plants → CO<sub>2</sub>
- Landfills → CH<sub>4</sub>

## Carbon Markets

GHG emissions  
reduction project  
→ Carbon  
Credits

Carbon Offsets

\$\$

LANDOWNER  
ENTRY POINT

Michigan State University, Extension



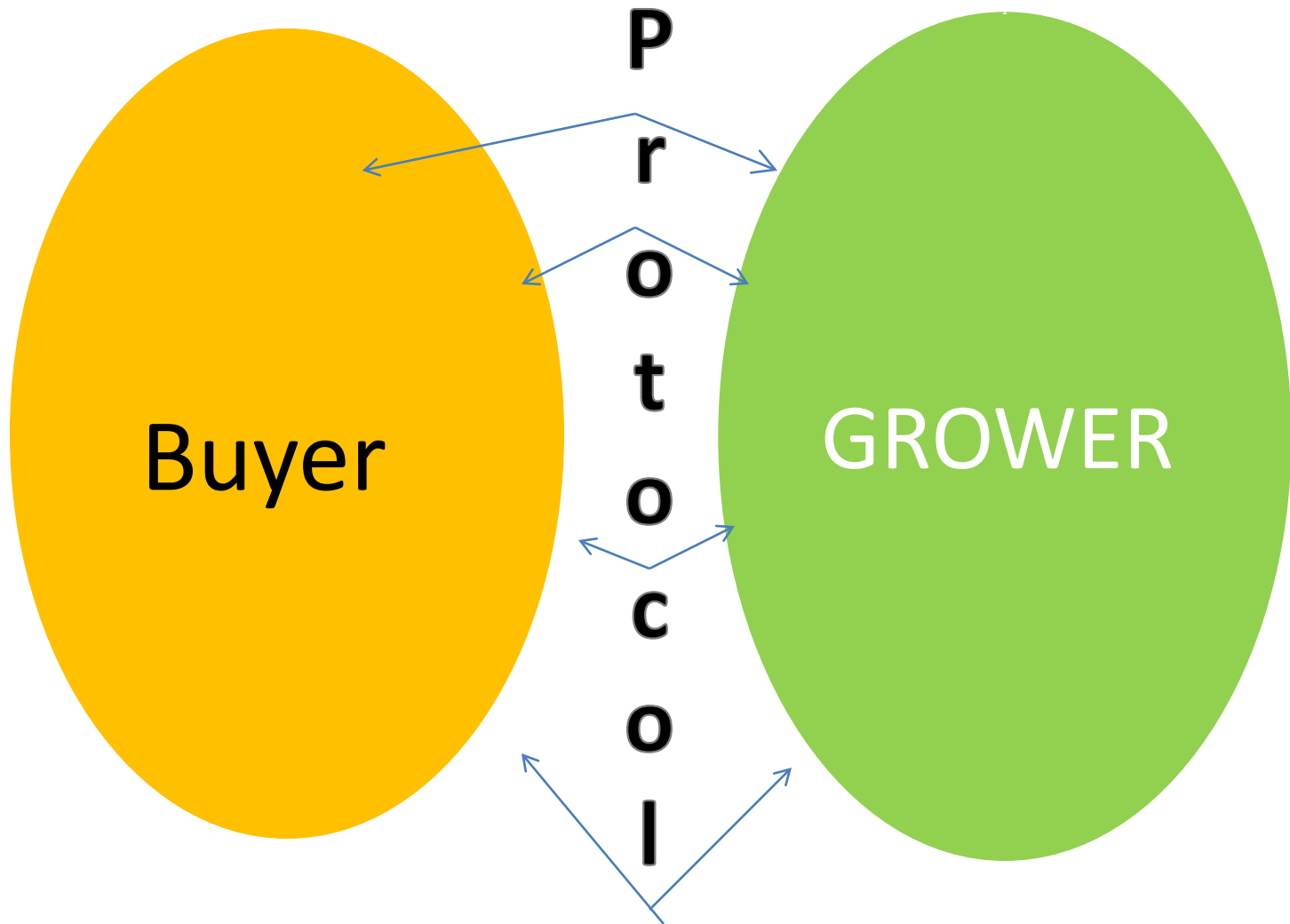
# Forests and Agriculture



- Sequester carbon (offset emissions)
- Debate Regarding Which Offsets Qualify
  - domestic or international
- Forestry groups, land trusts want robust domestic offset program
- Tension over USDA vs. EPA control



# CREATING A MARKET



# Conflicting Desires

## Buyers Demand

- △ Verification (3<sup>rd</sup> party)
- △ Permanence
- △ Additionality
- △ Reserve pools
- △ Trackable Credits
- △ Transparency

## Sellers Desire

- △ Simplicity/ Ease
- △ Short Contract Life
- △ Room for the little guy
- △ Acceptable Market \$\$
- △ Intergenerational  
Transferability

# The Balance?

- Matching Legal Directives with A Manageable Offset Program
- Factoring in the Variability of Natural Systems
  - Greater Understanding of Soil Carbon
  - Carbon Cycling and Turnover
- Agency Programs that Credit Carbon along with other Public Benefits
  - Water, Wildlife, Wetlands, Restoration