Soil Health

A Long, Hot Summer

10 Farms Prepare for the Day When it Remembers to Rain

By Brian DeVore

For many farmers, 2023 was one of those growing seasons where, as the old saying goes, "It seems like it forgot to rain." In much of the Midwest, this was at least the second straight year of abnormally dry weather. According to the USDA, at one point topsoil moisture was "short" to "very short" across 79% of Iowa, 75% of Minnesota, 68% of Illinois, and 64% of Wisconsin. For a time, 94% of Minnesota was considered in a formal drought situation, with more than a quarter of the state in what meteorologists consider "extreme" or "exceptional" drought. There's nothing like extreme weather to shake farmers' confidence in the way they are managing their operations. So no wonder the dry, hot weather was topic number one during the numerous on-farm field days sponsored by the Land Stewardship Project and other organizations in 2023.

As one southeastern Minnesota crop and livestock farmer put it: "Water was the best fertilizer this year."

On a hot (of course) day in early August, soil health expert David Kleinschmidt proved that statement true while kneeling in a cornfield on the Tom and Alma Cotter farm near Austin in southern Minnesota. While a crowd of field day participants watched, Kleinschmidt took a reading from a carbon dioxide probe that was sunk into the field's soil. CO2 activity in soil is a key way to gauge how active the microbes are — the more microbial activity, the more biologically healthy the soil is. The reading was 1,400 parts per million of CO2 — the ambient air above the soil measured around 465 ppm. Then Kleinschmidt poured a bottle of water on the soil. The reading jumped to 1,600 ppm. Yes, water is the best fertilizer.

"The microbes are talking to each other," said Kleinschmidt. "This soil is resilient."

The lesson: someday it will remember to rain, and it when it does, it's the farmer's job to create the kind of soil environment that can take advantage of that moisture — an environment characterized by good aggregate structure, lots of biological activity, and ample cover to shield the surface.

On the following pages are 10 examples from the 2023 field day season of what farmers are doing to create a welcoming home for that liquid fertility — whenever it arrives.

Flexible Farming

Passing on Purity

Cover crops are a mainstay in building soil health, but during the Cotter field day, many farmers expressed concerns that during the drought of 2023 rye and other covers actually competed with cash crops for moisture, resulting in diminished corn and soybean yields. Kleinschmidt, who is the owner of the Illinois-based Progressive Agronomy Consulting company, says 2023 was a good reminder not to be a "rigid purist" and to keep all tools at your disposal when it comes to implementing soil health practices. Conventional wisdom says that soil benefits the most when cover crops like cereal rye are allowed to grow a foot or more before they're terminated, but in a dry year that extra growth may simply be not worth the risk, said Kleinschmidt, adding, "We can have all the soil health in the world, but if we don't raise a crop, what's the value in that?"

David Kleinschmidt conducted a soil respiration test as farmer Tom Cotter looked on. "Tom has done a fantastic job laying out those pros and cons and trying to stack more pros for every con," said the agronomist. (*LSP Photo*)

Short term compromises for the sake of long-term benefits have to be made all the time. That may mean violating a few soil health rules: killing a cover crop early, using intense tillage, spraying more pesticides than one would like. The goal should be to keep the big picture in mind and attempt to follow up a temporary negative practice with steps that build soil health in the long term.

The Cotter cornfield where the CO2 reading was taken is a prime example of such a balance being struck. Tom Cotter, who implements numerous soil-friendly practices on his crop and livestock farm, felt he had to use intense tillage to kill off a stand of alfalfa before planting the corn; otherwise, the alfalfa would evolve into a weed pest. But he followed that tillage with the planting of a cover crop. Despite the drought, the corn was thriving, and Kleinschmidt spaded up a soil sample that, although dry, showed signs of good aggregate structure. The spike in C02 activity indicated that this field still had microbial potential as well; a temporary setback in building soil health had been overcome with a longer-term strategy of keeping roots in the ground.

"Tom has done a fantastic job laying out those pros and cons and trying to stack more pros for every con," said Kleinschmidt. ◆

Building Biology

Great Expectations

When taking steps to build soil health, it's easy to have high expectations for what's possible. In fact, many pioneers in the field are seeing significant improvements in soil health within three to five years.

So it's not surprising that when Jordan, Minn., farmer Mike Seifert started on his soil health journey around 2018, he had high hopes when it came to the impact practices like no-till, cover cropping, and the integration of alfalfa and small grains into his corn-soybean rotation would have. And he did see an increase in aggregate structure, which has helped reduce erosion and increase his fields' ability to manage moisture. He's also been able to reduce what he spends on chemical inputs because of the practices he's adopted.

But during an August field day he and his wife, Dana, hosted, he conceded that he has been disappointed not to see the actual biology of his soil a lot further along by now. It turns out there's a difference between constructing a solid house for that soil biome, and stocking the pantry with nutritious food.

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Creating a healthy soil biome with a good balance of vibrant fungal activity can create fields that are more resilient in the long term, and which have the ability to cook up their own fertility and become resistant to weed and insect pests.

During the field day, Mike demonstrated how he's spent the past two years trying to stock that pantry. The Seiferts have been experimenting with utilizing homegrown ingredients to build compost piles and then distilling them down to a liquid extract that is applied to their fields utilizing modified tillage equipment.

"We're going to put as many species of life out in the field as possible and let nature select what it needs," said Mike Seifert, shown here displaying some of the material he uses to make compost extract. (*LSP Photo*)

Mike made it clear that applying a compost extract to spark microbial life is different from making enough compost to cover an entire growing area, something gardeners are quite familiar with. The idea with compost extracts is to create a biological inoculum that sparks a kind of soil microbe chain reaction.

The farmer showed participants how to put together a compost stack made up of wood chips, corn husks, manure, and straw. After demonstrating how they had modified tillage equipment to apply the extract, Seifert led the way to a soybean field where he had side-by-side comparisons of what added biology can contribute to a crop. Part of the field had been treated with extract, while the other had not. The plants growing in the treated soil were noticeably more bushy and healthy looking, even on a day when the heat index was 116 Fahrenheit.

Seifert admitted the comparison didn't constitute conclusive scientific results, but it gives him a sense that he's learning ways to work with nature in a manner that feeds the soil, as well as his intellect.

"It's like a shotgun approach — we're going to put as many species of life out in the field as possible and let nature select what it needs," said the farmer. "We have to find things that stimulate us mentally, because if we just keep doing the same things every year and hoping the situation will adjust to us, how likely are we to find success?" ◆

Liz Haney argues that conventional tests don't give soil enough credit for its natural ability to build fertility. (*LSP Photo*)

Measuring Microbes

Taking a Soil Census

Building that biology does little good if farmers don't have ways to accurately assess where the soil is at in terms of health and fertility. How do you figure out how far it is to your destination if you don't know where you are located currently?

One way to gauge mileage in the soil health journey is to do an accurate soil test. Farmers and agronomists are no strangers to taking soil samples, sending them to a lab, and getting back recommendations for how much fertilizer to add. But Liz Haney says such tests don't provide a full picture of the soil's biological state, and thus can prompt farmers to overapply certain inputs, lowering a farm's return on investment and harming the environment via runoff of excess nutrients. That's why she and her husband, Rick Haney, have developed the Haney Test, a sampling method that attempts to measure the level of microbial respiration and other natural processes taking place in soil.

During a July field day at the Kevin Davis farm near Cannon Falls in southeastern Minnesota, the soil scientist explained that agronomists have often overlooked the role organic nitrogen can play in productive plant systems, and have thus emphasized adding inorganic, petroleum-based nitrogen, as well as other fertilizers, as much as possible.

But it's become clear nitrogen that exists naturally in the soil can play a significant role in productive crop fields and pastures. While people gathered in Davis's machine shed, Haney shared results of soil tests done on area farms and showed calculations of how much money could be saved on nitrogen fertilizer by tapping into the land's natural ability to build fertility.

Her overall point: if we are going to "farm in nature's image," we need a soil test that also adheres to natural processes.

"We don't want to dictate what's happening," said Haney. "We want nature and the soil to tell us what's going on." ◆

"That's what you have a soil account for — so you can pull from it when times are rough," said dairy farmer Nathan Vergin. (*LSP Photo*)

Banking Soil Health

Rainy Day Fund

At one point during a September pasture walk hosted by Nathan and Amy Vergin, a local farmer pulled up the latest Minnesota drought monitor map on his smart phone. The Vergin farm, located just east of Rochester in southeastern Minnesota, was in the heart of an area marked by a lurid

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red splotch on the map — a sign the region was suffering from extreme drought. This was the second driest growing season ever recorded for this area; the last time it was this dry was in 1910.

The Vergins made it clear that this year's brutal weather has required them to make adjustments to the management of Silky Cow Farm, their organic dairy operation. Their herd of around 65 milkers and replacement heifers relies heavily on rotational grazing, and it was clear the lack of rain and blistering temperatures had not been kind to the grasses and forbs the Vergins have in their pastures — much of the forage was stunted and had stopped growing in spots.

Fortunately, since Nathan and Amy began the process of taking over the farm from retired farmers Arlene and Mel Hershey five years ago, they've focused on adaptation and flexibility. A cornerstone of their ability to roll with the punches has been to utilize techniques like adaptive rotational grazing to build soil health and thus boost their pastures' resiliency. For example, through management that built up a deep-rooted plant community over a four-year period, they were able to extend the grazing season in a formerly worn-out paddock from four days to over 21 days.

During the LSP pasture walk, participants were shown what adjustments were made on Silky Cow Farm during the summer of 2023, and there was an energetic discussion about what lessons were learned that could be applied to future growing seasons.

As it happens, the farmers are reconsidering their past avoidance of alfalfa as a pasture forage, given how well its deep-rooted plant structure seems to ride out drought conditions. Indeed, on this day, the vibrant green of a grazing paddock dominated by alfalfa contrasted sharply with the dun colored pastures growing heat-stressed grasses.

As Nathan made clear while leading participants through the grazing paddocks, it's next to impossible to predict what curve balls the weather will throw from year-to-year, which makes building a healthy soil biome that can weather extremes over the long haul more critical than ever.

"That's what you have a soil account for — so you can pull from it when times are rough," he said. "And this is definitely one of those rough years." ◆

Community Relations

A Greener Neighbor

Driving through farm country in late fall can be a monochromatic experience. As the corn and soybean harvest is being taken in, it's clearer than ever that this duoculture of row crops doesn't leave much life on the land once it's removed. That's why the hilly acres Jeremy and Jessica Holst produce milk on in southeastern Minnesota's Driftless Region stand out so dramatically. Even in late October, the bright green of rotationally grazed pastures pop on the landscape. The Holsts like utilizing rotational grazing to produce milk with their 120-head cow herd. They feel the cows are healthier and that grazing provides a low-cost source of feed. It also creates a fun, pleasant environment for them and their two young children.

And fortunately for the family, the four landowners they rent acres from like to see cows out grazing the land as well. That's important, given how competitive it can be to rent farm ground, particularly in corn and soybean regions. During a late fall LSP pasture walk, Jeremy led a tour of their grazing paddocks while a light rain fell and a chilly autumn wind blew. Participants walked by a patch of prairie as well as a stand of evergreens that had been planted as a windbreak and habitat for wildlife. When the group arrived at the deep green pasture, it was clear it fit in nicely with the woody and prairie habitat of these hills. The Holsts say they notice plenty of grassland songbirds like meadowlarks and bobolinks in their grazing paddocks, and on this day a flock of turkeys was making its way across a side-hill.

Jeremy Holst said the people he rents land from "like having the cattle out on pasture and seeing them, and it's given me an opportunity with good neighbors." (*LSP Photo*)

The 2023 grazing season was a tough one for the Holsts, given the drought, pest problems, and low milk prices. But Jeremy said one bright spot is that his family's utilization of rotational grazing and continuous living cover to produce milk is seen as a community asset.

"We're pretty lucky with the neighbors here who have wanted to try something besides corn and beans," said the farmer. "These acres are probably worth more on the open market, but they want to take care of the land." ◆

Farmer-to-Farmer

Walking & Talking

There's a lot of talk about the value of farmer-to-farmer learning, but what does it look like in action? One extremely effective way to learn firsthand about grass-based livestock production is to go on a pasture walk. LSP pasture walks are fairly informal affairs and usually start out with the host farmer standing in the shade of a tree at the farmstead and describing the basics of their operation, including a little history of why they got involved with adaptive rotational grazing in the first place. Maybe their permanent pastures were worn out or, in some cases, perhaps the farm was dominated by row crops like corn and soybeans, and grazing provided a way to transition into a livestock production system that helps build and protect soil profitably with perennial grasses and forbs.

But at the heart of any good pasture walk is, well, the walk. Specifically, participants take a hike into a pasture broken up into grazing paddocks. There, they get an up close and personal gander at what's growing in the pasture, how the fencing and watering systems are set up, and ways the host farmer handles issues like rotations and animal health.

On a warm evening in mid-July — one of those nights when a passing rain made it seem like a droughty summer wasn't an inevitability — Nikki Meyer hosted an LSP pasture walk during which a couple dozen farmers and landowners that represented a range in ages and experience hoofed it around the extremely hilly land she and

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Nikki Meyer provided some hands-on advice on setting up a grazing system during her pasture walk. "I just wish I could have been a jackrabbit jumping around to each conversation," she said. (*LSP Photo*)

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her husband, Cody, own near Dorchester in northeastern Iowa. Both Nikki and Cody work fulltime off the farm — she's a sales rep for a seed company and Cody is a mechanic. During the past few years, Nikki has found time to build up a 50-cow beef herd consisting of various breeds; she affectionately refers to them as her "mutts." The 30-year-old is enthusiastic about developing a rotational grazing system that makes the best use of these rugged acres while producing healthy, productive animals.

Meyer led pasture walk participants down a steep slope to one of her paddocks and talked about some of the hard lessons she's learned when it comes to setting up and utilizing fencing and watering systems. Hint: water builds up *a lot* of pressure when it's running through a line down a bluff country slope, so amateur plumbing skills come in handy. The beef producer then allowed participants to get their hands on various kinds of fencing wire and posts she had on display. They even got to play with a "batt latch," a type of gate mechanism that utilizes a timer to open automatically when it's time for livestock to move to a new paddock.

This hands-on experience prompted lots of questions and sharing of information on what equipment to use and how to use it. Participants eventually broke up into their own mini-groups to discuss topics they were particularly interested in. The pasture walk had evolved into a show-and-tell discussion and support group, the epitome of farmer-to-farmer learning.

"I just wish I could have been a jackrabbit jumping around to each conversation," Meyer said afterwards. "But I'm sure I'll get that information from other pasture walks I attend." ◆

"It's a really beautiful thing what they can do for a farm," said Jordan Meyer of how goats have helped him and his wife, Rachelle, create profitable grazing acres on formerly neglected land. (*LSP Photo*)

Land Access

4-Legged Restorers

Land, as the saying goes, is a limited resource, given that they aren't making any more of it. That may be so, but in a way, there are ways to create more *grazing* land on neglected or marginal acres. That's what Jordan and Rachelle Meyer are proving in the rugged landscape of southeastern Minnesota's Houston County. The young farmers raise beef cattle and poultry on pasture, and direct market meat, eggs, and raw milk through their Wholesome Family Farms enterprise. Getting access to land is difficult for beginning farmers these days, given the inflated prices prime cropping acres garner.

But the Meyers are finding that land can be rented for a relatively reasonable price when it's extremely hilly, has poor soil, is overgrown with brush, and otherwise not well suited for raising row crops. It turns out there are plenty of acres that fit that description in their neighborhood. But just turning livestock out onto marginal land and expecting a good return on your investment isn't enough — it needs to be restored in a way that it can produce forage on a consistent basis.

As the farmers explained during an LSP pasture walk in early August, they are doing that by utilizing goats to clean up brush, weeds, and invasive species. In addition, the animals, via their manure and urine, literally transport biology from the woods over to the open, pastured parcels of land the Meyers rent, thus building soil health.

The Meyers have been raising goats for three years, and now have a 400-head herd. They are so happy with the impact the animals can have on the land that they now lease the animals to other people looking to use them as a way to clean up overgrown acres and improve soil and vegetative health.

During the pasture walk, which was held on one of the hilly farms they rent, the Meyers led participants on a tour of their grazing paddocks and talked about fencing strategies, animal health, and vegetation management, among other things. One important lesson the farmers imparted is that goats can make it so just about no plant species is undesirable — including noxious weeds. That can be a particularly important advantage during times of severe drought. In 2023, they were able to take pressure off parched cattle pastures by grazing their beef herd on land the goats had transformed from overgrown brush into grassy pastures.

"The goats bring a lot more profitability to the land by utilizing acres that would have not been used before and turning those acres into another profit generator for another enterprise," said Jordan. "It's a really beautiful thing what they can do for a farm." ◆

Erosion Prevention

A Deeper Dive

It's an infamous footnote in soil conservation history. The town of Beaver was founded in southeastern Minnesota's Winona County in the mid-1850s, and after the surrounding hillsides were stripped of their trees and grass, plowed up, and planted to crops, the Whitewater River became uncontrollable due to all the runoff that resulted. One year alone, the town was swamped more than two dozen times by waters carrying soil loosened from the surrounding hills. Finally, less than a century after Beaver's first house was built, the flooding, silt, and mudslides won — the community was abandoned, and it became known as the "Buried Town of Beaver."

Given the area's soil erosion history,

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perhaps it's not surprising that taking care of the land was a priority for Sandy and Lonny Dietz when they started raising vegetables a few miles from the Beaver townsite in 1996. Before they bought the farm, its soil had suffered as a result of intense corn and soybean cropping practices and lack of good biological activity. In fact, the soil was so poor they had difficulty growing *anything* at first.

"There was no topsoil left — it was down to subsoil," Sandy recalled.

Over the years, the farmers have used mulching and cover crops to build back their soil's organic matter. However, one thing that always concerned the Dietzes was how much their organic vegetable production system relies heavily on tillage to control weeds. Such constant disturbance can be bad news not only when it comes to erosion, but also in terms of the soil's microbial health and its aggregate structure.

As a result, the Dietzes' Whitewater Gardens Farm has gotten funding from the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education initiative to study three different kinds of no-till vegetable production methods: deep compost mulch, hay and straw mulch, and a living cover crop of clover. During a field day on an unseasonably warm day in October, the farmers showed participants what they are testing and shared some preliminary results.

The jury is still out on which method works best to prevent erosion. And covering the soil isn't the farmers' only goal — through this research, the Dietzes are also focused on developing a system that goes beyond the surface and builds soil biology, creating fields that are resilient long into the future. One thing they've learned over the past three decades is that keeping soil in place is not enough — it's also critical to make sure there is good biological activity taking place underfoot. So the farmers are integrating extensive soil testing into the study to measure what impact various no-till systems have on the biome.

"It's kind of cliché saying you're working with nature or mimicking nature, but you do have to see what nature is doing," said Sandy. "You have to get the other legs of the stool involved." ◆

Alan Bedtka's goal is to graze 300-days-a-year — he's come within 15 days of hitting that marker. (*LSP Photo*)

When implementing a no-till organic vegetable system, a farmer has to go beyond the surface and build the soil biome, according to Sandy Dietz (*left*)**. "You have to get the other legs of the stool involved," she said.** (*LSP Photo*)

Grazing Cover Crops
Season Stretcher

The first snow of the season had just fallen when Alan Bedtka hosted an LSP field day on his farm near Dover in southeastern Minnesota. That was fitting, given that the subject at hand was how to set up a system where cattle can graze deep into the winter. A stand of tall sorghum-sudangrass was rattling in the harsh wind as Bedtka described how he uses annual crops that are planted during the summer as a source of low-cost forage once the snow is deep. Those rangy stalks poke up through deep snow drifts, allowing the cattle to graze in the field well into the cold season.

Bedtka has been rotationally grazing cover crops for around four years, and said it's helping him reach his goals of creating a profitable and efficient cow-calf enterprise. His soil health is improving and water infiltration has increased. Bedtka has also been able to cut his reliance on purchased fertilizers on the corn, soybeans, and sweet corn acres his family raises. The covers take pressure off his permanent pastures, which was especially important during a drought year like 2023. Bedtka has made use of various government programs to help further establish his cover cropping and grazing system, including the Olmsted County Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Program (*see page 22*).

The farmer is a self-described "numbers guy," so while standing near a stand of sorghum-sudangrass he cited figures from a clipboard he held showing the various seeding and fencing costs associated with his system, as well as the returns. The bottom line: Bedtka is making more money than when he was using a total mix ration (TMR) system to haul feed to the cattle.

And by growing a tall cover crop like sorghum-sudangrass, he is also able to extend not only how many acres he grazes, but how *long* those acres are actually providing forage to his 52-head cow-calf herd. The 35-year-old has been supporting himself working as a carpenter, and being able to extend the grazing season as long as possible helps make being on the farm fulltime a realistic possibility. Bedtka's goal is a 300-day grazing season, and he's come tantalizingly close to that — 285 days out in the paddocks was his best year thus far. Each day a cow is on the land means fewer days on an off-farm job site for the young farmer.

"I traded my TMR for a no-till drill," he said. "Every day you feed hay, you go backwards. Any day you can graze is better." ◆

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"It can be done," said Alan Kraus of the Tentis family's work to build a farming operation based on healthy soil. (*LSP Photo*)

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A Peek at the Future

Ag's Public Good

When Matt and Seth Tentis began taking over their family's farm in southeastern Minnesota's Wabasha County in 2016, they almost immediately began utilizing soil health practices such as no-till, minimum till, cover cropping, and diverse rotations. They both work fulltime off the farm, and Matt is in the National Guard, so efficient use of time and resources is a key goal for the brothers. A critical component of that transition has been reintegrating livestock onto the farm. The operation has been in the family since 1938, and over the decades has been home to hogs, dairy cows, even turkeys. But starting in 2003, animals were pretty much replaced with row crops.

Utilizing financial and technical support from the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Matt and Seth established a rotational grazing infrastructure on tabletop-flat acres that were formerly row-cropped. Erecting fence around open crop fields raised eyebrows in the neighborhood, especially since a previous generation had worked hard to tear fenceposts out.

"If you grow anything but corn and soybeans here, you're definitely an outlier," said Matt. "For us, it worked better to have a certain amount of cropping land mixed with pasture and have the cattle doing the work."

Today, the Tentises have a 50-cow herd that serves as the basis of their White Barn Acres direct-to-consumer beef enterprise. They also raise sweet corn for a local cannery, as well as soybeans. In addition, in recent years they've experimented with growing camelina, which is an oilseed, and Kernza, which is the world's first commercially viable perennial grain.

White Barn Acres is less than two miles from the Mississippi River, and lies in the heart of southeastern Minnesota's fragile and porous karst geological area. That means building a farm business that is based on good soil health not only benefits two brothers looking for ways to make their operation efficient — it also provides a public good in the form of a reduced reliance on chemical inputs that can contaminate groundwater.

Besides EQIP, the Tentises have used several other government and university programs to put in place soil-friendly practices. During an October field day sponsored by LSP and Clean River Partners, among others, the family described how support from groups like the Land Stewardship Project and research projects like the University of Minnesota's Forever Green initiative have helped them not only get their practices established, but provided them an opportunity to take a chance on experimentation involving something like a perennial grain.

Because of the practices the brothers use, White Barn Acres is a Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certified Farm, which means it qualifies for specially designated technical and financial assistance to implement practices that promote water quality, among other things. Toward the end of the field day, participants walked up the farm's driveway — on one side was a soybean field that had been no-tilled and on the other a cover cropped field planted to a cocktail mix and awaiting fall grazing. The group stopped at the end of the driveway to check out a thriving stand of Kernza. Across the road, a neighbor's field was already plowed black on this day in mid-October.

Alan Kraus, the conservation program manager for Clean River Partners, addressed the crowd as they stood in the Kernza. He pointed out that they had just walked through the kind of farming landscape that should represent the regenerative future of agriculture.

"It can be done — farmers like Matt and Seth are proving it," he said. "And that plowed field across the road — that's what we *don't* want for the future." ❐

Join LSP's Soil Builders' Network

Interested in profitable ways to build soil health? Join hundreds of other like-minded farmers, natural resource professionals, and others in the Upper Midwest and become a member of the Land Stewardship Project's Soil Builders' Network. Members get regular updates on workshops, field days, and on-farm demonstrations, as well as the latest soil health and cover crop research.

For more information on joining, see landstewardshipproject.org/soil-health or contact LSP's Alex Romano (aromano@landstewardshipproject.org, 612-767-9880) or LSP's Maura Curry (mcurry@landstewardshipproject.org, 612-767-9882).

Give it a Listen

On LSP's *Ear to the Ground* podcast, hear the folks quoted in this article discuss some of the issues they grapple with when building soil health profitably. The podcasts are on the *Ear Dirt* web page: landstewardshipproject.org/ear-dirt.

- ✓ **Episode 325: Return of the Fence** (Matt Tentis)
- ✓ **Episode 324: Good Grass Makes Good Neighbors** (Jeremy Holst)
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