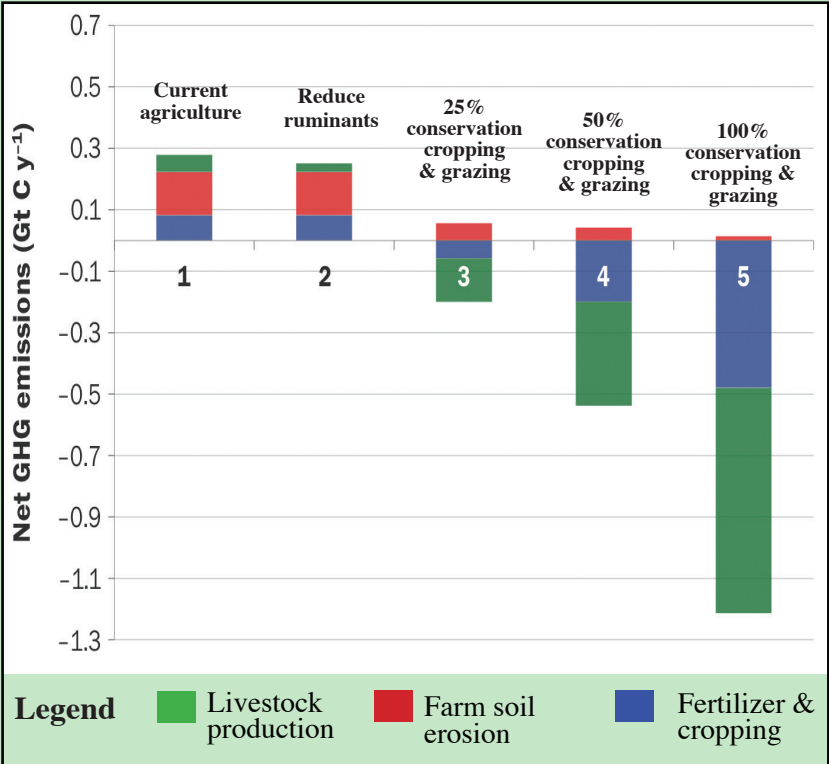


Figure 13: Modeling shows how integrating such soil-friendly practices as cover cropping and managed rotational grazing could help make agriculture a net sink for greenhouse gas emissions in North America.



Source: Teague, W.R. et al. “The role of ruminants in reducing agriculture’s carbon footprint in North America, *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, March/April 2016 vol. 71, no. 2, pages 156-164

tems scenarios outlined in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* aren’t just the stuff of fancy computer models—real farmers are taking advantage of such synergies in the Midwest and elsewhere every day.²

Sources

¹ Teague, W.R. et al. “The role of ruminants in reducing agriculture’s carbon footprint in North America, *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, March/April 2016 vol. 71, no. 2, pages 156-164

² DeVore, B. “Grazing as a Public Good.” *Land Stewardship Letter*, Vol. 32, No. 1, 2014, pages 24-25

Soil Health by the Numbers

- 30%-75%** The amount of carbon soils have lost since tillage began.
- 25,000 Gallons...** The amount of water per acre 1 percent of organic matter can hold in the top six inches of soil.
- 90% ...** The percentage of soil functions organic matter controls, even though it makes up less than 5% of the soil profile.
- 3-10 Years...** How long it can take a farmer to raise organic matter levels using methods such as cover cropping.
- 200 Times...** The amount herbicide-related water toxicity was reduced when diversified crop rotations were utilized in one trial.
- 8%-10% ...** The annual percentage of greenhouse gas emissions reductions needed if we are to avoid climate catastrophe.
- 5%-15% ...** An estimate of the annual percentage of greenhouse gases farming has the potential to sequester by building soil organic matter.