Providing Environmental Services from Agriculture in a Budget-Constrained Environment April 17, 2012 – Washington DC



Karolien Denef
Keith Paustian
Colorado State University

# FARM-LEVEL SOIL C AND GHG ESTIMATION: COMET-FARM









## The Context

- Agriculture has one of the largest near-term mitigation potentials.
- Many proven technologies and many farmers who can, and are willing to, make management changes for modest incentives.
- Inclusion of agriculture has lagged significantly within current international GHG mitigation policies and in voluntary offset markets – Why?



## Confidence in capabilities to quantify, verify and administer agricultural GHG mitigation activities is a key issue

- Emissions/sinks are dispersed, nonpoint source.
- Direct measurement requires specialized equipment and training, and is too expensive for deployment in most mitigation projects.
- Local-scale variability climate and soil conditions and farm-level management – matters!

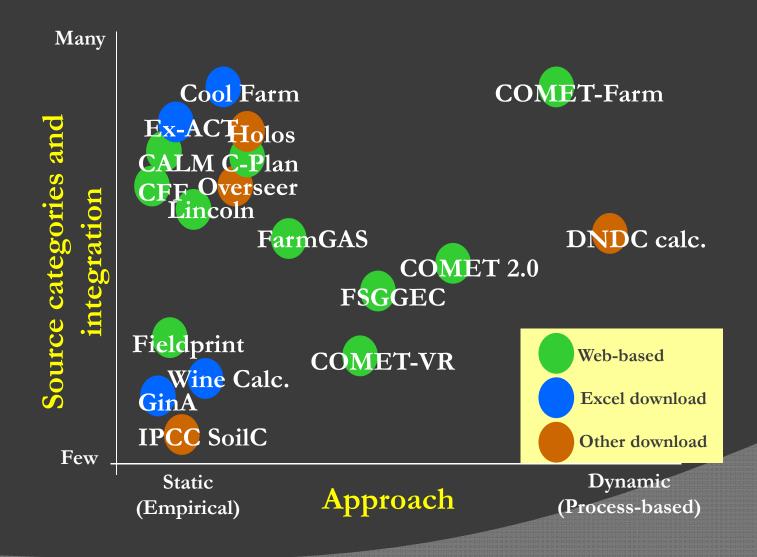




## Attributes of an effective quantification system to support GHG mitigation in the US

- Acceptable accuracy and precision
- Uncertainty quantified
- Applicable for entire US, but locally-specific
- Flexible incorporates multiple options for conservation/mitigation practices
- Considers all significant sources and sinks (full GHG accounting)
- Equitable producers are compensated for what they produce
- Cost-effective (e.g. measurement/monitoring costs < 5-10% of value produced)
- Consistent across spatial scales i.e., sum of 'projectscale' activities are consistent with national-level reporting

## GHG calculators



## Aim of COMET-tools

## Comet-VR, Comet 2.0, Comet-Farm

- To provide a means for non-GHG specialists (farmers, consultants, NRCS field staff, etc.) to easily estimate farmscale GHG emissions and to explore GHG impacts of alternative management and land use strategies.
- Employ state-of-the-art methods/models used in the US national GHG inventory, directly accessible on the 'web'.
- Provide rigorous estimates of uncertainty.





Comet-Farm - coming soon

## COMET - History

#### COMET-VR

- Released 2005
- Cropland and grassland soil C and fossil fuel use
- Real-time Century model simulations and NRCS energy tool

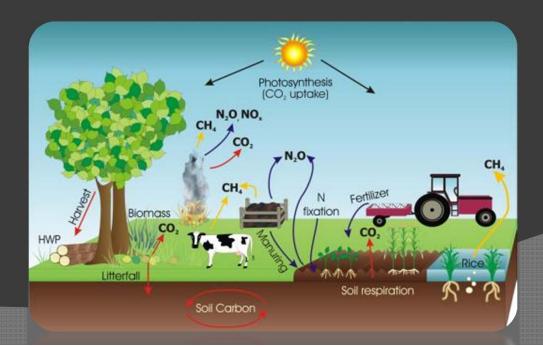
#### • COMET 2.0

- Released December 2010
- More crop/grassland options, added agroforestry and orchard/vineyard systems
- Added N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, using DayCent meta-model

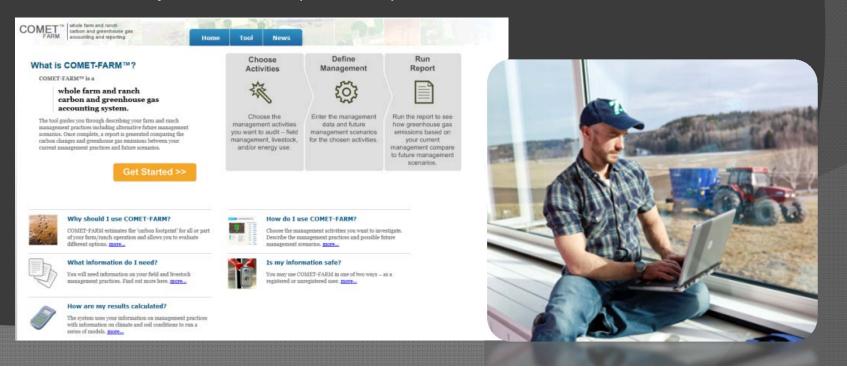
#### • COMET-Farm

- Initial beta release expected late spring 2012
- Fully spatial interface, including Web Soil Survey
- Real-time DayCent simulations for soil C and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions
- Include livestock emissions and expanded energy module

- Full farm-level greenhouse gas accounting
  - Soil and biomass C stock changes
  - Soil N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions
  - Livestock enteric CH<sub>4</sub> and manure CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O
  - Energy Fossil C emissions; on-farm renewables
  - Other emissions burning, liming, …



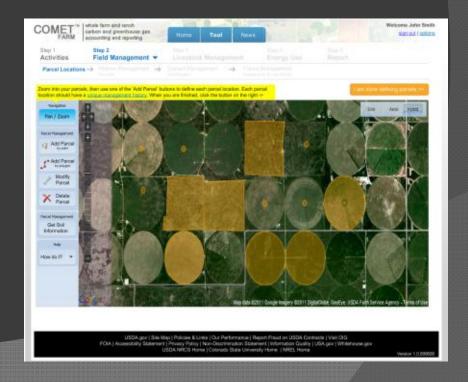
- Full farm-level greenhouse gas accounting
- Web-served application
  - Registration capabilities for return-users
  - User-friendly (drop-downs)
  - Fast response time (1-2 sec)



- Full farm-level greenhouse gas accounting
- Web-served application; capabilities for return-users
- Provides a spatial user interface for specific field and soil locations (incl. NRCS Web Soil Survey)

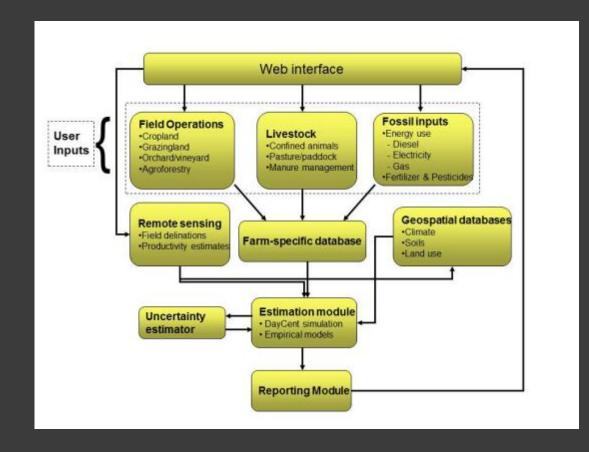


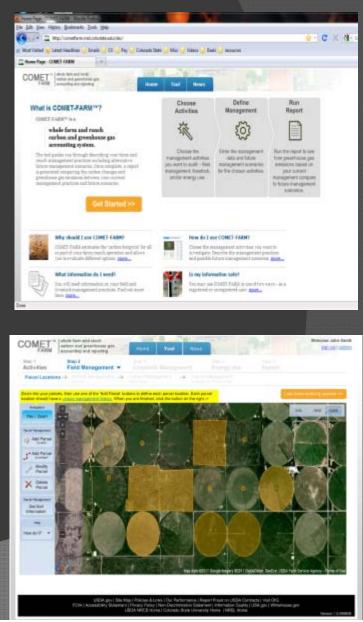
Incorporates influence of different soil types, climate regimes, land use history



- Full farm-level greenhouse gas accounting
- Web-served application; capabilities for return-users
- Provides a spatial user interface for specific field and soil locations
- Incorporates existing NRCS products e.g. Web Soil Survey, Energy Use Tool
- Initial beta-release scheduled for late spring 2012

## COMET-Farm system for farm-level GHG accounting





## **Key Data sources**

- Soils SSURGO (web-served)
- Climate –NARR (NCAR/NOAA)
- Land use/Management incorporated in historical 'spin-ups'
  - National Resources Inventory (NRI)
  - USDA/ERS Cropping Practices Survey
  - NRCS manure management
  - CSRA regional LU and management surveys
- User input of detailed management for recent (>2000) and projected practices

## User inputs (post-2000)

#### Field Module

- Cropping sequence and approx. planting and harvest date
- Type of grazing system
- Type of tillage system
- Rate, timing, type and application method for fertilizer and manure applications
- Irrigation method and application rate
- Residue management

#### Livestock Module

- Herd size and composition (species, sex and age ratios)
- Type of manure management system
- Feed characteristics and supplements

### Energy Module

- Draws from info entered in Field and Livestock modules
- Additional info on capital equipment and on-farm renewable energy production

## Calculation approach

- Soil-related GHG emissions: DayCent dynamic model, also used in the U.S. National Greenhouse Gas Inventory.
- Livestock-related GHG emissions: statistical models based on USDA and university research, similar to models used in the U.S. National Inventory.
- Energy-related GHG emissions: based on the models used in the USDA/NRCS Energy Tool along with supplemental peer-reviewed research results.
- Uncertainty calculator

## Tool in action



#### What is COMET-FARM™?

COMET-FARM™ is a

whole farm and ranch carbon and greenhouse gas accounting system.

The tool guides you through describing your farm and ranch management practices including alternative future management scenarios. Once complete, a report is generated comparing the carbon changes and greenhouse gas emissions between your current management practices and future scenarios.

Get Started >>

#### Choose Activities

News

Tool

Home



Choose the management activities you want to audit - field management, livestock, and/or energy use.

#### Define Management



Enter the management data and future management scenarios for the chosen activities.

#### Run Report



Run the report to see how greenhouse gas emissions based on your current management compare to future management scenarios.



#### Why should I use COMET-FARM?

COMET-FARM estimates the 'carbon footprint' for all or part of your farm/ranch operation and allows you to evaluate different options, more...



#### What information do I need?

You will need information on your field and livestock management practices. Find out more here. more...



#### How are my results calculated?

The system uses your information on management practices with information on climate and soil conditions to run a series of models. more...



#### How do I use COMET-FARM?

Choose the management activities you want to investigate. Describe the management practices and possible future management scenarios, more...



#### Is my information safe?

You may use COMET-FARM in one of two ways - as a registered or unregistered user. more...

## Conclusion

- Agriculture has a significant (especially near-term) technical capacity to mitigate GHG emissions
- Barriers exist a key issue is better capabilities to quantify and verify GHG mitigation results at the farm scale.
- The COMET-FARM system is designed so that a farmer, without any specialized training or knowledge about greenhouse gas quantification, can do state-of-the-art estimates and reporting, all within a web-based environment.
- Farm-scale quantification and self-reporting tools, such as the COMET-FARM tool, could provide efficient mitigation while streamlining monitoring, verification and other transactional functions in a networked environment.
- Estimation tools will need to be supported by 'strategic' on-farm measurements (e.g., inventory monitoring sites), long-term field experiments and continued model improvements.

## The COMET-FARM Team

### Colorado State University

Shawn Archibeque

Kevin Brown

Karolien Denef

Mark Easter

Jorge Fuentes

Ram Gurung

Cindy Keogh

Ken Killian

Stephen Ogle

Keith Paustian

Kris Peterson

Geoff Pietz

Alan Reno

Veeresh Rudrappa

Jill Schuler

Vijay Singh

**Shannon Spencer** 

Ben Sutton

Amy Swan

**Steve Williams** 

### **NRCS**

Adam Chambers (Ft. Collins)

Greg Johnson (Portland)

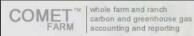
Carolyn Olson (DC)

Roel Vining (Ft. Collins)

### **ARS**

Steve DelGrosso

In case movie does not work – screenshots provided in following slides.



What is COMET-FARM™?

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Define Management Run Report







**Development Status** 

Greetings,

COMET-FARM™ is currently in development status with a target release date of the spring of 2012. The vision for COMET-FARM™ is to create a whole farm and ranch carbon and greenhouse gas accounting and reporting system. It is intended to help users account for the carbon flux and greenhouse gas emissions related to their farm and ranch management activities, and help them explore the impacts to emissions of alternative management scenarios.

As the tool is still in development, there are a number of features that are not yet implemented. These features are listed in the <a href="News page">News page</a> so that beta-test users do not spend unnecessary time providing feedback on known issues.

We sincerely appreciate your feedback and look forward to providing a better tool as a result of it.

Regards,

The COMET-FARM™ Team



Close



COMET Whole farm and ranch carbon and greenhouse gas accounting and reporting

Tool Home News

#### Step 1 Activities V

All Categories - Full Accounting

Cropland, Pasture, Range

✓ Livestock

On-Farm Energy Usage

with Actual Fuel Usage

o without Actual Fuel Usage

OR

Go to Quick Energy Tool >>

#### What activities do I select?

next to the activity names to learn more about the activities.

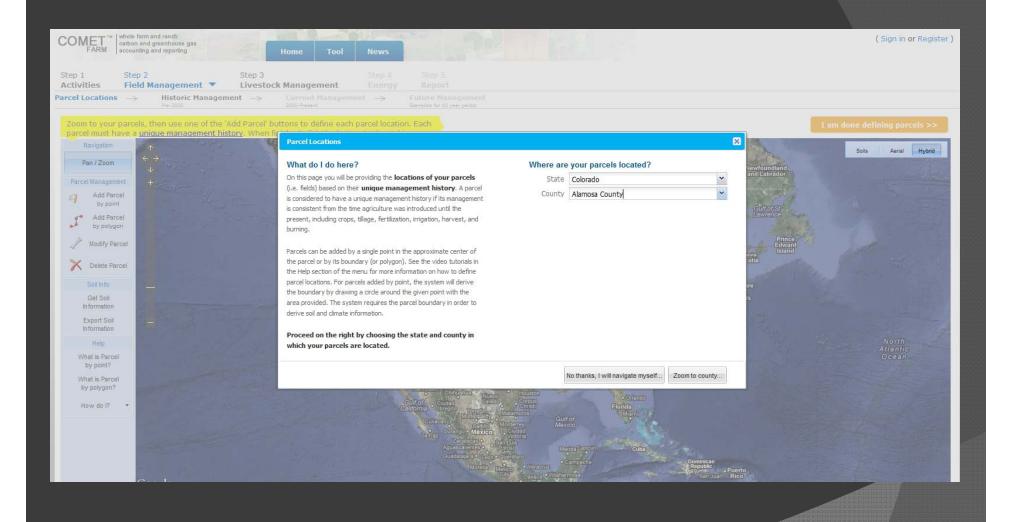
will be disabled from the selected management activities.

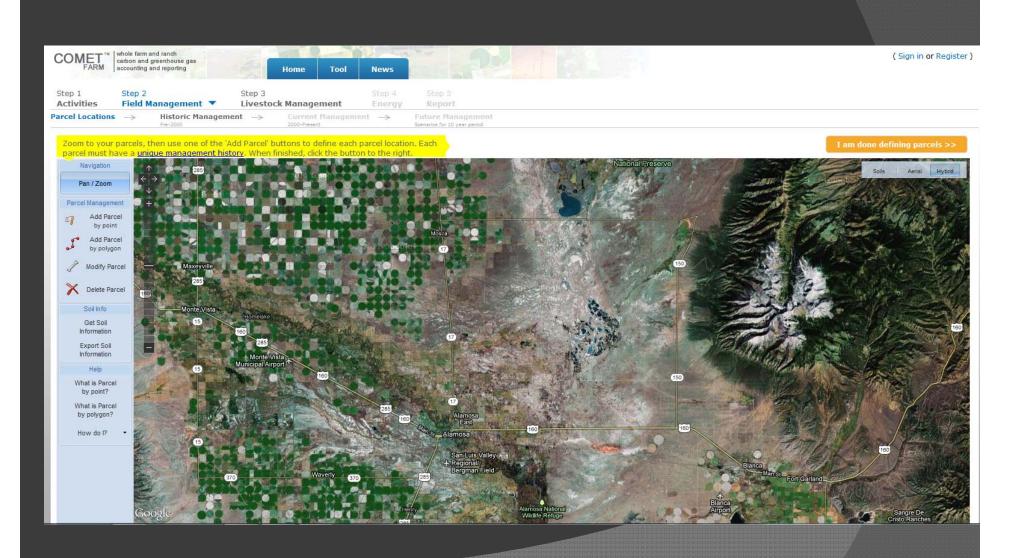
Choose the management activities you want to investigate. For Crop activity you would need to know your tillage practices, You can select the individual management activities or all of the activities together irrigation practices, planting and harvest dates, nitrogen applications. for full accounting. Click on the help box

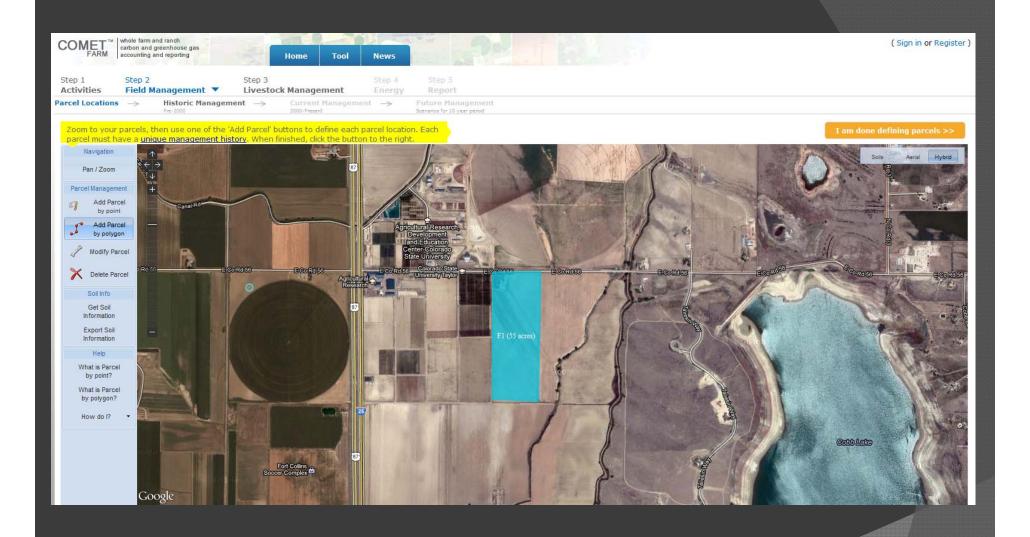
For Livestock activity you would need to know your livestock population size, feeding situations, milk production, manure management etc. If On-Farm Energy usage is not selected, all the energy related components

#### What Information do I Need?

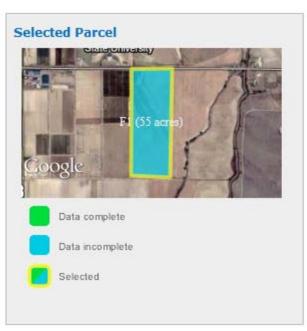
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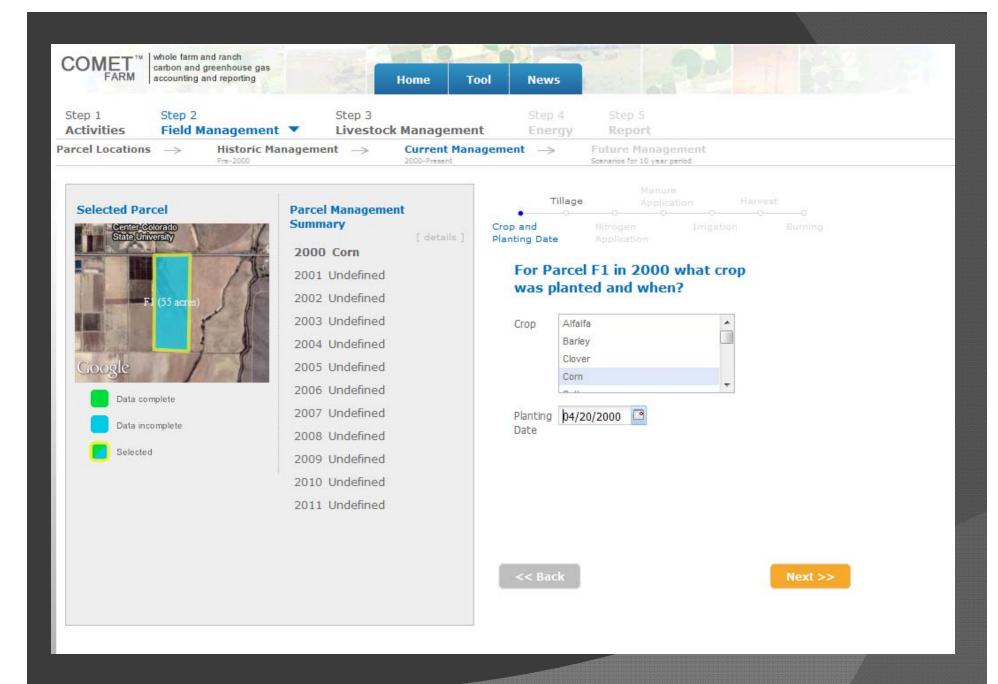


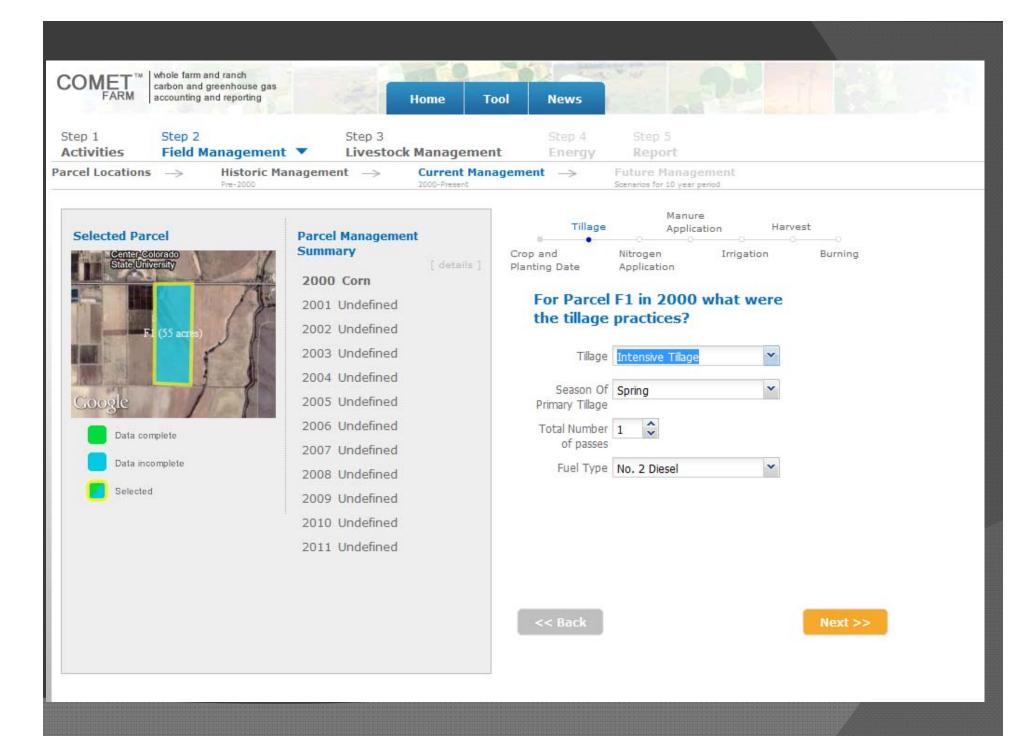




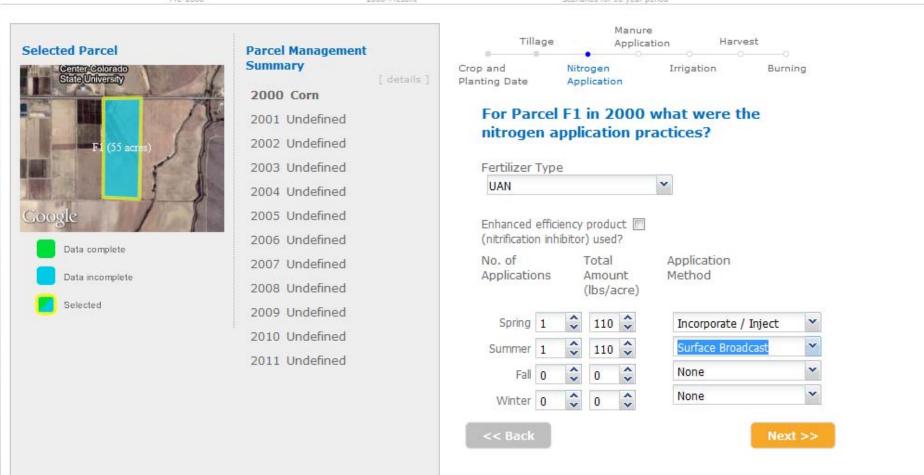
## For parcel F1 (selected at left) what was its historic management?

Pre-1980 Management	Livesto	Livestock Grazing  ▼	
Was this parcel enrolled in CRP at anytime before 2000?	◎ Yes	No     No	
1980-2000 Management	Irrigated: Mechanical Fallow-Winter Wheat		•
1980-2000 Tillage	Intensi	ve Tillage ▼	
<< Back			Next >

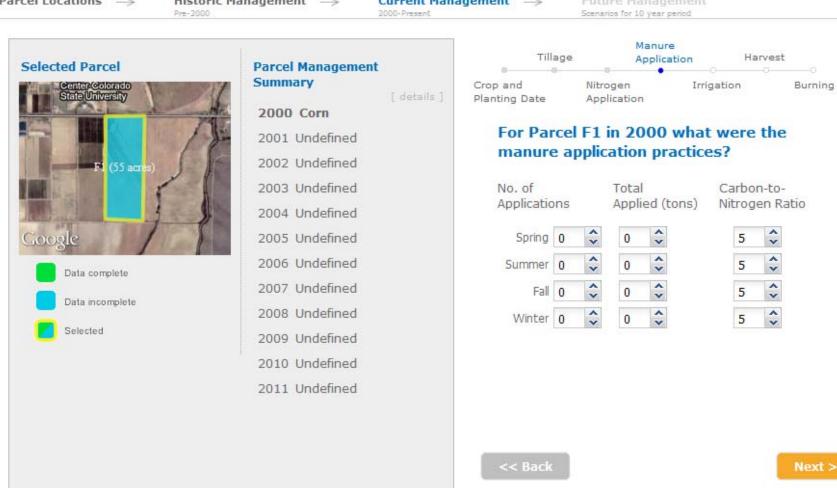


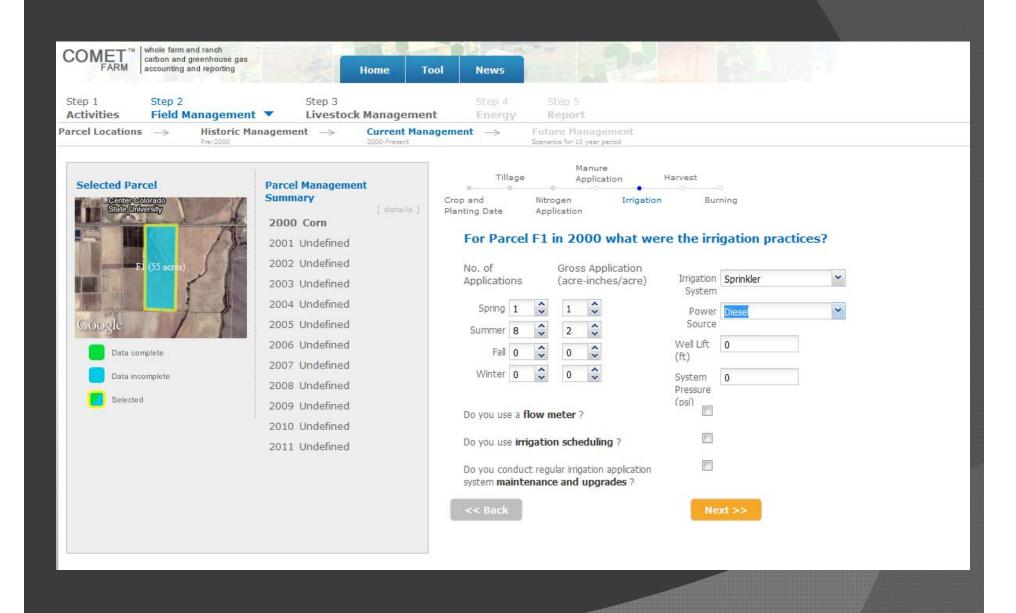


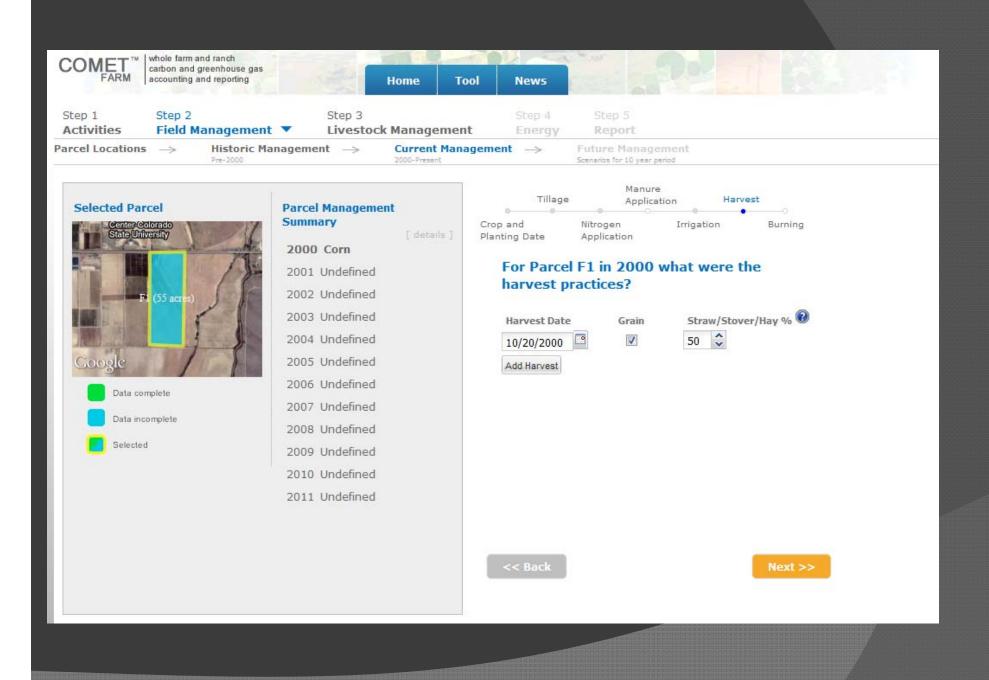


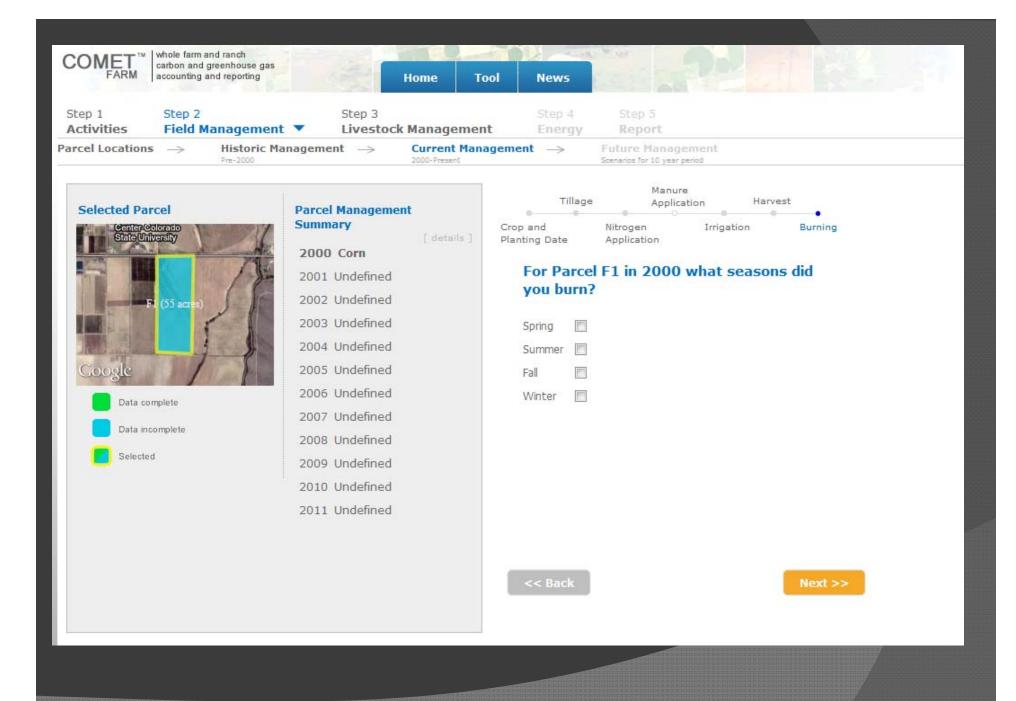


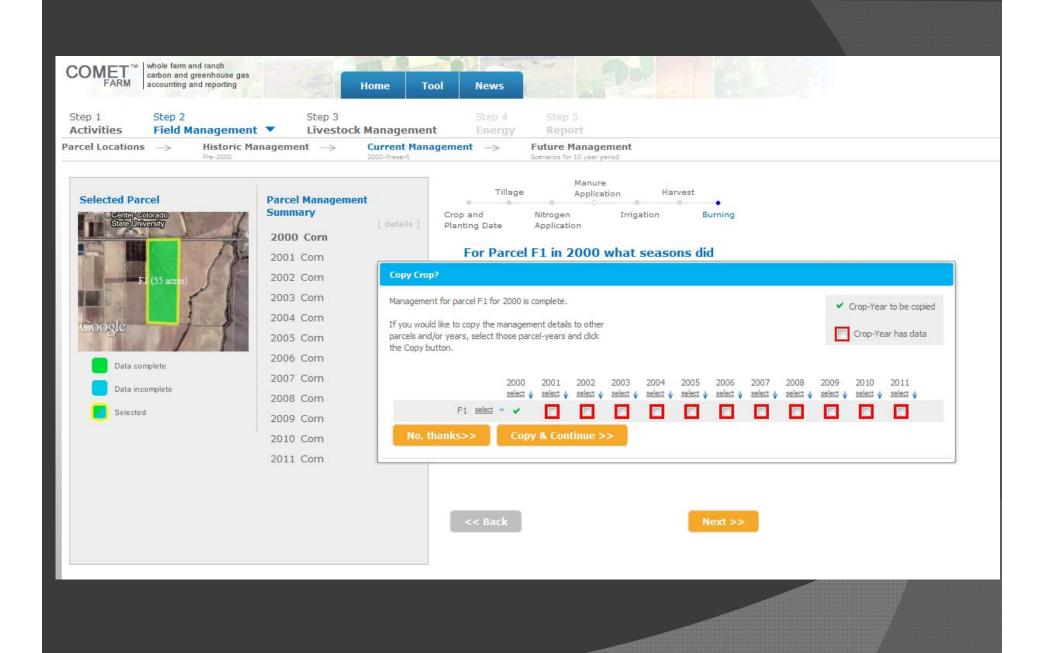


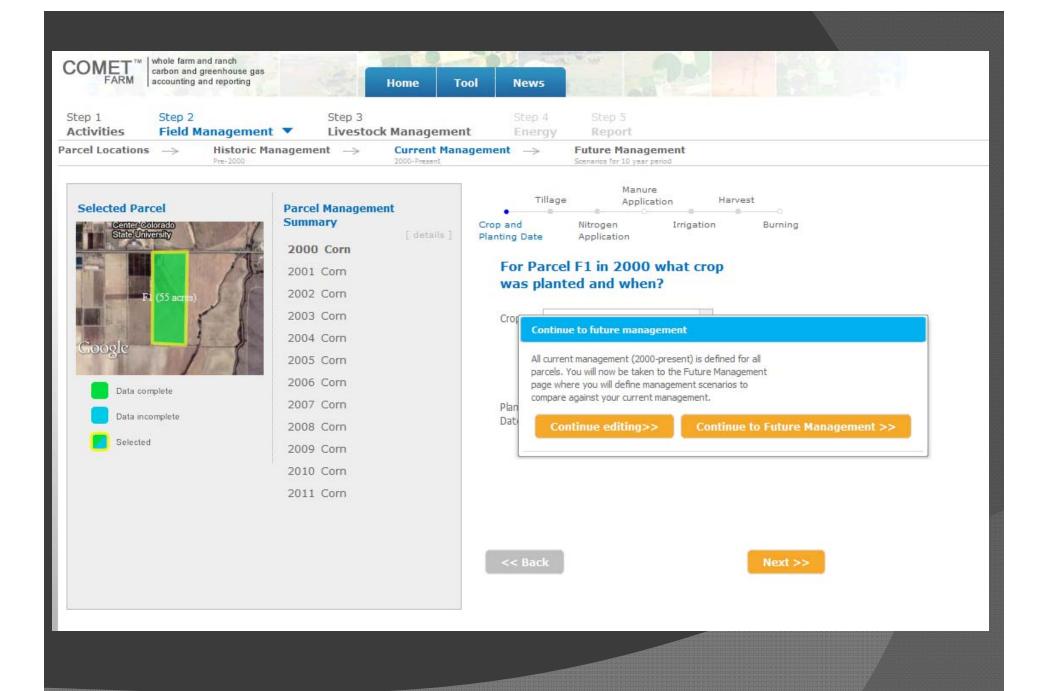


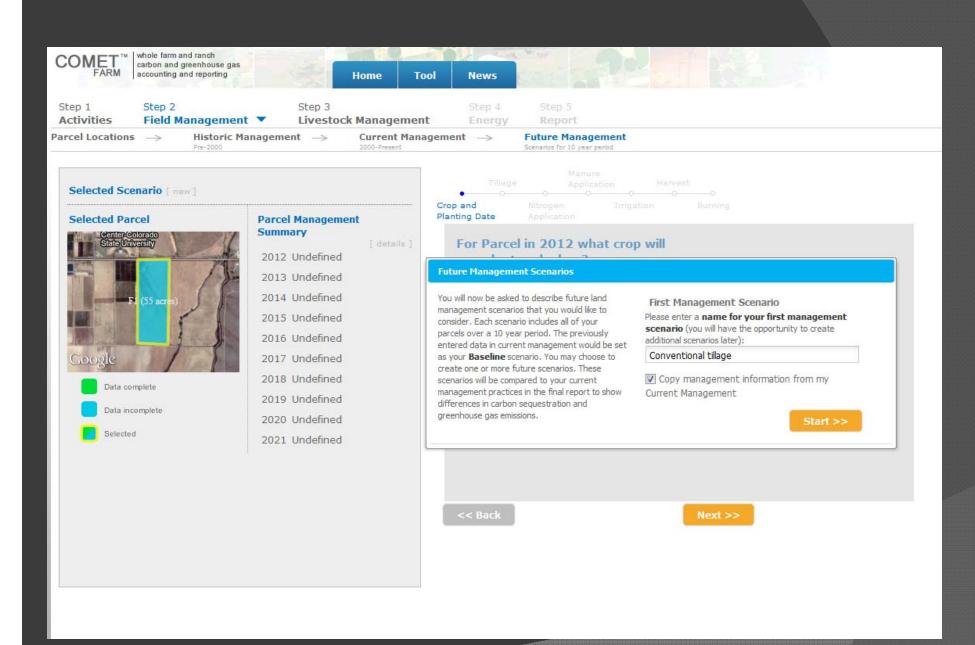


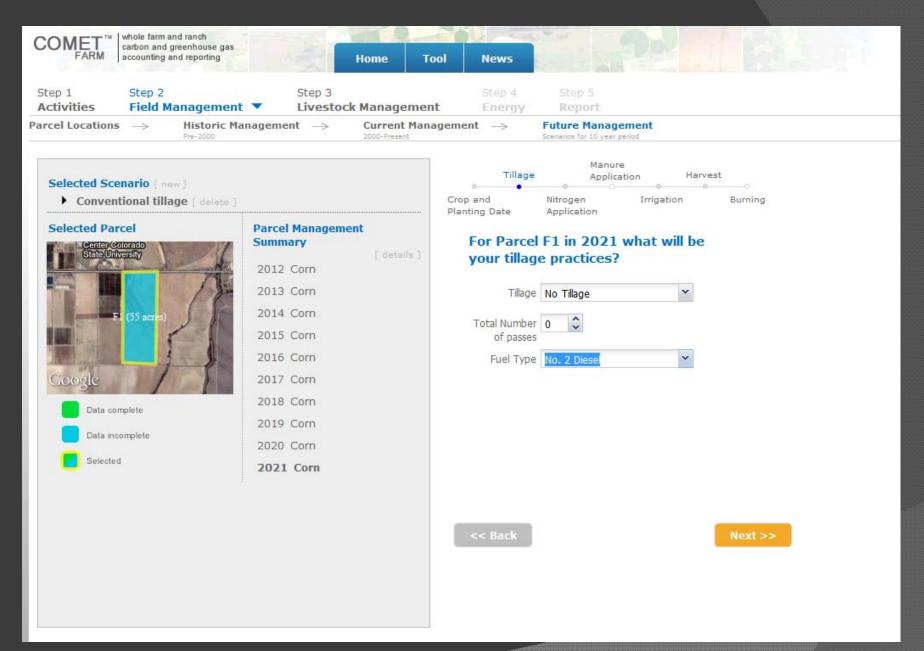




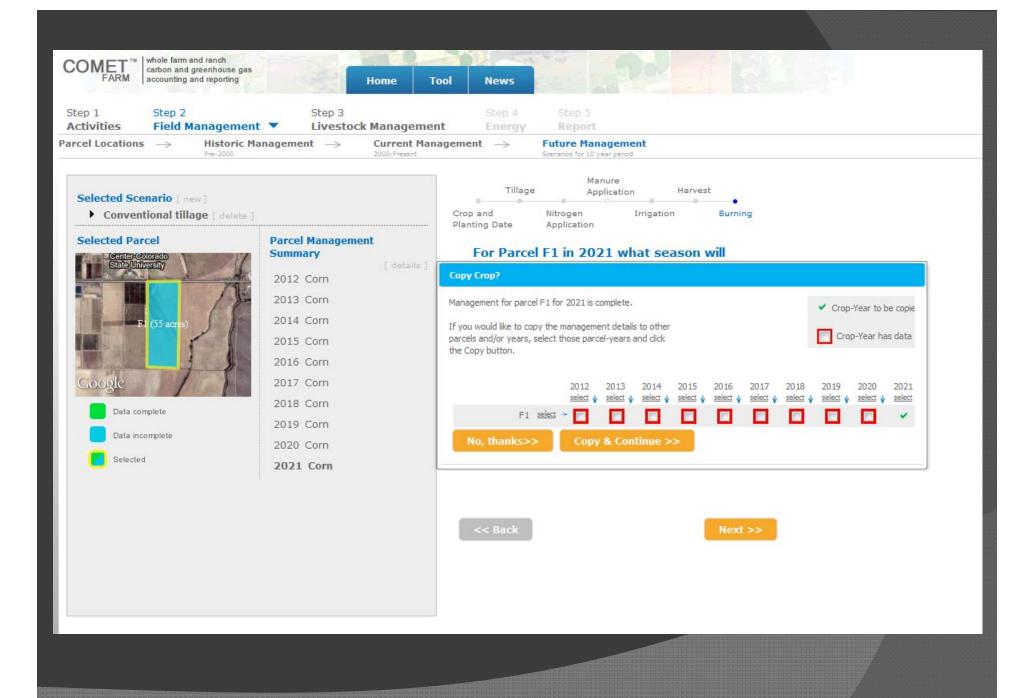


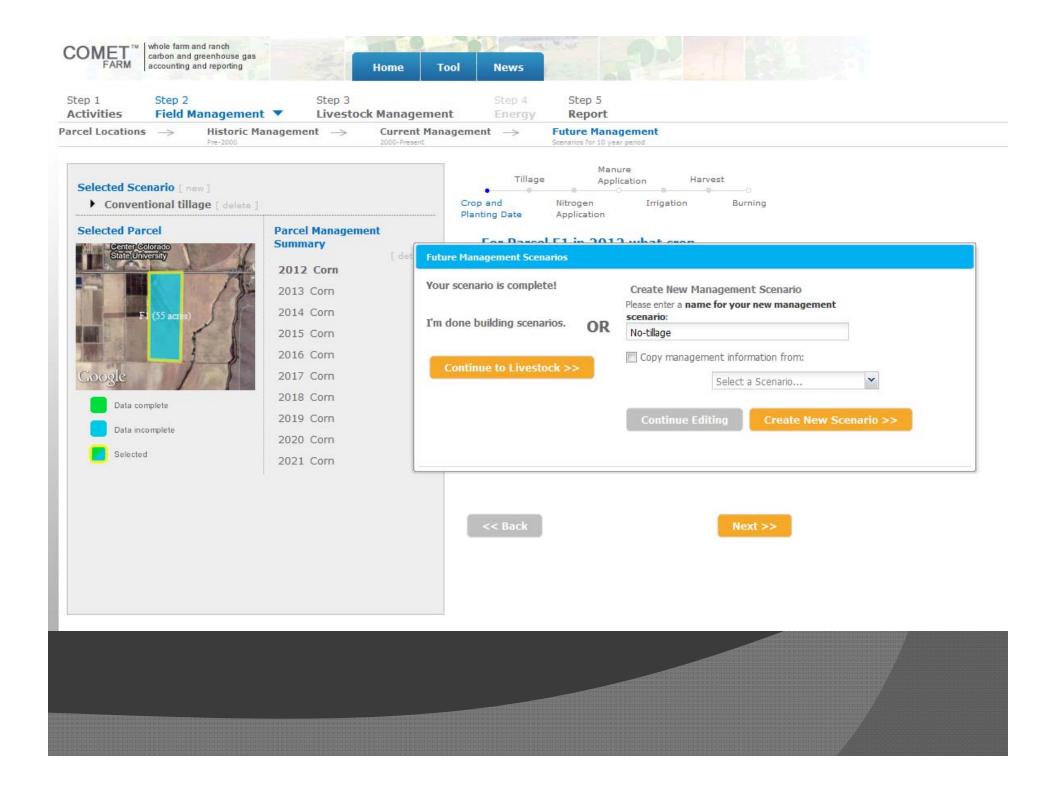


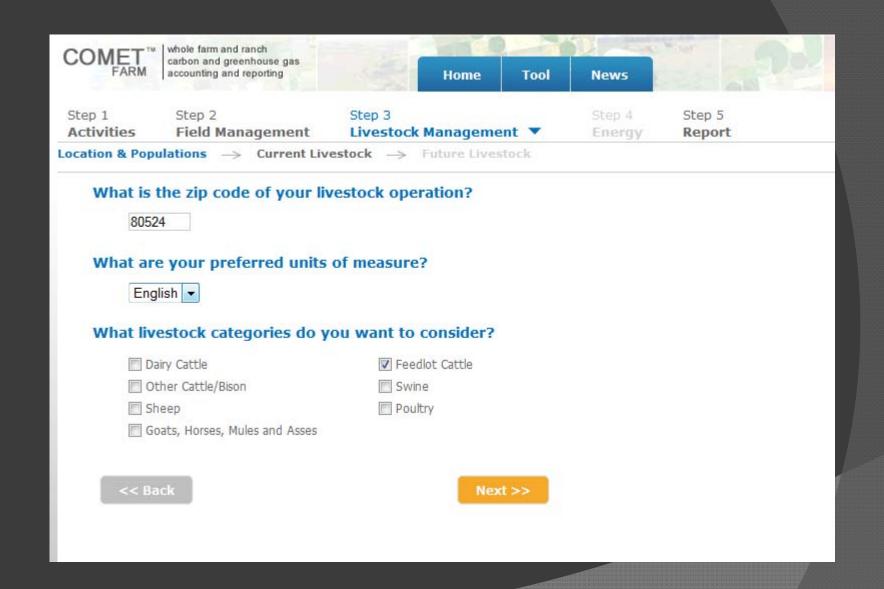


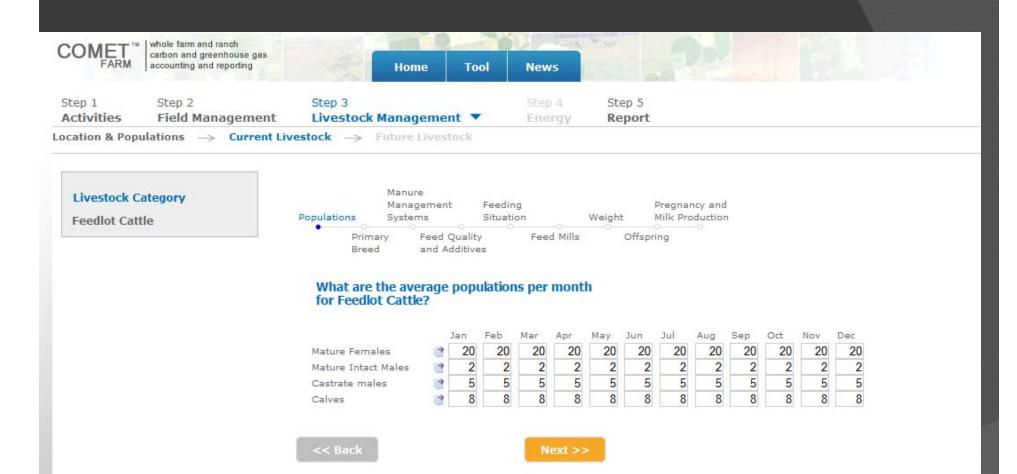


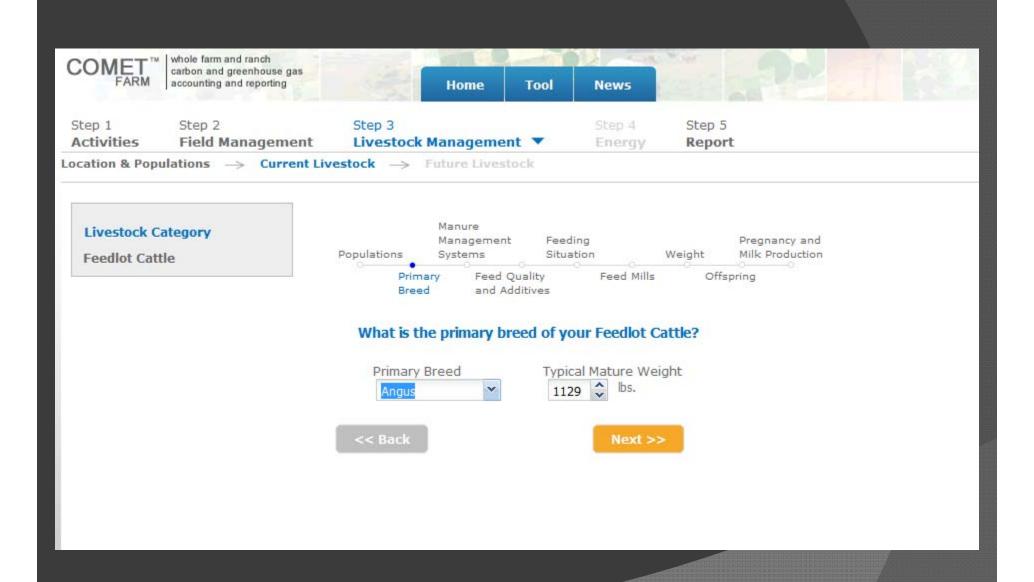
The rest stays the same.











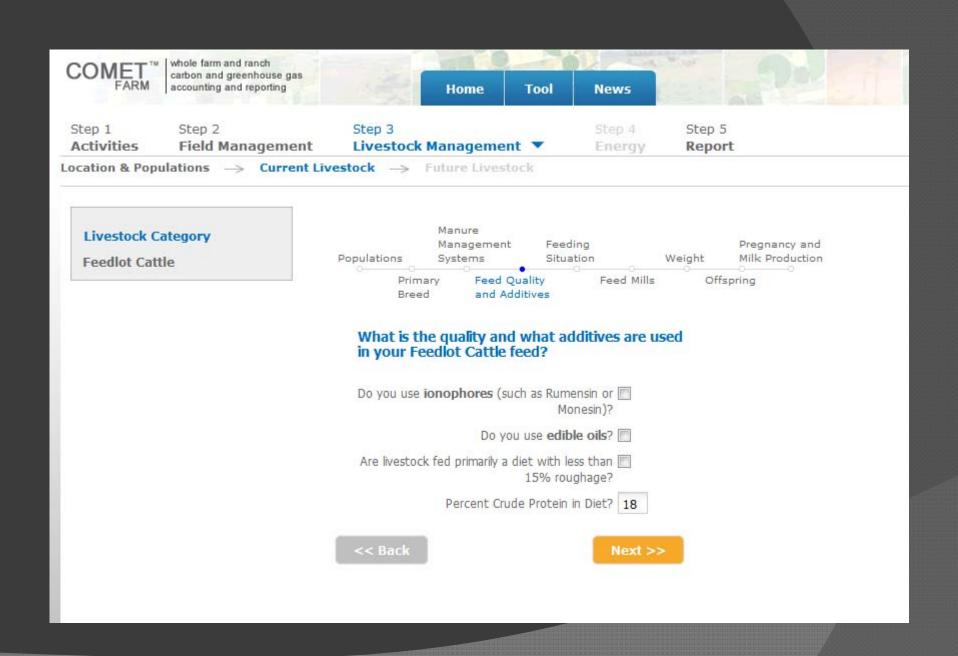
## **Livestock Category**

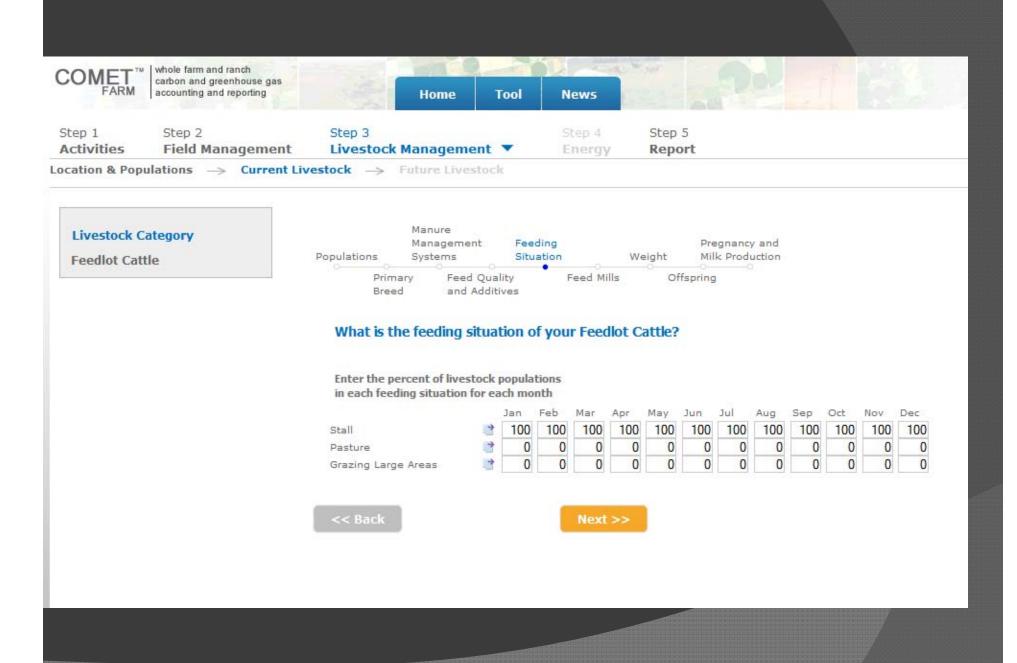
**Feedlot Cattle** 

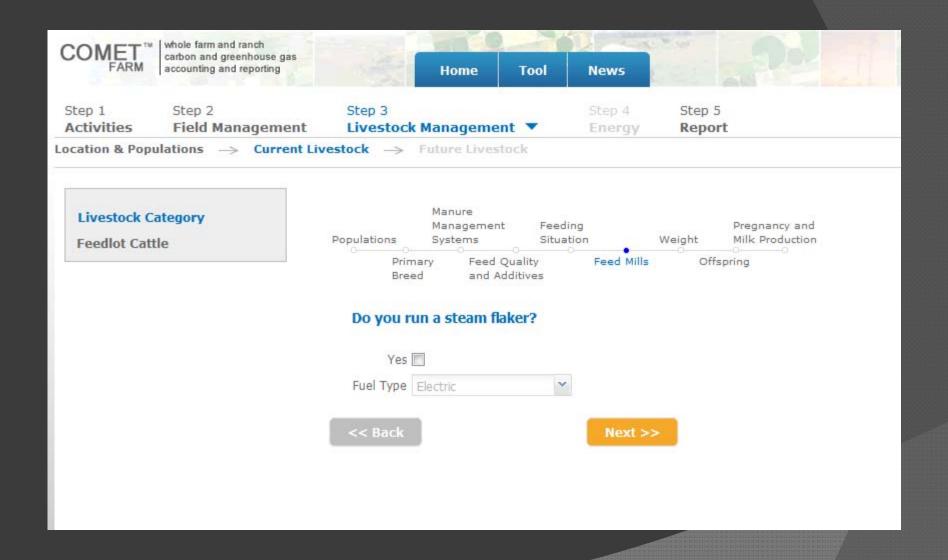


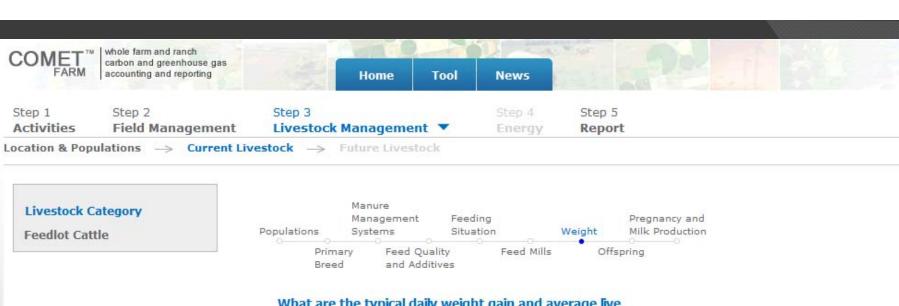
## What is the average percent manure ash and what are the allocations to manure management systems?

Systems:			
Percent Manure Ash	10	<b>^</b>	
Manure Management Sytems	% A	llocation	% CH <sub>4</sub> Recapture Rate
② Anaerobic Digester	0	<b>\$</b>	0 🗘
Aerobic Treatment forced aeration	0	<b>\$</b>	
Aerobic Treatment natural aeration	0	<b>\$</b>	
② Cattle/Swine Deep Bedding < 1 month	0	<b>\$</b>	
② Cattle/Swine Deep Bedding > 1 month	0	<b>\$</b>	
② Cattle/Swine Deep Bedding > 1 month (active mixing)	0	<b>\$</b>	
Composting intensive windrow	0	<b>\$</b>	
Composting in-vessel or static pile	0	<b>\$</b>	
Composting passive windrow	0	<b>\$</b>	
Daily Spread	0	<b>\$</b>	
Dry Lot	0	<b>\$</b>	
② Liquid/Slurry with natural crust cover	0	<b>\$</b>	
② Liquid/Slurry without crust cover	0	<b>\$</b>	
Pasture/Range/Paddock	0	<b>\$</b>	
Pit Storage < 1 month	0	<b>\$</b>	
Pit Storage > 1 month	0	<b>\$</b>	
Solid Storage	0	<b>\$</b>	
① Uncovered Anaerobic Lagoon	100	<b>\$</b>	
Total	100		









## What are the typical daily weight gain and average live weight of your Feedlot Cattle?

Enter the average daily weight (lbs) gain per animal per month

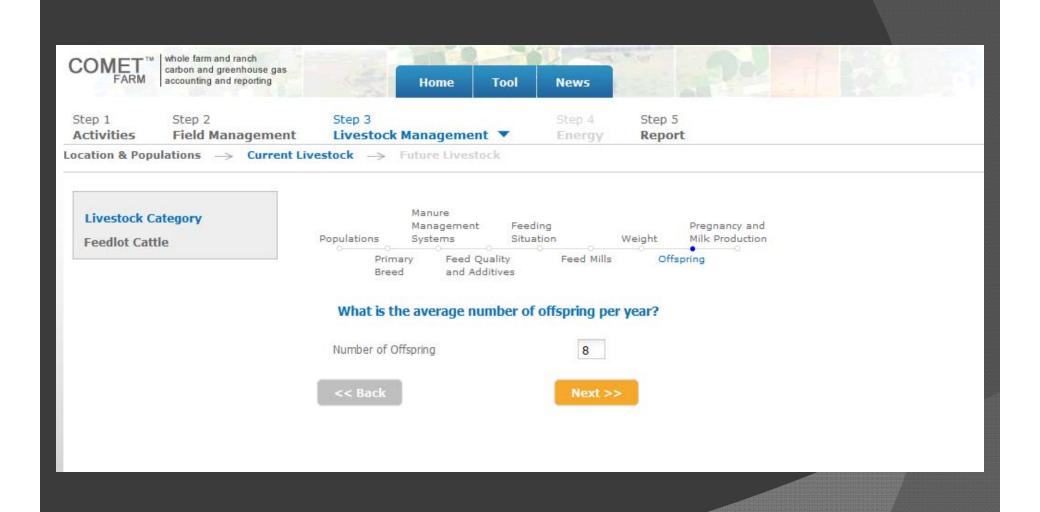
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mature Females	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mature Intact Males	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Castrate males	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Calves	1	1	1	. 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

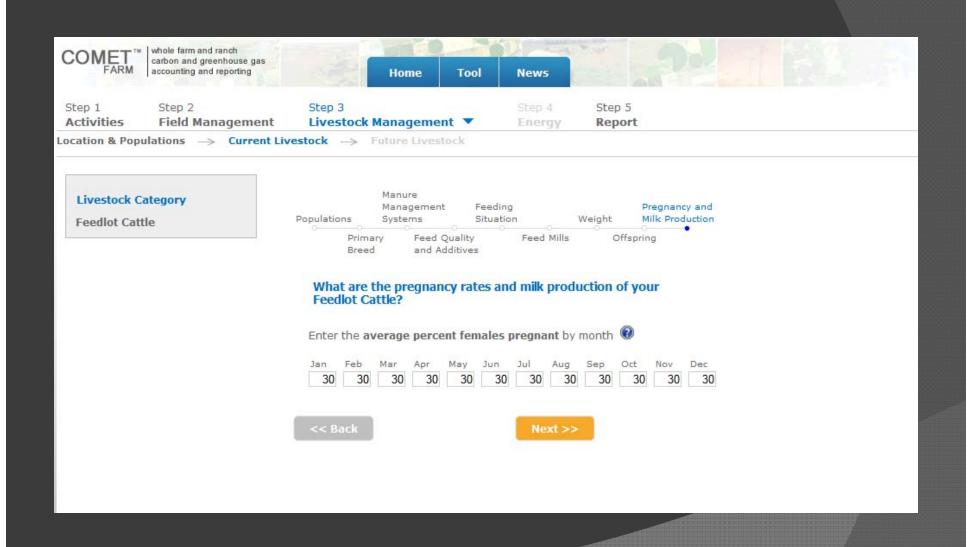
Enter the average live weight (lbs) per animal per month

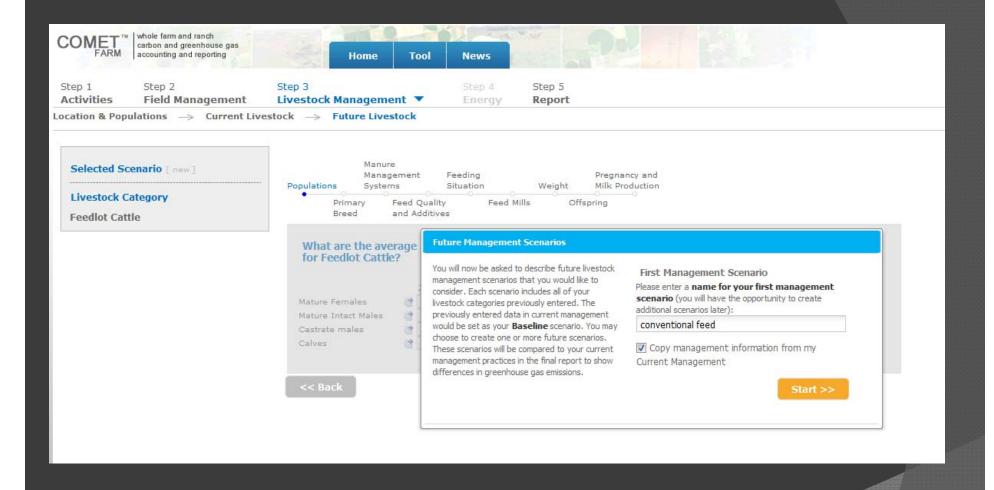
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mature Females	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129
Mature Intact Males	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129	1129
Castrate males	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847
Calves	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847

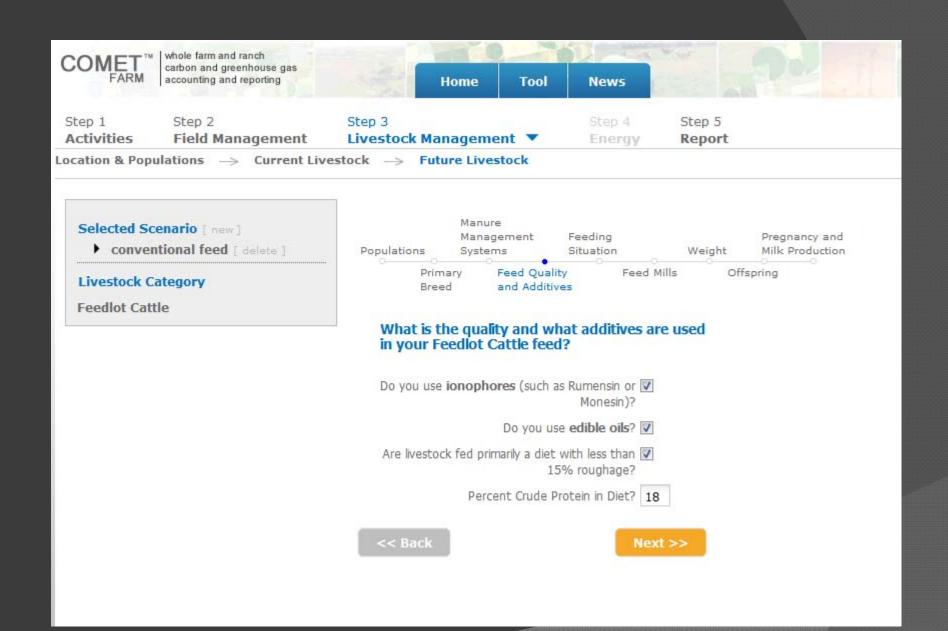
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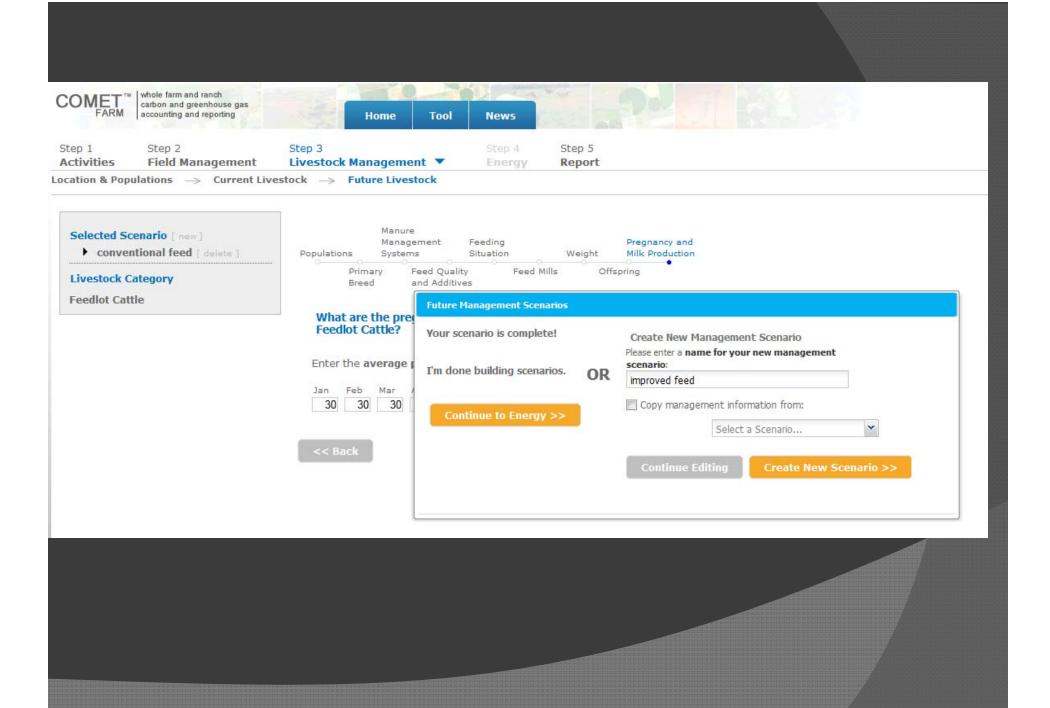
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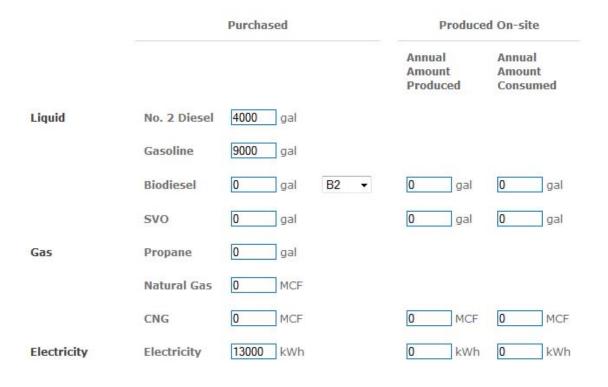








## What is your current annual fuel consumption and on-site fuel production?



Next >>

