

Carbon Sequestration is a Big Win for WI Ag

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Sen. Smith writes about carbon sequestration for Wisconsin, the ecological and economical role farmers can play for curbing climate change and enhancing agricultural opportunities for future generations.

MADISON - Severe drought conditions plagued Wisconsin's growing season this spring and summer. This winter shifted from fifty degrees and rainy to subzero temps and snowy. I don't often put a lot of stock in short term weather observations as an indicator for climate change, but it's hard not to notice over my own lifetime how our weather has progressively gone haywire. There is no doubt that cumulative observations and data gathering around the world is showing that climate change is to blame.

As carbon dioxide levels increase, we need a solution to put the carbon back into the ground where it belongs – it's called carbon sequestration. This is where farmers play a key role in our work toward curbing the effects of climate change. Farmers don't put on their bibs, grease up their equipment and say, "I'm going to sequester carbon today," but they do a darn good job of it. Their primary goal is to profit from the land, but they accomplish far more than that just by doggedly pursuing their primary purpose.

