

The Importance of economical Analysis to Studies that foresee the Measurement of Greenhouse Gases Effects in Cattle-Raising in the Pampa Biome in BrazilJ.L.S.D. Santos and M.A.K. LucasEMBRAPA, BR 153 KM 603 Caixa Postal 242, 96401-970 Bagé, Brazil
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Cattle-raising is an important economic activity for agribusiness in the southernmost state in Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, which owns a total of 12 million animals (6,4% of the national herd in 2012). Most of this herd is on farms in the Southern part of the state, in which the Pampa biome, one of the Brazilian biomes, is located. This activity there is closely related to the historical process of settlement in this southern part of the country, going back to the centuries 17th and 18th, involving disputes between Portugal and Spain, which culminated in the definition of the borders between Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina only in the 20th century. As a traditional activity, cattle-raising is run based on many arrangements in terms of styles of management and the combination of the factors used by the agents (land, labor, technologies and knowledge, among others), resulting in a big difference in terms of economical results obtained end of impacts on the ecosystems.

Because of this situation, and in order to analyse the economic aspects of gases in cattle-raising in the Pampa biome, under the Rede PECUS project coordinated by the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and in charge of producing knowledge about emission of gases in the biomes, the researchers from the Economics group of this Rede, organised on the 26th of December 2012 a panel with cattle raisers, technicians and researchers at Embrapa Southern Animal Husbandry, in the city of Bagé, to characterize a typical rural business to represent a mainstream production unit. Then, a consensus has been reached, indicating as a model a farm of complete cattle-raising cycle, having an area of 1.200 ha, being 960 ha reserved for exploration (from these, 96 ha with agriculture, in the winter and summer), and a herd of 1.368 animals, being only 8% artificial pastures, with 0,7 AU/ha/year, and the natural pastures having low support capacity.

Besides, there is the fact that the reproductive and sanitary management are deficient, which contributes to a low reproductive efficiency. Knowledge of this kind of management and the aspects concerned in the decision making seem essential for an economic analysis that supports the measurements from the cattle-raising activity which are being done in the same biome by Rede PECUS. With this goal, economic analyses have been integrated to Rede PECUS.