



Same day, side-by-side comparison photos taken this month from southeastern Minnesota crop fields.

Soil Builders' Network Newsletter



December 2023

Winter, A Time for Regeneration

This year, December 21 marks the Winter Solstice, the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year. The word *solstice* comes from the Latin words *sol* (sun) and *sistere* (to stand still) — roughly translated as the day that the sun stands still. Sounds like an important cue for us...

As we move into winter, our soil health team is looking back at the year to reflect, evaluate, celebrate, and prepare. Some of the questions we are asking of ourselves and farmers in our network are:

- What brought you joy this year?
- Where did you spend much of your time and energy this past year?
- What were the lessons you learned?
- What were the challenges and successes you encountered?
- What are you carrying forward and letting go of, and what opportunities are you looking forward to in the new year?

Regenerating our *soils* goes hand-in-hand with regenerating ourselves.

We hope you take time to find stillness and nourishment before moving into the new year!



Winter grazing scenes



Read, Listen, Watch:

- 1) Article (Successful Farming): [Soil Health Practices Boost Profits for Farmers](#)
- 2) Article (No-Till on the Plains): [Cover Crop Economics](#)
- 3) Article (Understanding Ag): [The Carbon Chronicles — Part 1 \(of 3\): The Crop-Carbon Connection](#)
- 4) Podcast (Ear to the Ground): [Episode 326: Rooting out Nitrates](#). The Olmsted County Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Program could serve as a holistic model for supporting practices that are good for the farmer, the land, and water quality.
- 5) Webinars (Understanding Ag): [Upcoming topics include how to determine carrying capacity on your ranch & impacting soil during winter with bale grazing](#)
- 6) [2023 Holiday Regenerative Gift Guide](#) (Greener Pastures)

Soil Builder Spotlight:

Matt and Seth Tentis of White Barn Acres are creating a soil-smart farm using a mix of livestock, continuous living cover, and experimentation — with a healthy dose of community support tossed in for good measure. Check out LSP's recent [Ear to the Ground podcast with Matt Tentis](#).



Upcoming LSP Events

(see LSP's web page for more events & updates)

January 16, 12 pm - 2:30 pm, IN-PERSON Training: Introduction to Climate Resiliency for Farmers, St. Cloud, MN

Feb. 1 - March 7, LSP Farm Transition Course, ONLINE — 6 sessions, \$50/household

SAVE THE DATE! March 7, LSP Family Farm Breakfast & Lobby Day, Saint Paul

Partner Events

January 13, 10 am - 4 pm, Fillmore County FREE Well Screening Clinic at Fillmore Central Elementary School

January 19-20, Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference in Des Moines, IA

December 15, 1 pm - 2 pm, Virtual Field Day: A Vision for Iowa — Growing Food for People through Diversified Ag Systems (online, free)

February 6, Farmer-to-Farmer Conference, Dubuque County Watersheds, NICC Peosta, Iowa

February 21, 8:30 am - 2:45 pm, "Soil Health for Your Farm's Wealth" Workshop with Jimmy Emmons, Michael Bredeson, Mitch Hora, Calmar, IA, hosted by NICC, NRCS & Fayette/Winneshiek/Clayton/Allamakee SWCDs

March 7, 9:30 am - 3 pm, "Soil Health & Planter Set-up" Workshop with Paul Jasa & local farmers, Floyd County Fairgrounds (Iowa), hosted by NRCS & Howard/Mitchell/Floyd/Chickasaw SWCDs

Check out LSP's latest [Ear to the Ground Ear Dirt](#) podcasts here!



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube!

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[LSP Soil Builders' Web Page](#)

[Main LSP Web Page](#)

The Land Stewardship Project's mission is to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture, and to develop healthy communities.

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