



# **Environmental Co-Products: Tradeoffs and Synergies among Bioenergy, Biomaterials, Food and Ecosystems**

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# Environmental Co-Products

## **Carbon**

- *Net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel production and use*
- *Credit for co-products*
- *Net change in soil carbon*
- *Net change in geologic carbon*
- *Indirect effects – land use change*

## **Water Quality**

- *Nitrogen (N) – drinking water, algal growth, eutrophication*
- *Phosphorus (P) – algal growth, hypoxia*
- *Sediment – carries P, compromises fish, fills dams*



# Carbon Benefits from Biomass?

## ***1) Wastes and residues***

Go to CO<sub>2</sub> anyway; no “carbon debt”

## ***2) Energy crops on agricultural land***

Synergies with water quality, some carbon benefit

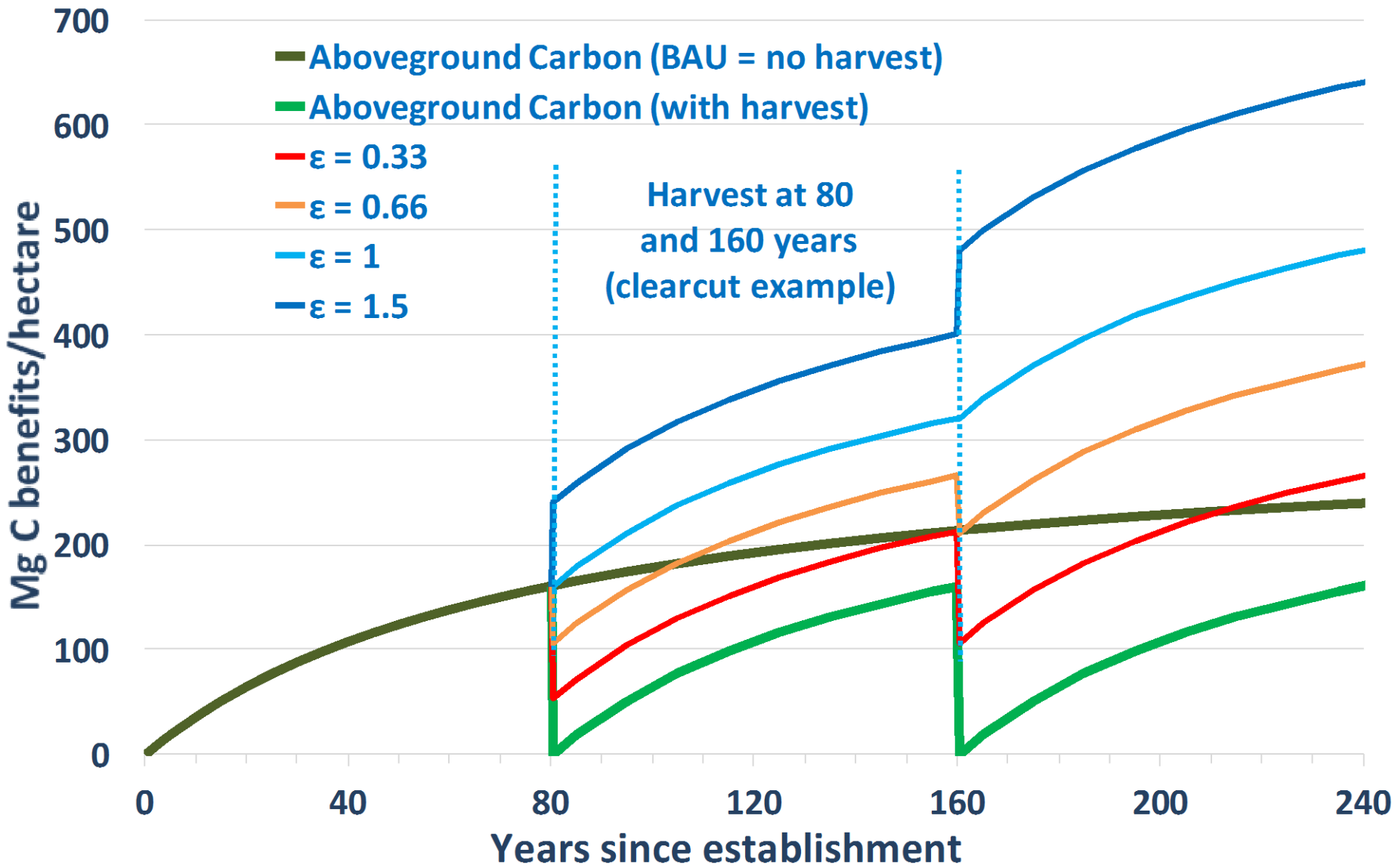
## ***3) Energy from forests***

Residues mostly to CO<sub>2</sub> anyway;

Near term trade-offs with carbon storage in trees

# Carbon Utilization Efficiencies ( $\epsilon$ ) (Biomass vs Fossil)

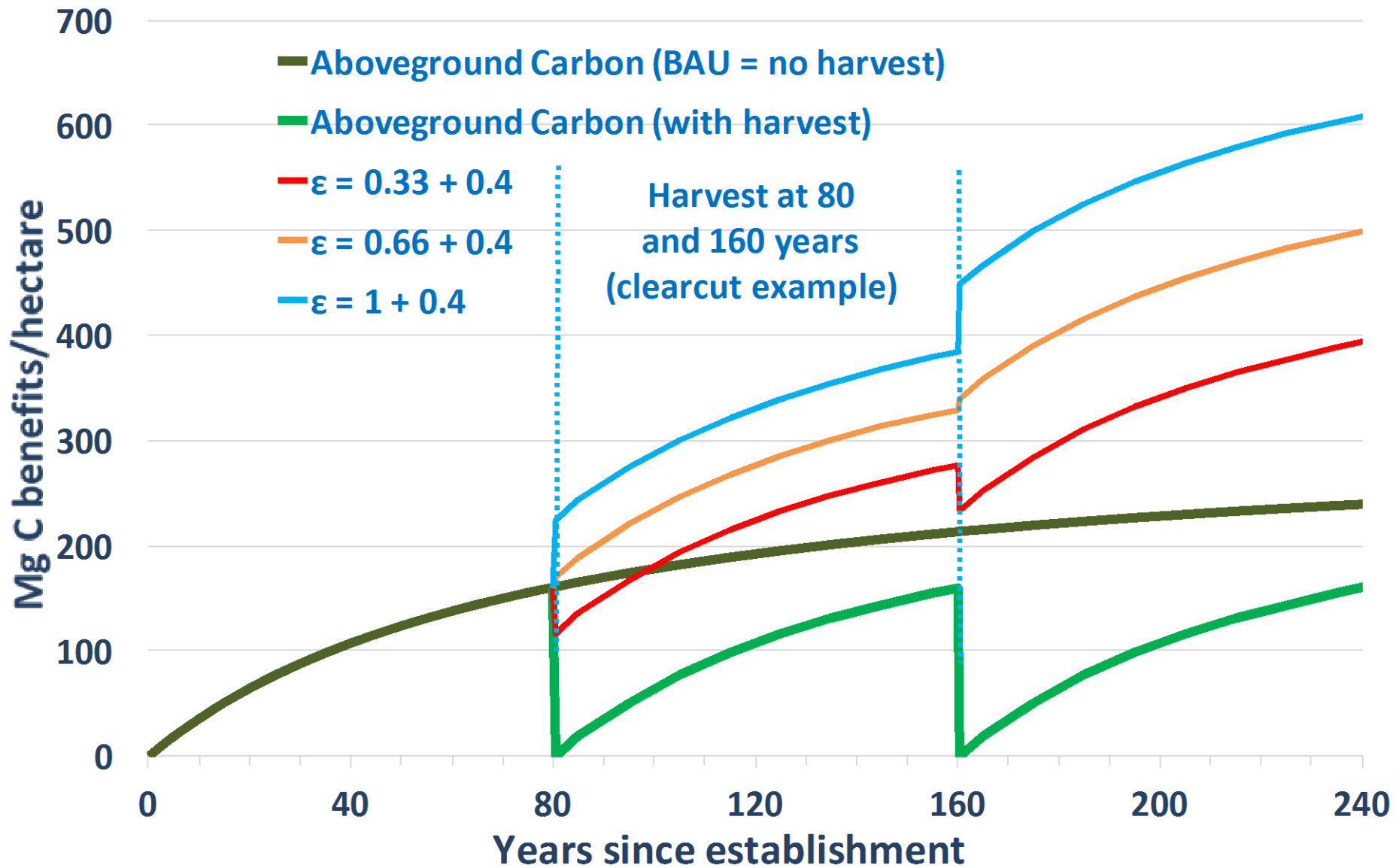
| $\epsilon = \frac{MJ/CO_2e \text{ Biomass}}{MJ/CO_2e \text{ Fossil}}$ | Natural Gas | Coal | Oil  |
|---|-------------|------|------|
| Thermal   | 0.64        |      | 0.92 |
| Electric  | 0.33        | 0.69 |      |
| Combined Heat and Power   | 0.66        |      | 0.97 |
| Current Cellulosic Ethanol  |             |      | 0.50 |
| Mature EtOH, FT liquids, Electricity                                  |             |      | 0.60 |
| Mature EtOH, FT liquids, Elec. w/ CCS                                 |             |      | 1.00 |



# Carbon Utilization Benefits (Materials)

|                 | <b>Emission Reductions<br/>(vs. Concrete and Steel)</b> |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Walls</b>    | <b>1.2 – 1.8 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e-C /kg wood C</b>        |
| <b>Flooring</b> | <b>2.4 – 6 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e-C /kg wood C</b>          |

20% of a 160 Mg C/ha harvest to materials, with an emission reduction multiplier of 2 kg/kg, is equivalent to increasing the efficiency by **0.4**





# Water Benefits from Biomass?

## ***1) Wastes and residues***

Reduced impact from waste disposal (biosolids, manures, industrial organic wastes)

## ***2) Energy crops on agricultural land***

Strong synergies with water quality, some annual and especially perennial energy crops

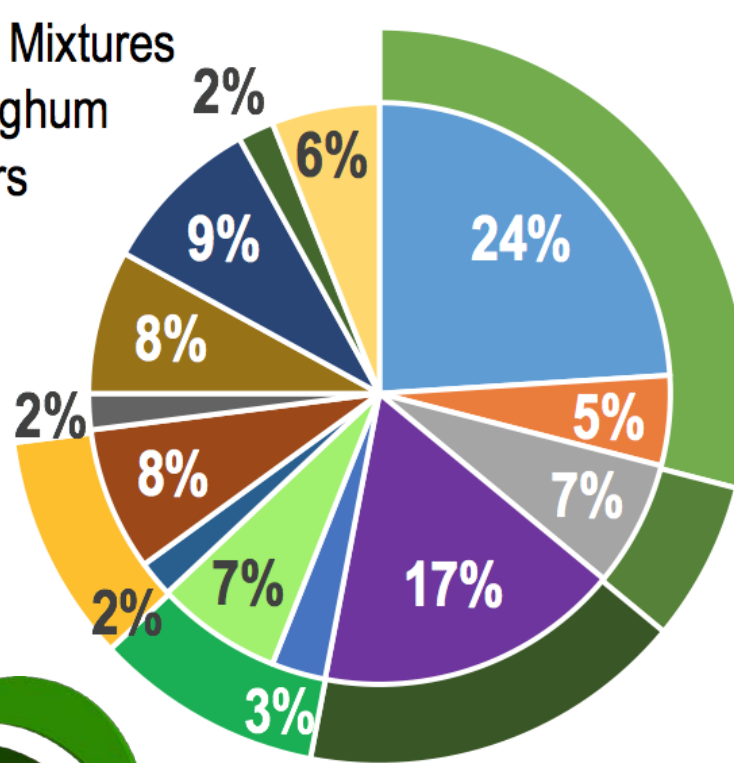
## ***3) Energy from forests***

Most benefits already baked into models

Harvest benefits water only if systems are overloaded with P or contaminants.

# Mapping Biomass to Water Quality

- Switchgrass & Perennial Mixtures
- Switchgrass, Willow, Sorghum
- Willow and Grass Borders
- Winter Rye
- Profit Analysis Targeting



- Cropland to pasture/hay/other
- Grass Buffers
- Biomass Crops
- Forested Buffer
- Comm. Cover Crops
- Cover Crops
- Wetland Restoration
- Adv Nutrient Management
- Fencing
- Animal Waste Systems
- Conservation Tillage
- Precision Dairy Feeding
- Other Ag Practices



NEWBio is supported by AFRI Competitive Grant No. 2012-68005-19703 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. NEWBio's mission is to lay the foundation for a sustainable bioenergy future for the Northeastern United States. Our objectives are to design, implement, analyze and evaluate robust, scalable, and sustainable value chains for the biomass industry, with the ultimate goal the eventual development of lignocellulosic biomass suitable for advanced transportation fuels in our region.

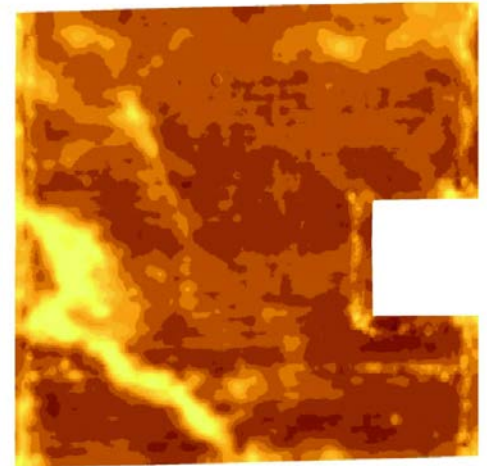
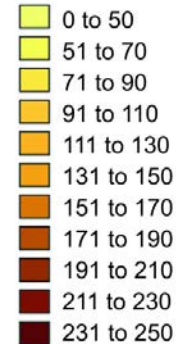


United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

# Yeoman Farmer meets The Internet of Things: Sub field economic analysis

- \* Since the dawn of agriculture, farmers have managed the landscape as fields. These fields were once small, but now are large. And they are far from uniform.
- Farmers have traditionally assessed profitability on the basis of a whole field. Precision agricultural tools allow much higher resolution. That knowledge now allows sub-field profit management.
- \* Key question: To what extent do economically marginal regions of fields overlap with environmentally sensitive parts of the landscape?

Grain yield  
(bu ac<sup>-1</sup>)



# The Costs of Uncertainty

