Base Protocol Plan for Reducing Days on Feed of Cattle

Fast Track Protocol Development Process

Submitted: March 2009

This document has been prepared by Blue Source Canada ULC on behalf of the Working Group Beef.

Contents

Part I: Identification of the Protocol Developer 3

1.1 Title of the Base Protocol: 3

1.2 Lead Protocol Developer 3

1.3 Initiating Entity 3

1.4 Rationale for initiating the development of the protocol: 3

Part II: Base Protocol Applicability and Development Approach 5

2.1 Description of the Project Type: 5

2.2 Description of Project-specific Technology (if applicable) 5

2.3 GHG(s) that will be reduced: 5

2.4 Description of how real reductions will be achieved: 5

2.5 Base Protocol Flexibility (optional): 6

2.6 Federal, Provincial/Territorial Legal Requirements & Climate Change Incentives 6

2.6.1 List of potentially relevant requirements: 6

2.6.2 List of potentially relevant climate change incentives: 6

2.7 Building on existing protocols or proprietary information (if applicable) 7

2.8 Explanation of how the existing protocol will be adapted: 7

2.9 Explanation of the nature of the proprietary information and how it might be used in the Base Protocol: 8

Part III: Declaration / Consent / Signature 9

Part I: Identification of the Protocol Developer

1.1 Title of the Base Protocol:

Quantification Protocol for Reducing Days on Feed of Cattle

1.2 Lead Protocol Developer

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1.3 Initiating Entity

Organization:	
Address:	
Name:	
City:	
Title:	
Province:	
Postal Code:	
Email:	
Website:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	

1.4 Rationale for initiating the development of the protocol:

There is industry support behind the development of this protocol and a recognized opportunity to generate greenhouse gas offset credits.

Through the working group members strive to ensure that protocols are:

- Based on a complete life-cycle analysis with consideration of all relevant GHG sources and sinks;
- Consistent in their treatment of cross-cutting issues;
- Based on accurate and unbiased best science and best practice guidance;
- Fully transparent; and
- Conservative so as to ensure that environmental integrity is maintained.

Part II: Base Protocol Applicability and Development Approach

2.1 Description of the Project Type:

This protocol quantifies enteric methane emissions from cattle; and emissions from manure handling, storage and application during the period the animal is being finished on feed lots.

In Canada, beef cattle are slaughtered within a range of between 14 and 21 months. During a finishing period of this life cycle, the cattle may spend time on a feedlot. The baseline condition for projects applying this protocol is defined as the operating conditions at the project farm prior to the change in practises that resulted in the reduction in days on feed. The baseline condition would be defined as the average number of days on feed for animals within weight groupings at the project proponent's beef production operation for the three years prior to project implementation.

The boundary of the Days on Feed Protocol includes the feedlot barn where the cattle are finished, the facility where manure is stored and the land where the manure is spread.

The emissions associated with cattle production are included in Canada's GHG Inventory.

2.2 Description of Project-specific Technology (if applicable)

N/A

2.3 GHG(s) that will be reduced:

- CO2;
- CH4; and
- N2O

2.4 Description of how real reductions will be achieved:

The opportunity for generating carbon offsets with this protocol arises from the direct and indirect reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from reducing the days of feed for cattle being finished on feed lots.

The Days on Feed Protocol quantifies emissions reductions on the basis of the reduction of days required for finishing for groupings of cattle. Records with respect to the number of cattle, incoming and outgoing weights, diets (quantity and composition), and days on feed, among others, are required.

2.5 Base Protocol Flexibility (optional):

Flexibility in applying the quantification protocol is provided to project developers in two ways:

1. Farms that do not have three years of baseline data as per the days on feed for cattle of specific incoming weights may establish a baseline condition based on a combination of available data and industry practise in their region or operation;
2. Farms including edible oils (between 4% and 6%) within some or all of the feeding periods during finishing may also apply the Edible Oils protocol in parallel with this protocol should it be applicable;
3. Farms where the incoming weights and days on feed vary across groups of animals, these animals can be grouped in discreet units and tracked individually. In this case, the baseline condition may need to be calculated relative to the groups of animals with similar characteristics of incoming and finishing weights; and
4. Site specific emission factors may be substituted for the generic emission factors indicated in this protocol document. The methodology for generation of these emission factors must ensure reasonable accuracy.

If applicable, the proponent must indicate and justify why flexibility provisions have been used.

2.6 Federal, Provincial/Territorial Legal Requirements & Climate Change Incentives

2.6.1 List of potentially relevant requirements:

N/A

2.6.2 List of potentially relevant climate change incentives:

N/A

2.7 Building on existing protocols or proprietary information (if applicable)

Registered name of protocol:	Quantification Protocol for Reducing Days on Feed of Cattle
System for which protocol was developed:	Alberta Offset System
Date protocol was completed and approved:	May 2008
Developer of the protocol	
Name:	Keith Driver
Organization:	Blue Source Canada ULC

2.8 Explanation of how the existing protocol will be adapted:

The existing seed protocol will be adapted through an inclusive, transparent and consistent process coordinated through the working group's broad membership. In particular, work will be conducted by a protocol technical working group formed specifically to address adaptation of the protocol in question and potentially other related protocols. Cross-cutting issues groups will also be formed to address issues affecting a range of protocols, and to ensure consistency in approach.

Adaptation of the existing protocol will follow the multi-step process outlined below:

- Collection of technical and background information related to development, review and approval of the protocol to ensure transparency through the adaptation process;

- Review of the protocol to ensure consistency with Canada's "Turning the Corner" action plan and the requirements of the federal offset system. Any areas of inconsistency with the protocol documentation will be identified in this step;

- Review of existing provincial and federal regulations that could impact the surplus nature of the emission reductions from the project activity. This phase will serve to address the surplus requirement relative to applicable federal and provincial legislation;

- Review of the seed protocol's baseline condition to address the incremental nature of the project activity in the Canadian context. This review will include an assessment of the baseline's compatibility with Canadian best practices and potential alternative baseline approaches;

- Review of the protocol to ensure the quantification methodology is consistent with best practice guidance, and applicable to the range of Canadian geographical and climatic conditions;

- Review of the protocol's measurement and monitoring requirements to ensure they are reflective and reasonable in the Canadian context. This will include a review of data collection requirements and frequency of measurement and monitoring;

- Consideration of other environmental impacts and criteria air contaminants, as required by the "Turning the Corner" action plan;

- Additional analysis to address any outstanding issues identified to date that may present a significant challenge to protocol adaptation. This step will include assembly of the technical working group to drive further analysis;

- Redrafting of protocol to address technical issues identified in the previous steps and to ensure it meets the technical and format requirements of the Canadian offset system;

- Review of any material changes made to the quantification approach using project data to ensure the revised methodology is generally consistent with the original documentation;

- Cross-protocol review of the adapted protocol with other protocols adapted by the working group, to ensure consistency in scope and approach to quantification; and

- Compilation of documents required for submission of the final draft protocol to Environment Canada for approval. The results of all stages of the review and adaptation process will be summarized and compiled to support Environment Canada's review.

Given the volume of work required under short timelines, multiple agencies will be required to provide a range of technical inputs, perspectives and capacity. To accomplish required tasks and meet timelines, technical resources within the working group will be mobilized to provide input; drawing on group member's significant experience in protocol and project development.

The working group will draw on the experience of Climate Change Central to manage the adaptation process and to ensure broad stakeholder.

2.9 Explanation of the nature of the proprietary information and how it might be used in the Base Protocol:

We are anticipating full disclosure and transparency; therefore no proprietary information should be required.

Part III: Declaration / Consent / Signature

The undersigned acknowledges that the undersigned has read, understood and that the undersigned agrees to abide by all the terms, conditions, instructions, and notices set out in the Guide for Protocol Development.

The undersigned acknowledges that the review of, and comments regarding, this base protocol plan or portions thereof does not ensure that the base protocol plan or portions thereof will be used in an Offset System Quantification Protocol by Canada's Offset System for Greenhouse Gases.

The undersigned is legally authorized to use any and all proprietary (or protected) information found in and submitted with the base protocol plan.

The undersigned is duly authorized to sign this application.

The undersigned declares that the base protocol plan submitted for Canada's Offset System for Greenhouse Gases and the information provided on, with or pursuant to this application is true, accurate and complete.

The undersigned consents to the public disclosure, in any manner including, without limitation, posting on Offset System website, of all the information in the base protocol plan and the information submitted with the base protocol plan.

By protocol developer (individual, or an organization's or a corporation's duly authorized representative, date, name, title)

By:

Name:

Title:

Signature:_____

Signed this ____day of _____, 2008