



Understanding stocks and flows

Difference between stocks and flows

To understand the difference between the concept of carbon flows and carbon stocks, any carbon that is flowing through the paddock at the time of measurement, is recorded as a stock.

Carbon flows are ongoing while carbon stocks are a measurement at one point in time.

Carbon stocks at the time of measurement are called short term (labile), medium term and long term.

Carbon flows involve virtually no long term carbon.

Long term carbon does flow but at an incredibly slow speed, which is why it has little involvement in carbon flows.

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Note: Some of the very fast flowing carbon that flows through a paddock is never actually measured and recorded as a stock.