

# Grown Climate Smart - FAQ Sheet

*Cultivating a sustainable future, one farm at a time.*



## **What practices does Grown Climate Smart focus on promoting and expanding into the marketplace?**

Grown Climate Smart focuses on 4 different farming practices that lead to a healthier environment:

- Cover Crop
- Reduced Till or No Till
- Nutrient Management
- Windbreak Establishment

## **What do I need to qualify?**

- The grain grown on the enrolled acres must be marketed or be delivered to a DeLong Co., Inc. facility.
- Fields must be HEL and Wetlands compliant.
- Ensure the practices on the acres you are enrolling are not currently enrolled in another federally funded program.
- If these conditions apply, an enhancement to the practice will have to be made in order to qualify for Grown Climate Smart.
- Planned practice information for the field(s) being enrolled must be filled out and submitted to a Grown Climate Smart team member who will enter the info into the COMET-Planner platform.

## **How long is the contract period and when will payments be sent?**

Contracts are one year commitments that terminate at the end of each calendar year. Payments are made in Q4 of the calendar year.

## **When is the enrollment process?**

Enrollment begins at the start of the calendar year and closes at the end of March.

## **Is payment guaranteed?**

If all program policies and practice implementation requirements are followed, payment is guaranteed at the end of the year.

## **Is there a minimum or maximum number of acres allowed to enroll?**

No. You can enroll as many or as few as you like.

## **What is the relationship between The DeLong Co., Inc. and Grown Climate Smart?**

Grown Climate Smart is affiliated with and actively managed by The DeLong Co., Inc.

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## **What is NRCS?**

Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service, is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture that provides technical assistance to farmers and other private landowners and managers.

## **How much carbon emissions does Grown Climate Smart products save from our environment?**

Our projections estimate the capture of over 900,000 metric tons of carbon through our program over 5 years.

## **What are the benefits of using cover crops on your farmland?**

Cover crops cover the soil and decrease erosion while promoting fertility, water use, biodiversity, and wildlife more so than cover crop free land.

## **What is reduced or no till and how does it add value to my crops?**

This practice involves minimizing soil disturbance during planting, allowing the soil structure to remain intact, allowing organic matter to remain in place and reducing the likelihood of compaction. This practice can lead to increased yields and reduced costs, as farmers are able to conserve moisture and nutrients in the soil and reduce the need for costly inputs like fertilizer.

## **How do I show that I administer a nutrient management plan on my farm?**

A photo or copy of your nutrient management plan or receipt that meets 590 standards will help us verify your nutrient management practice.

## **What does Nutrient Management mean for a grower?**

Monitoring your soil, water, crop and hydrologic factors to optimize yield, quality, and harmful environmental impacts.

## **Is Grown Climate Smart the same as USDA Organic or Non GMO Project Verified?**

No. Grown Climate Smart has its own guidelines and standards, although our seal we may be found on the same or similar products.

## **How do windbreaks help my farm and add value to my crops?**

Windbreaks provide multiple benefits to farm land such as reducing wind erosion, reducing wind damage to crops, and reduce evapotranspiration, which is the loss of water from the soil and plants due to wind and sunlight.