NRCS Agricultural Air Quality Technology Update

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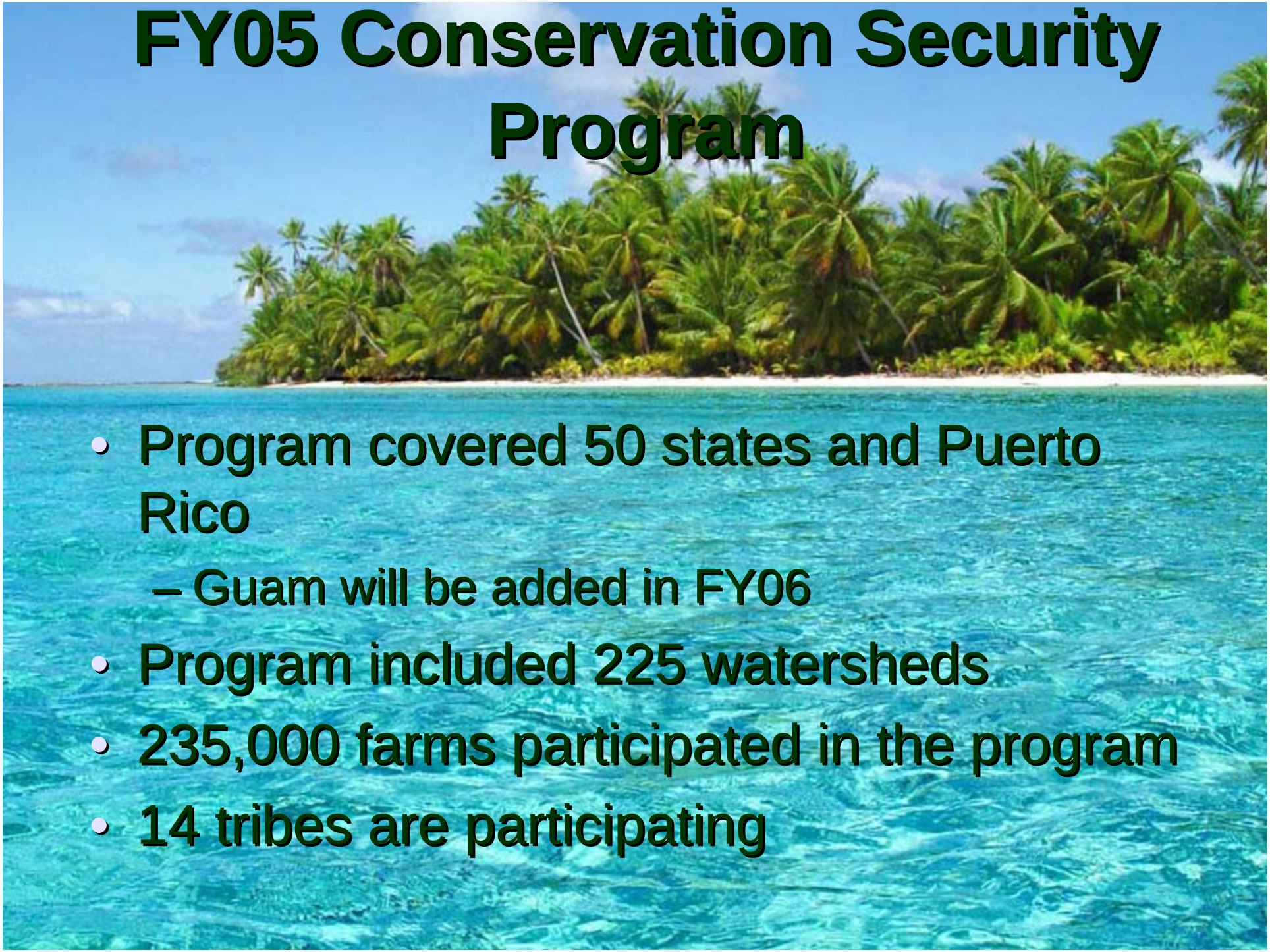
Washington DC

NRCS Program Support for Air Quality

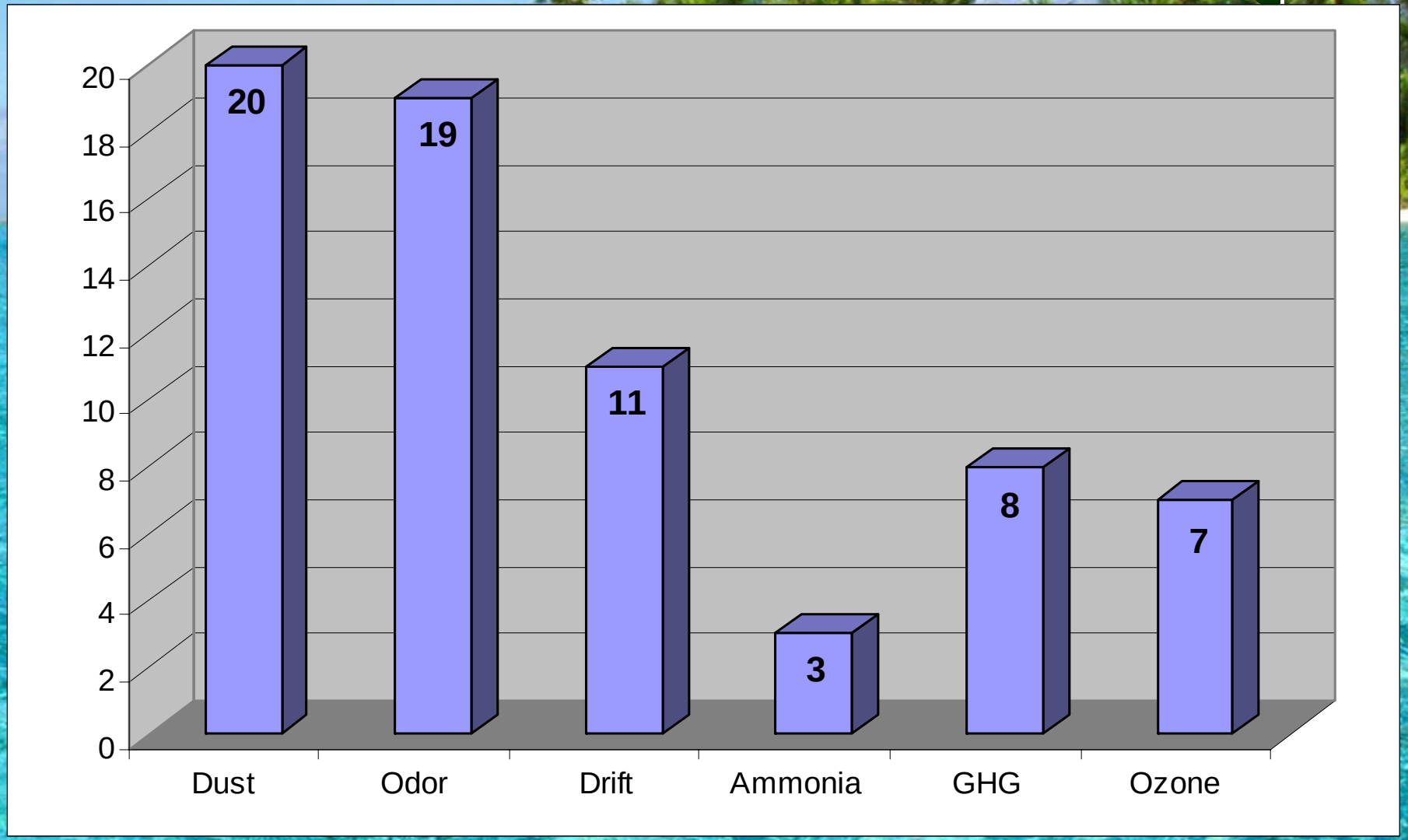
- Conservation Security Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
  - Conservation Innovation Grants
- Biomass Program

FY05 Conservation Security Program



- Program covered 50 states and Puerto Rico
  - Guam will be added in FY06
- Program included 225 watersheds
- 235,000 farms participated in the program
- 14 tribes are participating

FY05 States with CSP Enhancements for AQ



Spring Sign-up 2005

FY05 Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Contracts addressing AQ as Primary and Secondary concerns = $31M
- Manure Management practices = $7M
- Residue Management practices = $4M
- Pest Management Practices = $1.2M

FY05 Conservation Innovation Grant Awards

- 52 National Awards = $14.5 M
- 12 Chesapeake Bay Awards = $4.5 M
- 64 Total National Awards = $19 M

- 51 State Component Awards = $2.9 M

FY05 Conservation Innovation Grants

- **Addressed 5 natural resource categories**
  - **Atmospheric Resources (21 primary)***
  - **Water Resources**
  - **Soil Resources**
  - **Wildlife Habitat**
  - **Grazing Land/Forest Health**
- **Total of 147 proposals received from 47 states**

*** (8 additional projects that address air quality as a secondary concern)**

FY05 Conservation Innovation Grants

- 5 Air projects funded (total over $1.6 M) in CA, GA, MD & PA, SD, and WI

FY06 Conservation Innovation Grants

- Announcement for FY06 RFPs will be made in November
- Atmospheric Resources will continue as a focus in FY06
- More producer-initiated proposals desired
- A new component may focus on NRCS technology gaps

FY05 Biomass Grants

- $12.6 M awarded for Biomass Research and Development
  - 11 biomass research, development and demonstration projects were selected in the joint effort of USDA and the Department of Energy (DOE)
  - A project with the Environmental Resources Trust for nearly $450,000 specifically targets particulate matter reductions and environmental credits

NRCS Air Quality Review

- AQ Team examining current NRCS Air Quality Practice Standard to propose possible additions and changes (following efforts in various states like California)
  - Air resource concerns and associated quality criteria, measures of quality, etc. also will be examined

Air Quality Programmatic Support

- 35 Air Quality & Atmospheric Change Work and Job Sheets developed
- Broad-based Air Quality--Guide sheets developed for 6 major AQ issue areas (Particulate Matter, Ozone, Odors, Ammonia, Chemical Drift, Greenhouse Gases and Carbon)
- http://www.airquality.nrcs.usda.gov/

Carbon Sequestration & Environmental Credits

- Partnering with CSU to develop and enhance the COMET-VR web-based carbon estimation tool
  - COMET-VR has been expanded to give carbon estimates on forest lands
  - COMET-VR will soon provide options for thousands more scenarios for users
- http://www.cometvr.colostate.edu

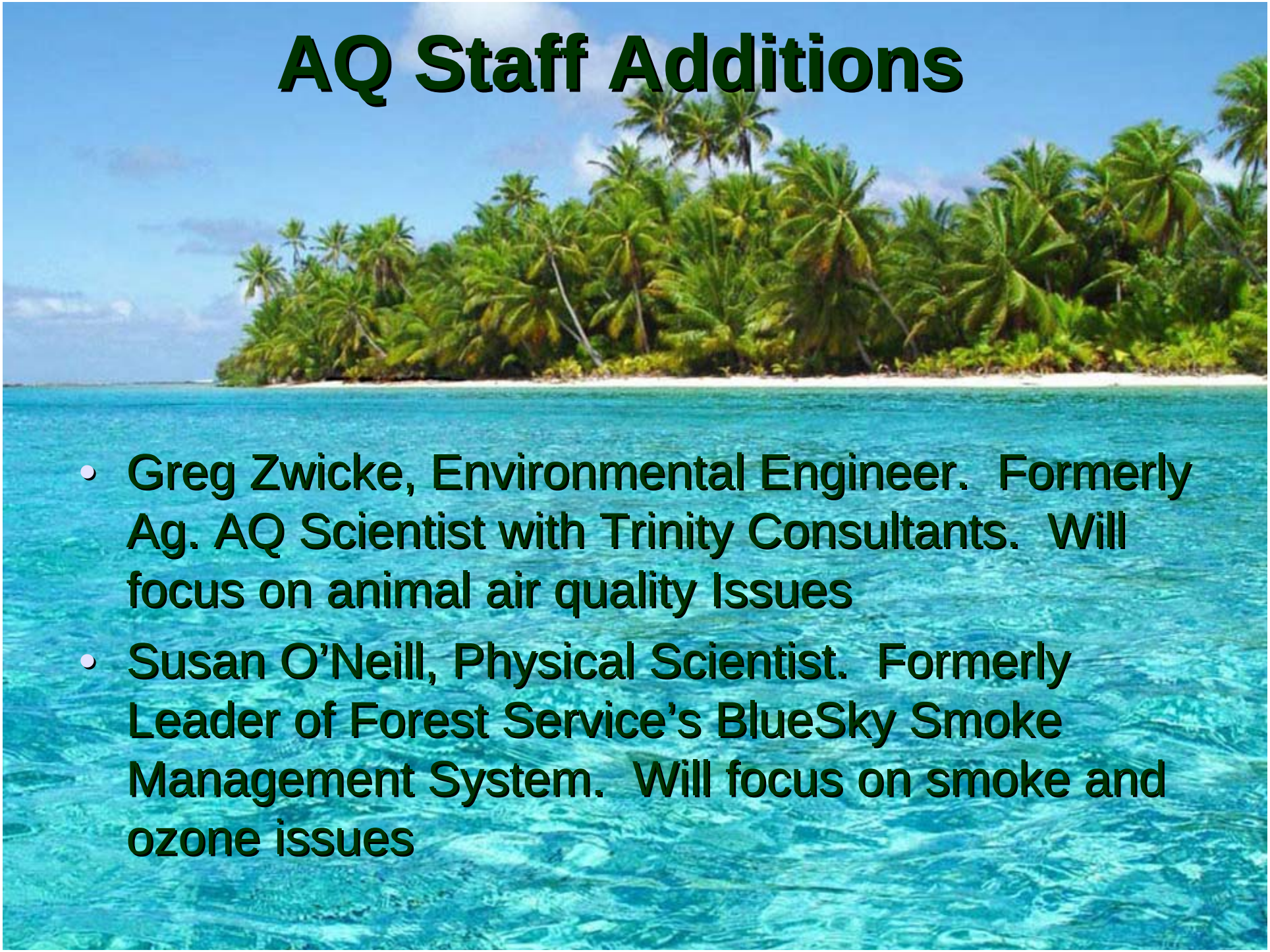
Carbon Sequestration & Environmental Credits

- Partnering with Texas A&M University researchers to analyze the potential of crop, pasture, and range land soils to sequester carbon.
  - The effort is an activity of the Consortium for Agricultural Soils Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases (CASMGS)

AAQTF Website Support

- NRCS provides support for the Task Force website
- Now located at:
  - http://www.airquality.nrcs.usda.gov/AAQTF/index.html

AQ Staff Additions



- Greg Zwicke, Environmental Engineer. Formerly Ag. AQ Scientist with Trinity Consultants. Will focus on animal air quality Issues
- Susan O'Neill, Physical Scientist. Formerly Leader of Forest Service's BlueSky Smoke Management System. Will focus on smoke and ozone issues

NRCS Air Quality Team

- Nat'l Air Quality Specialist – Ron Heavner
- Nat'l Atmos. Resource Specialist – Meg Walsh
- Air Quality and Atmospheric Change Technology Development Team

  Greg Johnson, Leader

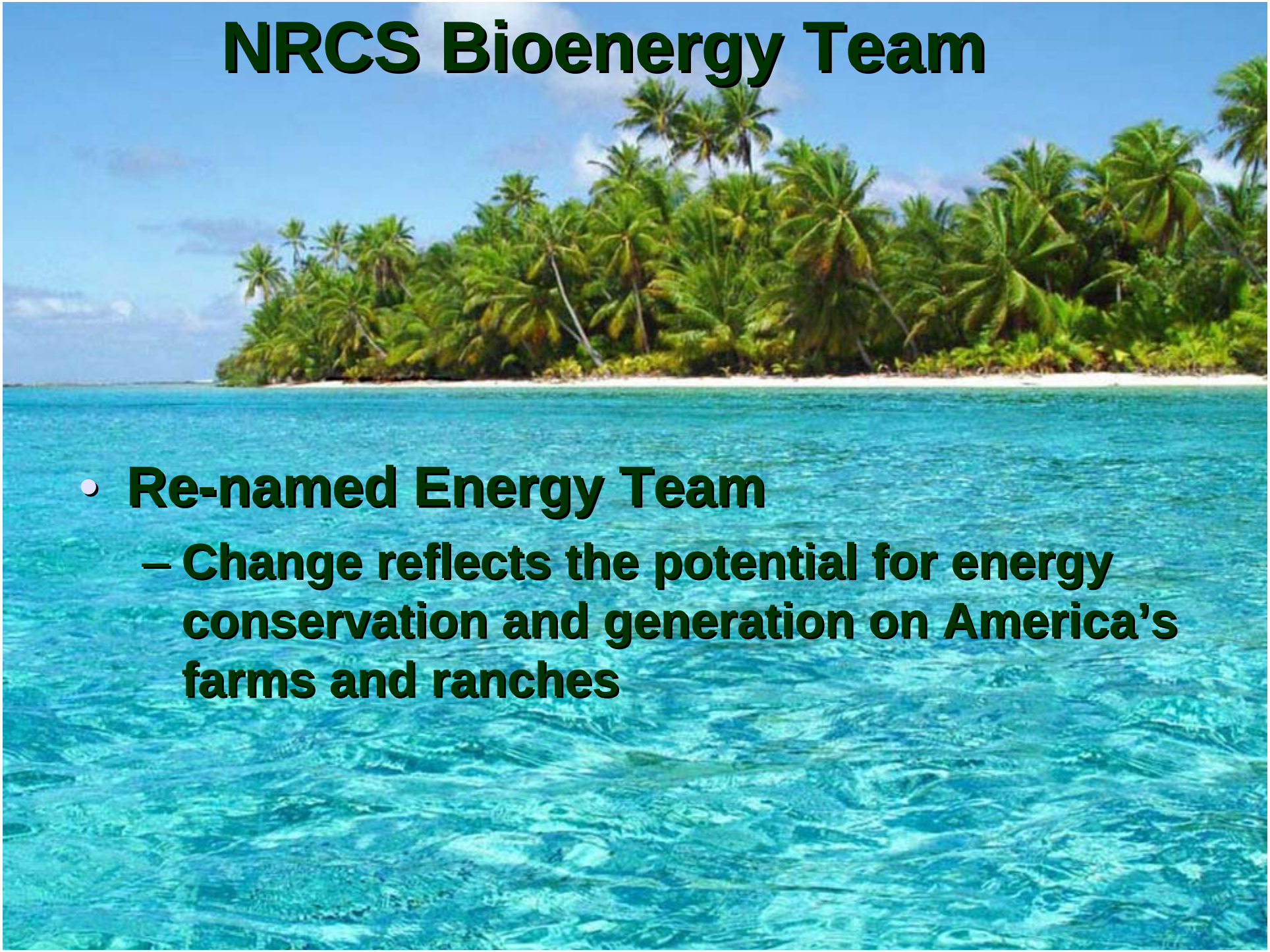
  John Brenner — Greg Zwicke

  Roel Vining — Susan O'Neill

NRCS Manure Management Team

- Re-named Animal Waste Utilization Team
  - Change conveys our view that manure is a resource

NRCS Bioenergy Team



- **Re-named Energy Team**
  - **Change reflects the potential for energy conservation and generation on America's farms and ranches**