

## ENVIRONMENT

# Carbon credit market adjusting to record volumes

BY KAY SHIPMAN

FarmWeek

The carbon credit market is adjusting to record prices followed by record volumes of trading over the past several months.

"There's still lasting value in the commodity, and we think it will have more value, especially with (proposed) legislation," said Ryan Anderson of the Delta Institute. Although climate debate stalled in Congress, the issues and legislation won't go away, Anderson added.

Under the Illinois Conservation and Climate Initiative, farmers are paid for storing carbon in soil, trees, and grass and for reducing the level of carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere.

Delta Institute, a non-profit organization, pools the carbon credits of farmers and landowners in 14 states, including Illinois.

The pooled credits are offered for sale to members of the Chicago Climate Exchange, a market of large companies,

municipalities, and institutions.

Recently, prices and trading volumes skyrocketed on the carbon credit market.

In June, prices hit a high of \$7.40 per metric ton before dropping to \$4.85 per metric ton. During that month, the market saw 8.4 million metric tons offered for trade in a matter of days.

That major offering followed two record-volume trading months of February and May. More than 10 million tons were traded during each of those months.

"The price per metric ton has taken a tumble," Anderson said. "When you have a record month of 10.5 million tons, then 8.4 million tons comes on (the market) in a matter of days, the market is still adjusting."

As of July 1, Illinois landowners have enrolled 161,414 acres in 89 counties. Most — 118,615 acres — are no-till acres. Edgar County with 14,552 acres leads the state with acreage enrollment.

Delta Institute is interesting in get-

ting more counties involved. "There are still areas that don't participate," Anderson said.

He expected the fifth trading pool to close sometime in September.

Interested landowners need to remember the carbon credit market is fluctuating, and prices can vary by several dollars up or down, he noted.

In addition, the enrollment and verification process could take between

three and six months, so prices could change several times before an individual's credits are offered for trade, Anderson explained.

The latest enrollment numbers, enrollment forms, and other information are available online at ([www.illinoisclimate.org](http://www.illinoisclimate.org)).

Interested farmers and landowners may contact Anderson at 312-554-0900, extension 14.

*New Zealand a model?*

## G8 ministers target greenhouse reductions

BY MARTIN ROSS

FarmWeek

President Bush and other leaders of the industrialized world last week set an ambitious goal of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by at least

50 percent by 2050.

During last week's international G8 Summit, leaders did not agree on a baseline year with which to compare carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse emission levels or on any medium-term reductions. The