

Back to Soil

Bret Hesla © 2020

1. If you study history, then you'll know | The empire falls when the topsoil goes.
Well the signs today are pretty clear to read | Soil's looking bad and we've lost six feet.
But here's the news, we could build it back | And I heard about farmers with a plan for that.
So I paid one a visit, we sat to chat 'n that | one cup of coffee set me on a whole new track.

2. I went to no-till, let the soil be still. | I quit fighting what's on my side.
Then it was cover crop, covered every bare spot | with the armor of a thick green hide.
And when the fields turned into gaudy buffet | I put new ways to graze in place.
Now I'm working with nature, "Halleluya!"
The dirt's coming back, back to soil.

3. I keep living roots, year round living in the soil | Pulling carbon out of the sky.
They pull it down underground, then it's shot right out | To feed the little microbes, mycorrhizal fungi.
[x] I make 'em happy, and they send back | all the nutrients that I was paying money for.
I'm building back black. "Halleluya!"
The dirt's coming back, back to soil.

4. It takes a lotta swag, to buck big ag | Still farm and keep the family fed.
You gotta first find a mentor that you respect | You study mother nature, and scratch your head.
I made a lotta mistakes as I was changing things | But one day I noticed all the rain soaked in.
Best of all, my money stopped eroding | all the way to the Gulf of Monsanto.

5. And it's joy, joy, there's a certain kind of joy | I feel when I'm down on my knees.
Joy, joy, when I grab a chunk of soil | And it crumbles like cottage cheese.
I know I'm on the right track, standing near | 'Cause it smells like a good cup of coffee.
Here's a little cup for you. Halleluya!
One sip and I think you'll see
Why the soil's got me singing, "Halleluya!"
One sip and I think you'll see
Why the soil's got me singing, "Halleluya!"
The dirt's coming back, back to soil.
The dead dirt's coming back. | Here's a little cup for you.
I hope you like it black.

*Words and music by Bret Hesla. Written on commission for Land Stewardship Project
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