

Carbon, Carbon, and more Carbon

What would you do with 100,000,000,000 TONS of Carbon?

Where could you possibly store it? What if you could make money for storing it? And build wealth for your family and future generations?

Most of us in agriculture are acquainted with Carbon because it makes up more than half of the organic matter in our soils. In general, the more organic matter you have, the better your soils are.

Here's a hint to the first question: over 100 BILLION TONS of Carbon have been LOST from the soils of the world since farming began about 12,000 years ago. So, if we lost that much, how about if we ADD it back to our soils?

Here in Ohio, imagine if the organic matter in your soils could be doubled or tripled back to the 6 to 8% it might have been 200 years ago. If you don't believe your soil was ever that high, take a soil sample in an old fence row, or nearby woods.

You probably know you can get paid to add carbon to your soils although not much in cash. The real payment comes in higher corn and soybean yields from healthier soils.

“In Ohio we could add $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of Carbon per acre per year,” according to OSU's renowned soil scientist, Rattan Lal. In 25 to 50 years, that could be our share of 100 Billion Tons.

You can learn how to add carbon (sequester it) in your soil at the Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference every year. Also, 3 field days will be presented by the Ohio No-till Council this summer, on August 18, 20 and 23, in Crawford, Butler and Muskingum Counties, respectively. These programs will include hands-on details about continuous no-till, cover crops, and the value of Carbon.

Randall Reeder, May, 2022