

Subject: October 2024 Soil Builders' Newsletter

Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 9:20:08 AM Central Daylight Time

From: Alex Romano & Shea-Lynn Ramthun

To: Brian DeVore



October 2024

The Soil Builders' Network is a farmer-to-farmer network using soil-building practices such as no-till, cover crops, diversified rotations and well managed grazing to improve water infiltration, reduce reliance on inputs and regenerate their soil health.

Take Our Soil Health Survey Today!



LSP staff, in partnership with Dr. Mae Davenport and Dr. Amit Pradhananga from the University of Minnesota, are asking farmers in our Soil Builders' Network to help in a study we are conducting to better understand your experiences with soil health adoption and LSP's Soil Health Program. Findings from this study will be used to support programming to strengthen farmer networks and increase community impacts. This survey is a follow-up from a 2022 survey and continues our effort to gather feedback regularly from farmers.

By now, you should have received an email with a survey link with reminder emails on the way. Filling out the survey online should take about 10 minutes and will help us keep postage costs down. This survey is voluntary and completely confidential.

Please feel free to contact Amit at the U of M by phone at 612-624-6726, or by email at prad0047@umn.edu if you have any questions. We really appreciate you taking the time to help us with this study, and we look forward to receiving your response.

Upcoming Events



MDA Value-Added Grant Webinar (Zoom event)

Are you a farmer or producer looking to create or expand your value-added products? Did you know you may qualify for funding? Join the Land Stewardship Project and Minnesota Department of Agriculture on **Friday, Oct. 11**, as we discuss the ins and outs of the AGRI Value-Added Grant and other upcoming funding opportunities for farmers and producers. [Click here to register](#). Upon registering, you will receive a zoom link via email to join.

Network News

Meet Our Soil Health Steering Committee Members!



Dayna Burtress

Nettle Valley Farm is our 90 acre farm outside Spring Grove, MN. My husband Nick and I focused on pasture finishing up to 85 hogs a year for the past 9 years and are now exploring a pivot to lower off-farm input enterprises including a herd of [...more](#).



Josh Nelson

I'm from Wright County, Iowa, over in the north-central portion of the state. My wife Kate and I run Cardinal Creek Farm, a diversified farm raising corn, soy, cereal rye, oats and other assorted small grains, along with a commercial hog operation. I'm focused on [...more](#)



Stacie Madson

I live by Hartland, Minnesota, which is about 15 minutes north of Albert Lea with my husband Casey and our three children. We raise organic corn, soybeans, oats, peas and conventional corn and soybeans. We tine harrow [...more](#).



John Snyder

I run a diversified farm with my wife, Bernie, and son, Ben, near Preston, Minnesota. We raise cattle, hogs, goats, turkeys, chickens, and eggs. Our hogs are raised in deep-bedded straw, with no GMOs, antibiotics, or growth hormones. The goats are [...more](#).

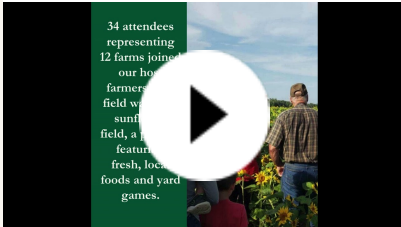
We will introduce the second half of our Soil Health Committee members in the next issue of Soil Builders Network News!



Soil Builder Spotlight: Beard Family

Since taking over their family's livestock operation, Parker and Sam Beard have added a few new twists. But one thing will never change: **those hills will remain in grass.**

Check out LSP's recent [Ear to the Ground podcast with the Beard Family: "Family, Farming, & Forages"](#)



Austin-area Farmer Networking Event Wrap

Click on the video to catch the highlight reel from our Aug. 22 Austin-area Farmer Networking Event, hosted by Austin Soil Hub members, Scott & Dawn Lightly!



Roller-crimped soybeans near Plainview, Minn. Photo taken Oct. 4th

Roller Crimping Results

For more information on using cover crop roller crimping in soybeans, [check out our podcast conversation](#) about how the roller crimper system can help extend the benefits of a cover crop.



LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Montevideo

111 South First Street
Montevideo, MN 56265

Lewiston

180 E. Main Street
Lewiston, MN 55952

Minneapolis

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

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive e-mails from us, please [unsubscribe](#)

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