



LSP Soil Builders Network Newsletter

June 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.

It's Growing Season!



Farmers from the Decorah, Iowa, area met up for a Soil Health Hub meeting at Heidi Eger's farm on June 2. The group discussed pasture management strategies and gopher control. The meeting wrapped up with shared conversation over a polluck lunch. Find more information on how you can join a Soil Health Hub meeting below.

Happy June,

This growing season we are leaning into our Soil Health Hubs with meetings planned for June, July, and August! These localized groups are a breeding ground for innovative soil health practices and community building. They remind us of why our work is important and bolster our organizing energy.

In addition, we are working hard on a nitrogen reduction campaign with the goal of lowering nitrate levels in southeastern Minnesota's precious drinking water. We are looking forward to getting out in the field and hearing directly from farmers about the nitrogen reduction practices that are serving them in this moment. With a win in the most recent legislative session that will expand the Olmsted County Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Program, we are feeling optimistic for the potential to make meaningful change in nitrogen levels in Minnesota.

May your hay be well dried and your seeds well watered!

Warmly,

Sarah Wescott
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Get Involved

We Need Your Input! "Rethink Nitrogen" Farmer Survey

Crops need nitrogen, and communities need clean water. Farmers need practical tools that accomplish both. Better nitrogen management lowers cost, reduces risk, and keeps more nutrients in the field and out of our drinking water. Farmers are already proving these practices work.

This survey helps us identify farmers interested in shaping outcomes, sharing their experiences, connecting with others, and helping build a stronger farmer-led movement for practical, common-sense solutions.



[Take the Survey](#)

Network News



Legislators Approve \$2.8 million for Olmsted County Soil Health Program Expansion to 10 New Counties

The innovative [Olmsted County Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Program](#) has shown great promise for reducing fertilizer runoff by rewarding farmers for putting in cover crops, diversifying rotations, and utilizing regenerative grazing systems.

[Read the Article](#)

LSP White Paper Highlights Consolidation's Negative Impacts

As state regulators consider an unprecedented proposal for creating the largest livestock operation in Minnesota, it's clear a convergence of rapid consolidation, economic distress, and large-scale expansion raises urgent questions about whether existing policies are adequately protecting fair competition, rural communities and public resources, argues the white paper.



[Read the White Paper](#)



Applications Open for Farm Beginnings Course

The 12-month training helps beginning farmers clarify their goals and strengths, establish a strong enterprise plan, and start building their operation. It combines farmer-led classroom sessions, on-farm tours, and an extensive farmer network. The early-bird discount deadline is Aug. 1; the final deadline for application is Sept. 1.

[Apply Online](#)

Soil Health Resources

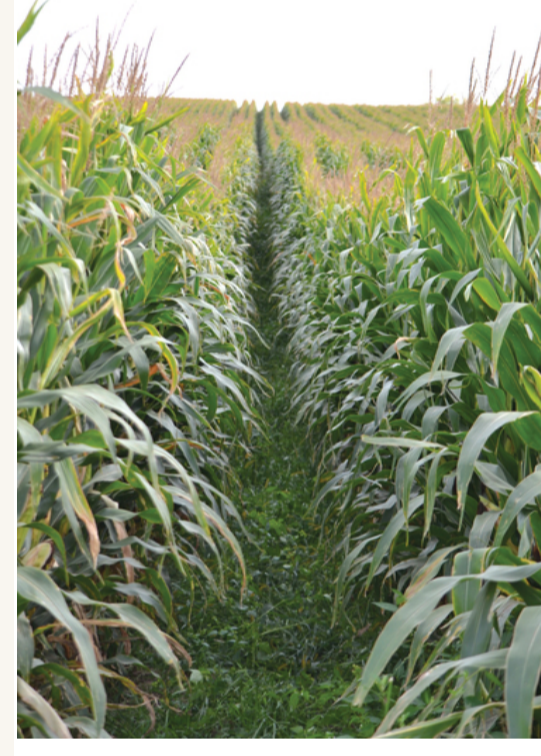


LSP's Soil Health Hubs

Interested in expanding soil health practices on your farm? Want a community of like-minded farmers who are doing things differently? Join a Soil Health Hub!

LSP's Soil Health Hubs offer localized, farmer-to-farmer knowledge-sharing opportunities through regular on-farm meetings and discussion of timely topics to meet the moment. Our hubs are currently in Austin, Plainview, and Houston, Minn., and Decorah, Iowa.

[Join a Soil Health Hub](#)



MDA Continuous Living Cover Crops Grant

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for grants to support the development of enterprises, supply chains, and markets for continuous living cover (CLC) crops and cropping systems in the early stages of commercial development. Awards will range from \$50,000 to \$100,000. This program aims to accelerate the development of CLC value chains by supporting equipment, infrastructure, business development, and market development activities. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on July 8.

[Apply for Funding](#)

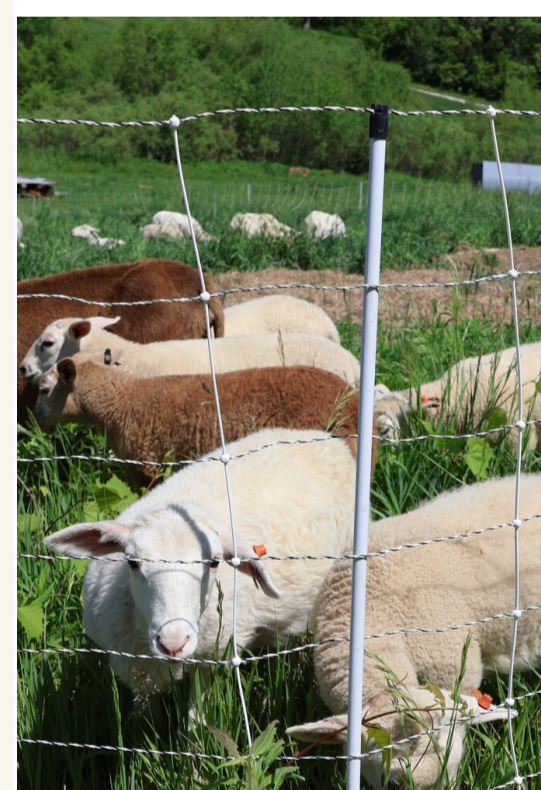


PFI's Cost-Share for Extended Rotations

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](#)



MDA's Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices Incentive Payments

MDA is accepting applications for Climate Friendly Agricultural Practices (CFAP) incentive payments. CFAP provides flat rate payments up to \$10,000 for farmers to implement a selection of sustainable ag practices with known, quantifiable greenhouse gas emission reductions. Approved practices include: conservation cover, pasture and hay planting, conservation hay planting, and tree and shrub establishment. A total of \$1.2 million is allocated for FY26. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

[Apply for Funding](#)

Soil Builder Spotlight

Josh Bryceson and Rama Hoffpauir "Cosmic Wheel Creamery"

A decade ago, veggie and livestock farmers Josh Bryceson and Rama Hoffpauir realized sweat equity would only take them so far in their ag journey, so they looked up from the grindstone long enough to take in the big picture.

[Hear Their Story](#)



Upcoming Events

LSP Events

June 16: LSP Plainview Soil Health Hub Meeting, members only

June 18: LSP Houston Soil Health Hub Meeting, members only

Partner Events

June 13: University of Minnesota's [Mechanical Weed Control Field Day](#), Felton, Minn.

June 16: PFI's [Diversifying a Row Crop Farm Tour](#), Oakland, Minn.

June 17, 22, 25, 26 & July 7: University of Minnesota's [Small Grain Disease Management Clinic and Plot Tours](#), LeCenter, Fergus Falls, Oklee, Humboldt, and Strathcona, Minn.

June 30: University of Minnesota's [Rochester Crop Management Tour](#), Rochester, Minn.

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

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

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LSP LONG RANGE PLAN 2025-2030

ROOTS OF RESILIENCE

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