

LSP Soil Builders Network Newsletter



April 2025

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.

Signs of Spring



One of every flavor in this group of calves on Al Jostock's farm outside of Hammond, Minn.

The weather is warming up, the birds are singing again, and the green blades of grass are starting to pop up in the pastures. Spring is here!

Even as the days get longer, it feels like the downtime gets shorter as we try to fit in all that needs to be done on the farm between planting and livestock care. We appreciate all of you who have let Land Stewardship Project organizers fill some of that time with one-to-one farm visits, peer group meetings, and check-in phone calls. These connections with farmers help ground LSP in the work that we need to do around soil health practices.

In the months following our winter workshop, I continue to hear folks discuss their different takeaways, as well as ideas, about addressing the issues around local markets and processing. These conversations have been energetic, enlightening, and sometimes challenging. I look forward to hearing from more of you about how you all are thinking about this.

As time is short for you all, I will keep this short (too late for that!). I wish you all success this spring on your farms. Please feel free to reach out anytime!

Warmly,
Shea-Lynn, LSP Soil Health Organizer
651-301-1897
[e-mail](#)

Network News

Flower Power

Near the beautiful southern Minnesota town of Austin, three farmers are going against the grain with an unlikely crop: sunflowers. While most Midwestern farmers stick to corn and soybeans, backed by reliable federal subsidies and a marketing and transportation infrastructure centered around such commodities, these pioneers saw an opportunity where others saw risk.

[Read their story here.](#)



Legislative Action

Building healthy soil across Minnesota is key to creating resiliency in the face of a changing climate and is also an incredibly important way to support clean water. We all want clean drinking water for our families and communities.

Right now, [two bills are being heard](#) in the Minnesota Legislature that could affect drinking water throughout the state and help farmers adopt practices that build soil health. Please sign on to [this petition](#) to show your support for farmers, for soil health, and for clean water in Minnesota!



January Speaker Featured in Farm Journal

"Every farmer I interact with is concerned about survivability. That means having something to pass to the next generation. That can only happen if there's genuine profitability, soil health, and market opportunities."

— Roy Pfaltzgraff, quoted in this [Farm Journal AgWeb feature](#)

Roy was one of the keynote speakers at LSP's January Small Grain Markets Workshop. You can watch his entire presentation, as well as those from our other speakers — Bob Quinn (Kamut International) and Landon Plagge (Green Acres Milling) — [here](#).

Renegade Colorado Farmer Pushes Deeper into Unconventional Agriculture

Roy Pfaltzgraff's maverick row crop operation is moving further to blade's edge.

CHRIS BENNETT / March 26, 2023 06:48 AM



Soil Builders' Spotlight



Wendy Johnson

Member Wendy Johnson is experimenting with Kernza because she believes in the power of perennials. And livestock are helping make this cutting-edge crop a little less of a gamble.

Check out LSP's recent [Ear to the Ground podcast with Wendy: "Dynamic De-Riskers"](#)

Check out our other Kernza related podcasts:

["Disrupting the Food Chain" \(episode 367\)](#)

["Perennial Pivot" \(episode 365\)](#)

["Kernza's Continuous Cover" \(episode 229\)](#)

Upcoming Events

MN Book Award Series

An Afternoon with Sonja Trom Eayrs, author of *Dodge County Inc.*



Join the East Side Freedom Library and the Land Stewardship Project in welcoming Minnesota Book Award finalist Sonja Trom Eayrs. She will discuss her book [Dodge County Inc.: Big Ag and the Undoing of Rural America](#).

Saturday, April 26, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. CT

East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St., Saint Paul, MN 55106

This event is free; for details and to register, [click here](#).

Upcoming NRCS Local Group Working Meetings

Goodhue County: 6/23 at 4 p.m.

Olmsted County: 5/22 at 10:15 a.m.

Winona County: 6/12 at 1 p.m.

Fillmore County: 4/17 at 9 a.m.

Full list and details for all Minnesota NRCS Working Group Meetings can be [found here](#).

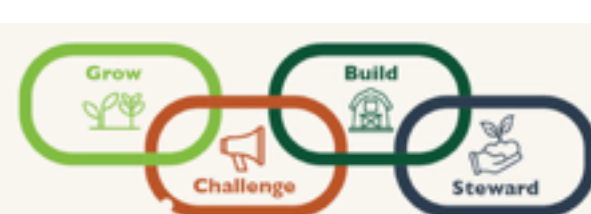


LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Montevideo
111 North First Street
Montevideo, MN 56265

Lewiston
180 E. Main Street
Lewiston, MN 55952

Minneapolis
821 E. 35th Street #200
Minneapolis, MN 55407



LSP LONG RANGE PLAN 2025-2030

ROOTS OF RESILIENCE

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Land Stewardship Project
821 E. 35th Street #200
Minneapolis, MN 55407
United States