

Why

Carbon storage is agricultural land ("carbon farming") is already being done on many farms, for example by applying farmyard manure to plots, planting and maintaining trees and woody borders or sowing catch crops. Another measure is incorporation of wood chips into the soil to boost the carbon content in the soil. This is crucial for good soil structure and in this way will also improve soil water balance.

Cost

The entire process from wood edge to bottom is quite cost and time intensive. Most of the time goes into the production of the chips (shortening wood edges and chipping the coppice). Admittedly, how much time this takes depends on the type of wood and the type of machinery used (chainsaw, crane with felling head, chipper, etc.). Of course, you can outsource this management or purchase the wood chips. However, depending on how you do it, the cost will be between 30 and 50 euros per ton of chips. Furthermore, the loading and transportation of the wood chips, as well as the spreading and incorporation of the chips also costs time. If you also include the cost of sowing the green cover crop, the total cost is between 700 and 960 euros per hectare. This is a one-time

What

There is a whole host of measures that can be taken to promote carbon sequestration, in this fact sheet we look in particular at the incorporation of wood chips from wood edge management.

The management of woody edges (timber edge trimming) produces a lot of woody biomass. These pruning residues are usually not suitable for high-quality processing and are thus considered a waste stream. By shredding these trimmings into fine wood chips, it can still obtain several useful applications. One such application is incorporation of the wood chips into agricultural soils to promote the maintenance and build-up of carbon content in the soil. In this way, the cycle is closed and you obtain maximum valorization of wood edge management residues.

Benefits

Maintaining or increasing the carbon content in the soil obviously brings some important ecological as well as economic benefits. A higher carbon content in the soil provides better water retention capacity, making the soil more resilient to drought. The better soil structure also makes the soil more resistant to heavy rainfall, since the soil has a higher infiltration capacity. The better soil structure also makes the soil less susceptible to water and wind erosion. Furthermore, carbon storage also helps in the fight against climate change.

cost for 5 years.

For the incorporation of company-owned wood chips, there is the eco-scheme 'INCREASE ORGANIC COAL CONTENT OF BUILDINGS'. 'At the bottom of the web page under 'examples' you can view the entire eco scheme.

Note: Annual registration through the collection application is required. Evidence (e.g., photos of incorporation, registrations) may be required during inspection.

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