Livestock

Comparison of California ARB Compliance Offset Protocol to Climate Action Reserve Voluntary Offset Project Protocol Version 3.0

The protocol adopted by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) for the creation of compliance offsets from livestock manure management projects contains several changes from the Climate Action Reserve (Reserve) U.S. Livestock Project Protocol Version 3.0. This document is meant to highlight some of the important changes that appear in the compliance protocol.

Eligibility

- The Reserve accepts only new projects (start date no more than six months prior to submittal), while the ARB compliance program will accept projects with start dates as early as January 1, 2007.

Project Quantification

- In the ARB compliance protocol, only data from 2007 may be used for the state-specific default values for volatile solids (VS) by animal type (Table A.5), whereas the Reserve protocol provides updated values for each year that the U.S. GHG Inventory is available.
- In the ARB compliance protocol, the U.S. EPA eGRID2007 values (for emission year 2005) are the only option for determining the emissions factor for grid-connected electricity usage (Table A.8), whereas the Reserve instructs projects using the voluntary protocol to use the eGRID factor that most closely aligns with the year in which the emission reductions occurred.
- The ARB compliance protocol allows the use of site-specific source test data from an ARB-approved source test plan in lieu of the default destruction efficiency values. The Reserve protocol allows site-specific source test results only from a state or local agency accredited service provider.

Project Monitoring

- On March 28, 2012, the Reserve released a clarification that provided guidance on monitoring requirements that expanded the range of situations under which a single flow meter may be used to monitor multiple destruction devices. The ARB compliance protocol allows for a single flow meter with multiple destruction devices only when the devices are identical and verified to be operational, and does not include the expanded guidance.