

Ecosystem Services

Market-basedⁱ approaches encouraging the agriculture industry to provide ecosystem servicesⁱⁱ (ES) have the potential to benefit producers, the environment, and society. Continued engagement between policymakers and agricultural stakeholders is critical to ensure agriculture interests reflect developing market-based approaches.

AEPA Key Messages:

- Market-based approaches should be voluntary, respect property interests, and provide business opportunities with net financial advantages for agricultural producers.
- Market-based approaches providing ES should:
 - Establish clearly defined procedures for market participants;
 - Establish fair, science-based, effective, and equitable processes for the valuation and trading of ES;
 - Recognize and address if needed, any potential for unintended consequences for the agriculture industry; and
 - Be reviewed at least every five years, ensuring the process is reaching its full potential.
- Agricultural producers need access to timely and accurate information, resources and on-farm support to understand how the ES market works, and to identify potential opportunities and risks to make informed decisions for their businesses.

ⁱ Market-based: Provide economic incentives encouraging people to provide certain ecosystem services to society.

ⁱⁱ Ecosystem Services: Benefits received from healthy, functioning ecosystem; also known as “ecological services”, “environmental goods and services”, and “ecological goods and services”.