



April 2026

LSP Soil Builders is a farmer-to-farmer network using practices such as no-till, cover cropping, diversified rotations, and well-managed grazing to improve water infiltration, reduce reliance on inputs, and regenerate soil health.

## Happy Spring!



Nikki Meyer and Ben Klein talk with one another during a "Pair Share" activity at LSP's First Annual Soil Health All-Hub event that took place in Chatfield, Minn., in February. The event brought together farmers from our four Soil Health Hubs in Austin, Houston, and Plainview, Minn., as well as Decorah, Iowa.

The change in temperature, increase in daylight, and reemergence of bird song is always a welcome shift after a long winter. In late February, our team pulled off the First Annual Soil Health All-Hub meeting, which brought together farmers from around southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa to discuss soil health practices, challenges they're experiencing, and their role in the Land Stewardship Project's Soil Health Hubs. You can learn more about the All-Hub event below.

This time of year is the slow season for LSP's Soil Health Programs. We turn our attention inward to annual planning, steering committee work, and prepping for the coming Soil Health Hub season. This work helps us make the most of the busy growing season. We can't wait to get back out in the field with y'all come summer 2026.

See you soon!

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## Network News



### Vision Quest

On a recent morning in late February, a couple dozen farmers stood in front of a wall of words and pictures, imagining what the future might look like. "If you had it your way, what would the landscape look like as you drive across your region or state? What would you see as the norm?" asked LSP organizer, Alex Romano.

[Read the Article](#)

### How Might MN be a Leader in Creating a Resilient Agriculture?

In testimony before the Minnesota State Senate Ag Committee, LSP Calls for policy that supports new farmers, the land, and communities.



[Read the Article](#)



### Accountable Ag

These three crop producers see no reason why productive farming and clean water can't co-exist. But first, we need to stop the greenwashing and get our hands dirty. (2 of 2 parts; part 1 is [here](#))

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

## Soil Health Resources



### LSP's Farmland Clearinghouse

Are you a beginning farmer looking to rent or purchase working farmland in the Midwest? Or are you an established farmer/landowner in the Midwest who is seeking a beginning farmer to purchase or rent your working farmland, or to work with in a partnership situation? Use the simple application to connect with land or people near you.

[Explore the Clearinghouse](#)



### MDA Launches Biofertilizer Innovation & Efficiency Program

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is introducing the [Biofertilizer Innovation and Efficiency Pilot Program](#) to help farmers improve nitrogen management and adopt innovative technologies that protect water quality and enhance soil health. Applications for the 2026 growing season will close on May 1. Grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants can receive \$15/acre for reducing their commercial nitrogen fertilizer application rate by 15% or 30 pounds per acre (whichever is lower) when using a qualifying biofertilizer product.

[Apply for Funding](#)



### PFI's Cost Share for Extended Rotations

Extended crop rotations enhance soil quality and provide a pathway to reduce reliance on synthetic inputs. Practical Farmers of Iowa supports farmers using extended crop rotations by providing cost-share funds for raising a small grain for grain or forage in 2026 or reducing applied nitrogen on corn crops.

This program is stackable with any publicly funded cost-share programs. Enroll in the program by July 1, 2026.

[Apply for Funding](#)



### Beneficial Bird Habitat Assessment & Native Plant Guide

Farmers, land managers, and others can use this guide to learn about supporting birds and reaping climate benefits with the Beneficial Bird Habitat Assessment and Native Plant Tool. The tool helps to prioritize conservation practices and actions while honing native plant selections that best support birds, climate benefits, and the farm. It is filled out twice: once during the planning process before steps are taken, and after implementation so that improvements can be measured.

[Read the Guide](#)



### LSP's Nitrogen Connect

Our water quality is under threat. Big Ag and the industry groups that support it have been driving their "get big or get out" motto for decades, resulting in a system that allows for the depletion and pollution of our soil and water. We need meaningful change. We see curbing consolidation of farmland, developing new reliable markets for farmers, and diversifying the landscape as viable solutions. We need to build a strong partnership between the public and farmers leading on nitrogen reduction practices. Make your voice heard by joining Nitrogen Connect today!

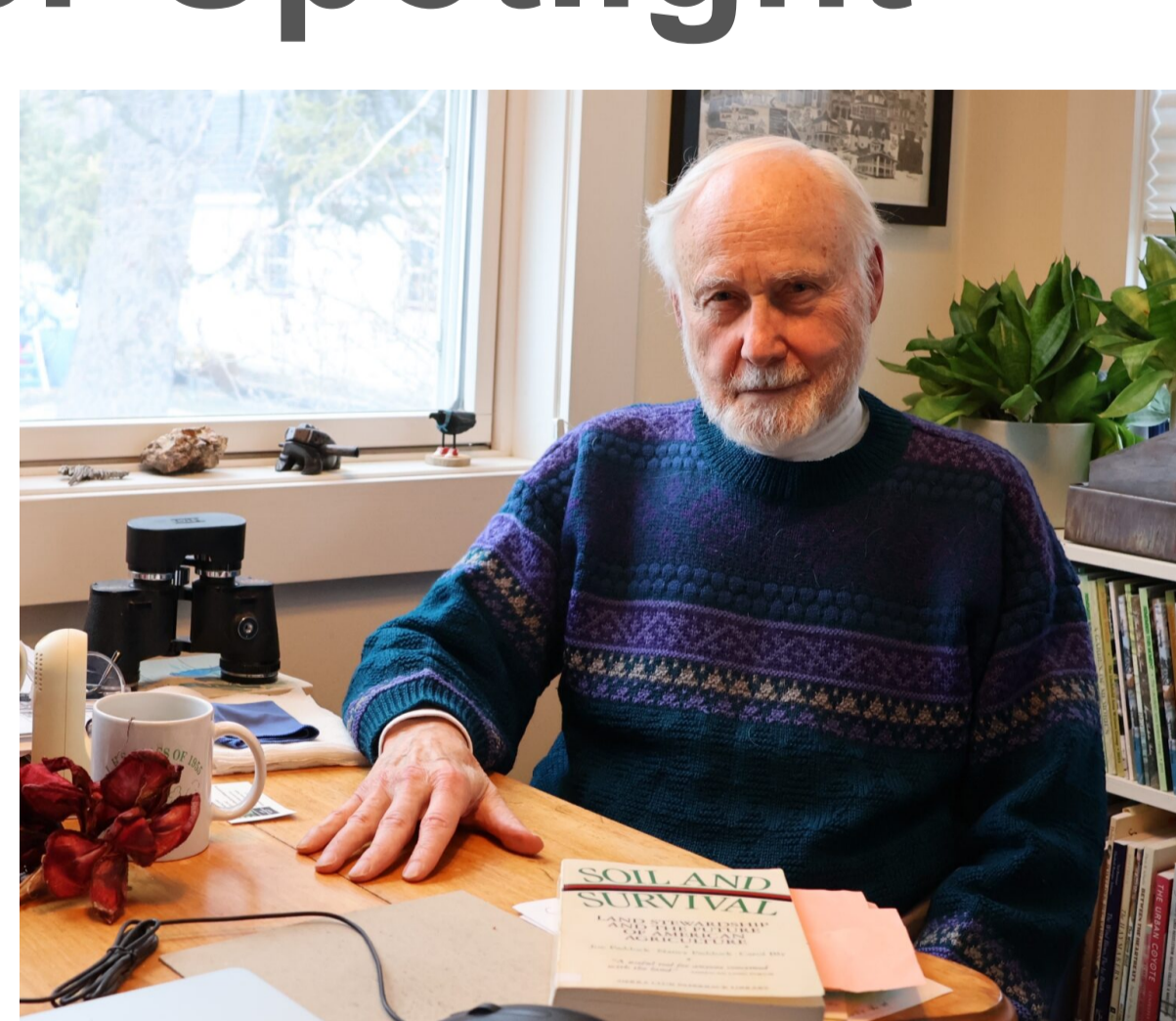
[Get Connected](#)

## Soil Builder Spotlight

### Joe Paddock — Author of *Soil & Survival*

In 1986, Joe Paddock co-authored a book called *Soil and Survival*. Its message: the relationship between farming and the land is in serious need of repair. Four decades later, that message is more relevant than ever.

[Hear Joe's Story](#)



## Upcoming Events

### LSP Events

April: LSP [Soil Health Steering Committee](#) Meeting, members only

### Partner Events

April 14: University of Minnesota's [Cattle & Kilowatts: Real-World Solar Grazing](#), Virtual

April 17 & 24: [University of MN's Friday with Forester Webinar Series](#), Virtual

April 28: [Wild Farm Alliance's Birds at Risk: How Pesticides Shape Safety on Agricultural Lands](#), Virtual

Other events: Check out [LSP's web calendar](#)

[View LSP's Complete Events Calendar](#)

### LSP's Soil Health Team

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LSP LONG RANGE PLAN 2025-2030

## ROOTS OF RESILIENCE

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