

LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT PRESENTS

Soil Health Economics:

Learn the Value of Low-Input,
Soil-Building Farm Systems

TUESDAY, MARCH 19TH

9 AM — 3 PM

RIDGEWAY COMMUNITY CENTER
(690 COUNTY ST. RIDGEWAY, IOWA)

Pre-Register (required) at
<https://bit.ly/LSPRidgeway>

Come to this farmer-to-farmer workshop to learn tools for
improving your **financial and soil** health!

According to Iowa State University Extension, soil health economics can be viewed in two ways:

1. The impact of a low-input farm system that reduces operating costs (labor, fuel, machinery, etc.) &
2. Its effect on improving soil structure, water-holding capacity, biology, and nutrient cycling.

Putting a dollar value to soil health practices like reduced tillage, no-till, cover crops, and managed grazing of livestock and their benefits is an ongoing challenge for farms in transition. The good news is regional farmers are finding innovative and practical ways for determining the financial benefit of these practices by focusing on return on investment (ROI).

Given that improving soil health is a long-term investment, this workshop will address how farmers reconcile the extra expense in the short-term. Join us for a great discussion.

• Sign in begins at 8:30 am • \$25/person • Lunch by Estelle's Eatery • Snow date: March 21

Questions? Contact LSP's Alex Romano at aromano@landstewardshipproject.org



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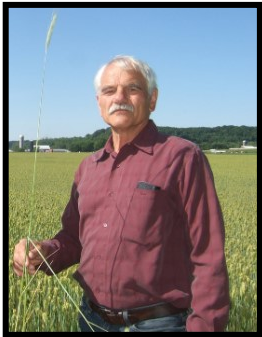
WINNESHIEK SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Learn more about the regional farmers & their presentations →

REGIONAL FARMERS TO PRESENT:



Gary Zimmer is founder of Midwestern BioAg. Referred to as the “father” of biological agriculture, Zimmer is an internationally known author, speaker, and consultant. He owns Otter Creek Organic Farm, a family-operated, award-winning 1,000 acre farm near Lone Rock, WI. His farming system feeds soil microbes, balances soil minerals, promotes tillage with a purpose, and relies on both cover crops and diverse rotations. Gary’s talk will outline their management, measured soil health gains and economics.

Jerome Fulsaas is a 6th generation farmer in Winneshiek County, Iowa, where his family raises corn, soybeans, alfalfa, pasture, timber, cover crops, beef cow-calf, and contract finishing hogs. Jerome returned to Iowa in ‘90 to farm with his parents which led to starting his own farm in ‘93. Shortly after, he picked up additional work as the Crestwood High School Agricultural Teacher. It was teaching about natural resources that sparked his awareness in soil. By ‘98, no-till farming was his method of choice. In mid 2000’s, Fulsaa started experimenting with cover crops and, within a decade, he was 100% cover crops. Fulsaa’s talk will cover what cover crops he uses, how and when he uses them with a discussion on costs, savings, and ROI.



Josh Nelson is a 5th generation farmer from north-central Iowa where he raises corn, soybeans, small grains, cover crop seed and cattle. He also farms with two uncles and a cousin on a primarily row-crop farm with a confinement hog finisher. On his own ground, Nelson has transitioned to nearly all strip-till or no-till along with using cover crops on all acres. He’s built the operation around soil health, driven both by ecological and economic concerns. In addition to farming, Nelson works in sales with several ag companies and serves on the Wright County Soil and Conservation District. Nelson’s talk will lay out how, in the past decade, working with living roots, animal manure, and reduced tillage has helped him to cut input costs, increase soil health, and improve the overall profitability of the farm.



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180 East Main Street

Lewiston, MN 55952

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Ridgeway, IA • March 19
9 am—3 pm**

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