



THE PLACE for Advanced Soil Health Training

Feb. 15-16, 2017

Bigwood Event Center, Fergus Falls

Resources 24/7 at sfa-mn.org/soil

Venue map on back cover.

#mshs2017

SCHEDULE

All sessions in George B. Wright room except where noted.
Trade show exhibitors and beverages are in the atrium.

WED., FEB. 15

1 p.m. – INTRODUCTION

1:10 p.m. – KENT SOLBERG

“Building From a Solid Foundation”

2 p.m. – SCOTT HAASE

“Establishing Systems for Healthy Soil”

2:30 p.m. – EXHIBITORS & DISCUSSION TABLES

Scott Haase, Kent Solberg

3:15 p.m. – DR. RYAN STOCKWELL

“Getting Producers From ‘No’ to ‘Yes’ on Soil Health”

3:15 p.m. – DR. RANDY ANDERSON*

“A population-based approach to weed management,” ***OXLEY ROOM**

4 p.m. – NRCS SOIL SLAKE AND INFILTRATION DEMONSTRATION with Brandon DeFoe

4:30 p.m. – EXHIBITORS & DISCUSSION TABLES

Ryan Stockwell, Randy Anderson,
Allen Williams, NRCS

5 p.m. – BREAK/EXHIBITORS

6 p.m. – SOCIAL HOUR

Cash Bar • Supper • Exhibitor Showcase
Interview with Allen Williams & Grant
Breitkreutz, led by Kent Solberg

THURS., FEB. 16

7 a.m. – CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8 a.m. – SOIL TEST SMACKDOWN: DRS. JULIE GROSSMAN & CARL ROSEN, GLEN BORGERDING

A “gloves-off” session ranging from the university to Haney tests, and how farmers and consultants sometimes misuse – and are often confused by – the information they get.

9 A.M. – GRANT & DAWN BREITKREUTZ

“Cover crops, no-till and livestock integration:
Building soil health on Stoney Creek Farm”

9:30 a.m. – EXHIBITORS & DISCUSSION TABLES

Grant & Dawn Breitkreutz, Allen Williams,
Carl Rosen, Glen Borgerding, Julie Grossman

10:15 a.m. – DR. SCOTT WELLS

“Filling the Void: Strategies for Improved Cover
Crop Establishment”

11 a.m. – DOUG LANDBLOM

“Improving soil quality and the bottom line through
cattle integration and a diverse cropping system”

Noon – LUNCH/EXHIBITORS

1 P.M. – DR. NICK DAVID & MIKE SAMS

“Conservation Efforts in Irrigated Potato Production”

1:45 p.m. – EXHIBITORS & DISCUSSION TABLES

Doug Landblom, Allen Williams Nick David,
Mike Sams, Scott Wells

2:30 p.m. – DR. ALLEN WILLIAMS

“Who Moved My Cheese?:
Cattle, Cover Crops & Hope”

3:30 p.m. – CLOSE

PRESENTERS



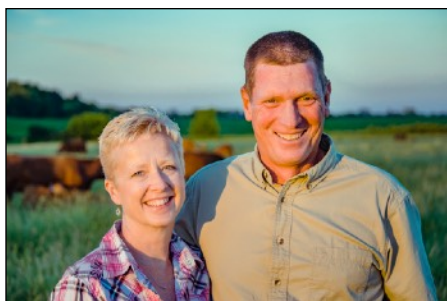
Dr. Allen Williams

Dr. Allen Williams is a champion of the grass-fed beef industry as well as a leader in cutting edge grazing methodology. Dr. Williams is a sixth-generation family farmer and holds BS, MS degrees in Agriculture from Clemson University and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State. He spent 15 years in academia in research, teaching, and extension, and has written more than 300 peer-reviewed and popular press articles. In 2000, he left academia and founded LMC, LLC. Since that time, he has worked with more than 3,500 farmers and ranchers in the US, Canada, Mexico, and South America. Dr. Williams currently serves as Chairman of the Association of Family Farms, Co-Chair of the Grassfed Exchange, Co-Project Leader of the Pasture Project, Facilitator in the USDA BFRDP EET program, and lead investigator in soil microbial research as a replacement for chemical fertilizers. This will be his third MSHS appearance; he has also helped lead many SFA field days over the past few years. **Read a profile of Allen on Page 6.**



Kent Solberg

Kent Solberg, SFA Livestock & Grazing Specialist, and his wife, Linda, have a diversified pasture-based livestock farm near Verndale, Minn., where they raise dairy, pork, eggs and beef. Solberg, who is an expert on livestock fencing, cover crop selection, wintering livestock, and an array of other innovative profit-focused soil health topics, serves as Livestock and Grazing Specialist and Minnesota Dairy Initiative Coordinator through the Sustainable Farming Association. He is also an instructor for SFA's Deep Roots Farmer Development program and co-founded the Midwest Soil Health Summit in 2014. Kent was recently featured in an instructional video series discussing fencing, livestock watering, and more produced by frequent SFA collaborator The Pasture Project.



Grant & Dawn Breikreutz

Grant Breikreutz is the Cow/Calf Chair at the MN State Cattlemen's Association. Grant, Dawn and Karlie operate Stoney Creek Farm near Redwood Falls, Minn. The operation includes a commercial cow/calf cattle operation with intensive rotational grazing, custom cattle feeding, and no-till row cropping as well as the use of cover crops. The farm has been recognized for conservation efforts by receiving the NCBA 2016 Region III Environmental Stewardship Award, Beef Magazine's Trailblazer Award for 2016, and the 2010 MN Outstanding Conservationist Award of the year for

Southwest Area 5 by the Minnesota Soil & Water Conservation District. Grant & Dawn were also recognized as the 2015 Cattlemen of the Year by the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association. **Read a profile of Grant on Page 7.**



Dr. Ryan Stockwell

Ryan Stockwell is the Senior Agriculture Program Manager for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). In that role, Ryan leads NWF work on cover crops and conducts outreach on Farm Bill conservation issues. The National Wildlife Federation is working with cover crop partners and stakeholders to address barriers to farmer adoption of cover crops, and NWF has taken a lead role in addressing crop insurance issues related to cover crop use. In his spare time, Ryan farms corn, soybeans, and winter wheat in central Wisconsin using no-till and cover crops. This marks Stockwell's second time appearing at the Midwest Soil Health Summit. **Read a profile of Ryan on Page 8.**

PRESENTERS



Dr. Scott Wells

Dr. Scott Wells, Assistant Professor, CFANS Agronomy/Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota, completed his Ph.D. at North Carolina State University researching weed suppression mechanisms of roller-cripped cover crops in organic corn and soybean systems. His current research program focuses on improving the yield and quality of forage production systems including alfalfa, warm and cool season grasses, and small grains, along with employing a systems approach to improving the both the economical and environmental sustainability of corn and soybean production in Minnesota.



Doug Landblom

Doug Landblom, Beef Cattle Specialist at NDSU Dickinson, has always sought practical methods to reduce input cost without sacrificing animal performance. Having personal experience with cattle finishing in custom yards, he saw a need to study retained ownership in a vertically integrated business plan that integrated beef cattle production into a diverse crop rotation. Farmers and ranchers didn't want to buy into such thinking; people said, "selling calves off the cow for an awesome price was good and backgrounding cattle all winter was not to their liking." Besides, grain prices were skyrocketing and backgrounding/finishing budgets didn't make sense. When a new wave of research opened up to study cover crops, soil health, and beef cattle production, his research focus changed. His goal over the last six years has been to identify the complementing holistic potential to improve soil quality through an alternative integrated grazing-based production system that generates income from cash crops (spring wheat and sunflowers) and beef income from yearling steers grazing annual forages in a diverse cropping system.



Scott Haase

Scott Haase is a sixth generation farmer from the Blue Earth River region of southern Minnesota. Farming conventionally with his dad and brother since 2006, Scott also operates the smaller scale Blue Dirt Farm with his wife, Anna, and their two sons. Blue Dirt Farm has developed a pastured pork operation, experimented with grass-fed beef, waterfowl, and poultry, and involves ongoing perennial crop establishment. At Blue Dirt, Scott is employing organic and permaculture principles while also dabbling in sustainable living design with construction of a passive solar home. Focused on restoring natural patterns, Scott is both a student and a teacher with the goal of enhancing resiliency and beauty in the landscape while also maximizing human liberty and happiness. **Read a profile of Scott on Page 9.**



Dr. Carl Rosen

Dr. Carl Rosen is Head of the Department of Soil, Water, & Climate at the University of Minnesota, where he supervises an active research laboratory related to nutrient management for crop production. The programs include identifying needs and establishing priorities in areas of plant nutrition and improving fertilizer use efficiency for crop production, including commercial fruit and vegetable production. His work with the Land and Atmospheric Science Graduate Program includes impact of crop production on nutrient leaching/runoff, nutrient cycling in crop production fields and managed landscapes, recycling of municipal and industrial wastes as soil amendments, and composting and compost utilization.

PRESENTERS



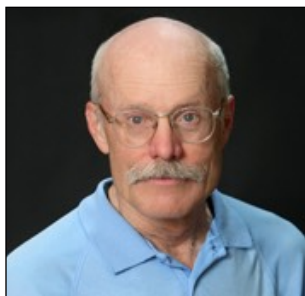
Glen Borgerding

Glen Borgerding is owner of Ag Resource Consulting, Inc., an agricultural consulting firm and soil testing laboratory based in Albany, Minn. Glen is a Certified Crop Advisor and a Technical Service Provider for the NRCS and has been consulting with farmers since 1984. He specializes in soil fertility and nutrient management, and has been working with farmers across the Upper Midwest on both crop- and livestock-based operations. Glen has a long history with SFA and is a former Association board member; he has attended all three previous Midwest Soil Health Summit conferences.



Dr. Julie Grossman

Dr. Julie Grossman is a faculty member in the University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Science specializing in soil fertility of organic cropping systems. Her work emphasizes improved management of plant-soil-microbe relationships in organic systems, especially the use of legumes to help provide nitrogen to horticultural crops. Central to Dr. Grossman's teaching toolbox are experiential learning strategies that help her students at the University of Minnesota address public needs while developing soil science skills.



Dr. Randy Anderson

Dr. Randy Anderson will discuss no-till systems without herbicides that include a diverse crop rotation. Dr. Anderson has conducted research for developing low-input cropping systems based on crop diversity and rotation design. One benefit of this systems research is a population-based approach to weed management that reduces herbicide inputs 50 percent compared to conventional practices. He is currently seeking to develop a no-till organic system based on a population-based weed management approach.



Dr. Nick David

Dr. Nick David, Midwest Regional Agronomist for the R.D. Offutt Co., is based in Park Rapids, Minn. He has a Ph.D. in Botany and Plant Pathology from Oregon State and a B.S. in Soil and Crop Sciences from Colorado State. Nick leads a team of agronomists responsible for continuous improvements in sustainable irrigated potato production on the company's Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin farms totaling about 30,000 acres, and approximately 6,000 acres of irrigated pea production. In addition, Nick manages all cooperative, science-based alliances with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota, North Dakota State University, and other non-commercial entities to research, test, implement, and expand cutting-edge agricultural practices focused on environmental sustainability.

Mike Sams

Mike Sams has been involved in agriculture for over 35 years, conducting conventional, organic and mixed-power operations. He is predominately engaged in beef production with some rotational cropping systems. Since 2000, he has been an instructor with the Heavy Equipment Program at Central Lakes College in Staples. In 2016, Mike engaged into a research project regarding rotational grazing of cover crops with partners RDO Farms and Central Lakes College. The project was massive in size for the area, including nearly 200 cow-calf pairs and 400 acres of irrigated crop ground.

For Williams, Soil Health is Definitely Cool Again

Estimable farm leader says farmer-driven solutions key to profitability, sustainability

A sustainable farmer, educator, consultant, and one of this year's Midwest Soil Health Summit presenters, Dr. Allen Williams has inspired many farmers to improve soil health and raise livestock in a more sustainable, humane fashion.

His own inspiration comes from a family farm which raised pastured pork, direct-marketed through its own general store, and was a diverse operation with multiple revenue streams.

By Kassie Brown
SFA Communications
Intern

Of course, they wouldn't have described their farm in this manner.

"It was just how things were done and it worked well," he said, laughing and reminiscing that the song "I Was Country When Country Wasn't Cool" by Barbara Mandrell always sticks with him.

However, like many who eventually embrace sustainability, Dr. Williams' path was winding: After earning his Ph.D. and working as a professor, he said he was "totally entrenched" in commodity and conventional agriculture and was even convinced that his youth experience was behind the times. Yet after many years steeped in university research, he started to notice problems with the commodity ag model, and his sustainable-without-knowing-it family farm again became what he considers a healthy agricultural model.

"The band-aid approach wasn't working," he said. "With product after product, we were trying to treat symptoms without solving the problems."

In his university research, Dr. Williams saw a decline in livestock health while observing that farmers were increasing inputs with little to no net gain; it bothered him to remember that the animals he grew up with would die only of old age or at harvest, and that his family farm was profitable despite not using fertilizer. These tensions forced Dr. Williams to examine the phenomenon of increased fertilizer application and livestock disease with increased antibiotic inputs.

"There was no 'a-ha' moment but rather a gradual realization that research scientists were not making things better," he said.

In university research, scientists often reduce variables to study each element in isolation from the whole. Dr. Williams said these intensely



controlled conditions can result in conclusions that are often irrelevant when you consider the diversity and unpredictability of real-life agriculture. In other words, peer-reviewed research clearly has value, but its conclusions don't necessarily work when applied to an entire broad and diverse audience.

Thus, farmers have been forced to experiment and share results with others, and Dr. Williams said many who do are starting to realize that agriculture works better when using holistic methods.

He has noticed a rush by university researchers, particularly ones tied to business interests, to "discredit citizen science as it is based in observation rather than in the reductionist model practiced by university controlled trials." Fortunately, he said, many university people are starting to see the value of holistic observation and moving to merge rather than discredit.

"Farmers and ranchers exist on razor-thin margins – they're crying out for help," he said. "They're flocking to conferences and field days searching for new data, and they know they need help beyond what the conventional stuff can offer. The band-aids aren't working."

As co-chair of the Grassfed Exchange and co-project leader of The Pasture Project, Dr. Williams has consulted with countless farmers and says it's massively disturbing to see how poor the soil conditions are on many farms. He says that one of his biggest motivations is

"encountering farmer after farmer who, with tears in their eyes, admits that no one has ever told them about the soil biology or about how terribly they've been treating it."

"encountering farmer after farmer who, with tears in their eyes, admits that no one has ever told them about the soil biology or about how terribly they've been treating it." They don't want to lose their farms, and they know they can't carry on business as usual.

Conferences like the Midwest Soil Health Summit are essential because they offer a space for farmers and ranchers to consult one another in pursuit of new ideas and solutions to shared problems. Williams is excited to talk about the outstanding results in cover crop and livestock integration on row crop operations he's been seeing; he says, "it's like a revelation to farmers as they see their inputs decrease while microbial activity and net revenue increase."

"The conventional model isn't working anymore, and there's hope," he said. "Farmers and ranchers who are implementing sustainable soil practices are seeing tremendous results."

After decades on a winding path toward soil health and farm sustainability, Dr. Williams said that trial-and-error research and close observation are the most important tools any farmer possesses.

"It's a journey, not a destination. A continuous road of discovery," he said. "Our forefathers knew inherently how to farm sustainably because they didn't have everything available. They had to be successful in the natural world. We, too, need to be great observers so we can work with nature instead of against it."

Soil Health at Breitreutz Farm: Seeing is Believing

Farmer: SFA, Midwest Soil Health Summit critical to attaining sustainable goals

Recent recipient of the Environmental Stewardship Award from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Beef Magazine's Trailblazer of 2016, Outstanding Conservationist Honoree, and Cattleman of the Year: With credentials like these, one could assume that Grant Breitreutz's only reason for attending and presenting at this year's Midwest Soil Health Summit is to show off his well-deserved medallions. Quite the contrary, Breitreutz said the most valuable aspect of the MSHS is the space it provides for sharing ideas, learning from other farmers, and finding interesting

By Kassie Brown
SFA Communications Intern

approaches to mimic on his Stoney Creek Farm near Redwood Falls, Minn.

At Stoney Creek Farm, Grant and his wife, Dawn, practice no-till row cropping and intensive rotational grazing as well as diversified cover cropping. By late summer, their cover cropped acres are waist high and provide nutrient-dense forage for their cow/calf operation. Despite his successes, Breitreutz still appreciates attending the MSHS to hear about the experiments tried and conclusions drawn by like-minded producers. He said it is very reassuring to hear success stories from other farmers who are trying similar cover cropping, no-till, and intensive rotational grazing systems, and he values the ongoing education that has continually nudged him in the direction of conservation.

Breitreutz relies on SFA to obtain and chronicle on-farm monitoring data regarding water infiltration, plant nutrient density, and more. SFA has provided the Breitreutz farm with a wealth of knowledge and guidance, which has empowered Breitreutz and his family toward their inspiring stewardship. Because of this diligent conservation work, Stoney Creek Farm has welcomed the return of wildlife, celebrated consistent yields with lowered input costs, and raised healthier livestock.

Above and beyond all of this, Breitreutz said the number one thing he is excited to talk about at this year's Midwest Soil Health Summit are the amazing changes he is seeing in soil structure and the resulting improvements in water infiltration – this past summer was one of the



Grant Breitreutz discusses the cover cropping methods his farm employs during SFA's "Dirt Rich: Building Soil Health Experts" event Aug. 15 at his farm in Redwood Falls, Minn.

wettest on record in western Minnesota. Entering Redwood County, it was astounding to see the deeply flooded fields, washed-out roads, and submerged crops. Surprisingly, Stoney Creek Farm's corn stood mightily in perfectly spongy earth where water infiltration was taking place at a rate high enough for the land to drink up such massive quantities of rain.

"Seeing is believing," Breitreutz said, and he is anxious to show pictures from his farm where this year's exceptional rains left far fewer pools and less muddy mess to trap his equipment than in neighboring fields where tillage has not been reduced.

So many solutions these days require more: more work, more time, more money, what have you. Importantly, Grant's solutions toward a sustainable farming model are mostly asking for less: less tillage and fewer inputs for a more in-tune with nature approach. What's more, this approach is very clearly working! Corn fields are not supposed to be marshes (or dry dust bowls in other climates) and, as Breitreutz's fields illustrate, they don't have to be. The added root mass and organic matter produced from cover cropping encourages the return of important soil microbes, which benefit plant and animal health while also increasing the soil's water holding capacity. Reducing tillage helps keep this microbial life alive, especially the more delicate fungal species crucial to a healthy soil food web. By putting

these basic concepts into practice, Breitreutz has significantly improved the well-being of his entire farm.

Breitreutz said it usually takes at least three times repeating before people start catching on to new concepts or new ways of doing things. His evolution into a more sustainable farming methodology followed this general truth and he agrees that the presentations, conversations, and mentorship provided by SFA and through the Midwest Soil Health Summit could not have been more valuable in solidifying his confidence.

Additionally, through SFA, Breitreutz has connected with The Pasture Project, which has led him into conversations and research opportunities with Dr. Allen Williams and Warren King. Overall, it is this community of like-minded people and the visible results from Grant's own experimentation that will keep this trailblazing environmental steward motivated to further his conservation efforts.

You can learn more about the great work being done by Grant and his family at Stoney Creek Farm here at the 2017 Midwest Soil Health Summit, where Grant will be presenting some of his conclusions from the growing season. Also, keep your eye out for a video by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association documenting and celebrating the Breitreutz farm for its inspiring environmental stewardship.

Change Can Be Tough When Whole Town is Watching

Stockwell specializes in social psychology of sustainable decisionmaking

Anybody can preach to the choir, but it's tougher to get your message across when your sermon is delivered to people on the sidewalk.

Ryan Stockwell, a sustainable farmer and public policy influencer slated to speak at the 2017 SFA Midwest Soil Health Summit, specializes in engaging those folks and getting them into the pews.

Stockwell, a soil health-focused farmer and Senior Agriculture Program Manager for the National Wildlife Federation, knows farmers face intense social pressure when making sustainably focused changes to their fields despite mounting evidence that implementing soil health practices leads to enhanced farm profitability. Keeping soil covered, increasing crop diversity and integrating livestock can create social, economic and personal dilemmas. For Stockwell, the key to creating a more sustainable system is understanding this process and finding out why farmers choose to make changes – even if those changes, while successful, could bring alienation, ridicule, or a different workload.

Stockwell now focuses largely on the messaging behind and social psychology of

By Kassie Brown
SFA Communications
Intern



Ryan Stockwell views the Midwest Soil Health Summit as one place in which we can begin surmounting a few of sustainable agriculture's biggest obstacles.

transitioning to unconventional practices. He describes farming as one of the only fields where people are engaged in a "non-voluntary public occupation."

"For farmers, decisions to go against what is tried and true cannot be made lightly," he said. "Any changes that a farmer makes are noticed."

This is not true of most other occupations – very few clients notice their auto mechanic's

decision to switch tool brands or their teacher's replacement of her PC with a Mac. On a multi-acre field visible to a farmer's entire community, the farmer alone must experiment while an audience critiques. Most non-farmers cannot begin to understand the social pressure – not to mention the economic and personal pressures – that farmers face when attempting anything new. Stockwell is interested in identifying the positive things that get good traction and expanding those successful messages to reach a broader audience, circumventing the social pressure.

Stockwell is aided by a deep awareness of the issues commodity agriculture faces matched with a strong passion for resource conservation, and he is motivated by his own farm and the hope that he will one day pass the land on to one or all of his three sons. He fears a plateau in the momentum that has been achieved by no-till and cover crops and worries about the future, but these things also bolster his resolve to develop the best possible strategies for widescale adoption of a sustainability-centered mindset.

When asked about his level of optimism in regard to the widespread adoption of soil health principles, Stockwell said the future "will be determined by us and the strategies we use." This sense of personal responsibility is evidence of Stockwell's determination to find solutions to the many barriers farmers and consumers alike face; and because it attracts farmers from across the spectrum – conventional, sustainable, organic – Stockwell views the MSHS as one place in which we can begin surmounting a few of sustainable agriculture's biggest obstacles.

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Diverse Background Helps Drive Soil Health Solutions

Conventional experience helped Scott Haase achieve his 'liberation' in practical farm sustainability

For the past 10 years, Scott Haase, a sixth-generation farmer from Blue Earth, Minn., has worked alongside his father and brother at Haase Family Farms, which predominantly produces corn and soybeans using conventional methods.

In addition, Scott also farms his 10-acre homestead, Blue Dirt Farm, where he raises pastured and organic heritage breed hogs, foraging poultry and waterfowl, perennial crops, and just this past year brought 100 percent grass-fed beef to his local market. This unique experience and perspective has led to Haase being added to the speaking slate for the Midwest Soil Health Summit.

Like many farmers, Haase was tilling the soil atop a tractor before he even learned to drive a car. Unlike most, however, Haase grew up with an indefinable sense of concern about this sort of soil cultivation. He attended Minnesota State University-Mankato, double majoring to earn a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology as well as a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Painting and Ceramic Sculptures. During that time and in the years that followed his 2004 graduation, Scott searched for solutions to a vague sense of unease he felt while tilling the land. And it wasn't until he started growing and cooking his own food that farming as an act of liberation and rejuvenation started to solve some of those qualms.

Always fascinated with natural processes and the patterns alive in nature, Haase discovered the permaculture methods of Bill Mollison and other teachers of natural systems farming. He has worked to advance many permaculture design methods at Blue Dirt Farm and is always searching for new regenerative ways to grow healthy food that is good for both people and the land. In recent years, Haase said he has been overwhelmed by the vast amount of information available to farmers

By Kassie Brown
SFA Communications
Intern

Scott Haase is presenting at 2 p.m. Wednesday on the topic, "Establishing Systems for Healthy Soil"



Haase says that it is local gatherings of like-minded farmers, such as the Midwest Soil Health Summit, where he finds renewed inspiration.

looking to make sustainable changes, and he values the guidance, technical support, and networking opportunities at the Midwest Soil Health Summit and other SFA gatherings where farmers can dig into the finer points of conservation and sustainability while also receiving practical, scientifically valid information.

Growing up alongside the Blue Earth River, Scott has had ample time to witness the connection between land use and water quality and has seen the impact land use in his region has had on the river, which is one of the most ecologically compromised in Minnesota. The Blue Earth is a tributary of the Minnesota River, which in turn runs on to the Mississippi – contributing to its well-documented fertilizer and topsoil output that has created dangerously hypoxic conditions in the Gulf of Mexico. Haase senses the implications of being a farmer so closely tied to an ecological disaster of this magnitude and is an active voice within his community advocating for more sustainable practices. A strong believer in the resiliency of the soil, Scott is a champion of no-till farming, inter-seeding diverse cover crops, and responsibly integrating livestock into crop rotations.

An island within a sea of mono-cropped corn and soy, Blue Dirt Farm is well on its way

to becoming an exemplary model of 21st Century sustainability. Complete with a passive solar home of whole timbers, Haase has worked very diligently to adopt a number of regenerative practices on his diversified holding. Yet, he knows that this relatively small site will not change the face of modern agriculture and is working on various experimental projects on the larger Haase family farm. Currently, Haase is running a 70-acre test plot with The Pasture Project. Despite fears of a complete takeover by the dreaded glyphosate-resistant water hemp, Haase has documented a decidedly equal to slightly greater yield in his cover-cropped test plot even with its restricted herbicide use. Experiments are ongoing, but Haase is hopeful and very motivated by the number of farmers in his own community who are taking on similar ventures.

Change happens slowly, but Scott says proven results and successful experiments will make it happen. He is eager to continue working with organizations like SFA and The Pasture Project to make ongoing progress toward large-scale regenerative agriculture on his own family's farm and the farms of many others.

Haase says that it is local gatherings of like-minded farmers, such as the Midwest Soil Health Summit, where he finds renewed inspiration and a recharging of batteries, so to speak, to carry on the hard – and sometimes lonely – work of being "a weirdo eccentric" always advocating for wise land use against the conventional grain.

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NOTES

MIDWEST SOIL HEALTH SUMMIT



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SFA Soil Health Philosophy

Shifting the focus of agriculture from maximum yields to maximum soil health quality is critical to the sustainability of agriculture in Minnesota, the Upper Midwest, the United States and globally. SFA is committed to continued soil health programming, including programs addressing the integration of cover crops, row crops and livestock grazing. We will continue the pursuit of funding and programs that foster the development of soil health building practices for the long term.



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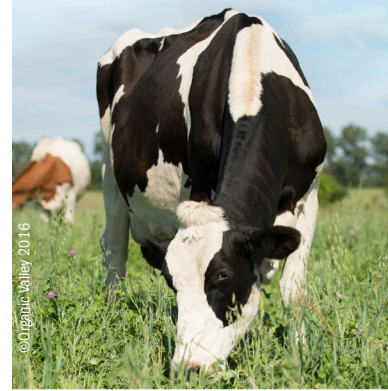
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