



Photo from Grazing Group Kick-Off in Decorah, Iowa.

Soil Builders' Network Newsletter

December 2021



Happy Holidays from LSP!

Hope that everyone had a great harvest season and are looking forward to the winter holidays!

At LSP's Soil Health team, we've had a wonderful fall getting out in the field and having one-to-one conversations with farmers interested in soil health. We also had great kick-offs for our two Grazing Groups — one in Decorah, Iowa, and the other in Goodhue County, Minn.

At the Grazing Group Kick-Off at the Beard Family Farm in Decorah (pictured above) the group gathered around to see, feel, and smell the rich organic matter in the soil that the hosts had curated over the years. It's always the highlight of any event to be able to get down into the soil!

If you'd like to get involved in these peer-to-peer learning groups, reach out to aromano@landstewardshipproject.org or bairret@landstewardshipproject.org.

Soil Health Resources:

[Grant Money for Farmers: How to Maximize Funding](#)

Learn about grant programs available to farms and how to identify products and projects within your business that may be eligible for funding. We'll also cover common application requirements, deadlines, and best practices. Link to webinar [here](#).

[Why Buy Grass-Fed Meat and Dairy](#)

This infographic can be helpful to share with consumers when direct-marketing or providing some general background. It breaks down how grazing works and what health and environmental benefits there are.

[More Farmers are Grazing Animals in the Winter](#)

Read how graziers are making more profit and purchasing less hay by extending their grazing season into November, December, and even January.

[Cover Crops are About Stewardship](#)

Farmer Dean Jackson discusses how his operation got started using cover crops. He drills seed into the ground and then plants green the next spring. Check out the podcast for more details.

[No-Till Newbie Reduces Erosion, Saves Trips Across the Field](#)

Dale Stevermer of Easton, Minn., discusses his transition to no-till and using cover crops. Stevermer also built a custom interseeder and fertilizes with hog manure.

[Farmers Can Benefit from Grazing on Row Crop Land](#)

Check out this playlist of videos describing the soil health and economic benefits of having cattle grazing on row crop land.

Farmer Spotlight: John Snyder

John and Bernadette Snyder have been farming near Preston, Minn., for almost 50 years. They raise row crops and hay, as well as goats and hogs. Over time, John got concerned about some things he was observing on the farm. His animals were ornery and suffering with puffy joints — the vet recommended removing GMO and Roundup from his feed. The animals got happier and healthier and it inspired John to transition the farm to organic.

Since then, John and his son, Ben, have tried techniques like cover cropping, reducing chemical inputs, electric weed zapping, interseeding and more. All of this is working for the Snyders as evidenced by their "wonder field" with 11-foot organic corn. "What's underneath your feet is what's making the health of those plants," says John.

Read more about the Snyders' journey here: [The Wonder of Farming With Nature](#)



To Contact our Soil Health Team, E-mail Us

Shona Snater
Department Director:
ssnater@landstewardshipproject.org
507-458-0319

Maura Curry
Soil Health Organizer, Field Crops:
mcurry@landstewardshipproject.org
651-249-6308

Bairret Lenzen-Eiter
Soil Health Organizer, Grazing:
bairret@landstewardshipproject.org

Barb Sogn-Frank
Soil Health Organizer, Field Crops:
bsognfrank@landstewardshipproject.org
507-479-9119

Alex Romano
Soil Health Organizer, Grazing:
aromano@landstewardshipproject.org
641-220-6000

Robin Moore
Non-operating Landowner Lead:
rmoore@landstewardshipproject.org
or call the Lewiston office at 507-523-3366

[LSP Soil Builders Web Page](#)

[Main LSP Web Page](#)

Song Suggestion by LSP:

Paradise by John Prine



Let us know what song or podcast you've been listening to lately!

Upcoming LSP Events
([see LSP's web page for more events & updates](#))

Direct Marketing Workshop with Rachelle Meyer, Dec 9, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Interested in figuring your ideal customer? Join us for tips on direct marketing strategies!

Resiliency Forum - Time and People Management, Jan 13, 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Meet Julie Arnold of Shepherd Moon Farm to discuss managing interactions effectively.

LSP CSA Directory Sign Up Deadline Jan 20

Farm in MN or WI? Add your operation to our CSA Directory here.

Resiliency Forum - Irrigation, Jan 27, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Andrew Erhmann of Spring Wind Farm will cover irrigation practices in this webinar.

UPCOMING: Tour with Alejandro Carrillo Feb 1 - Wilmar, Feb 2 - Mazeppa, Feb 3 - Stewartville, Feb 4 - River Falls, WI

UPCOMING: Allen Williams, Feb 24, Decorah, IA

Feb, March Workshops: Composting, Cover Crops, Organic & No-Till, and Grazing Groups!

Other Events
[MN Organic Conference, Jan. 6-7](#)

[Grassworks Grazing Conference Jan 20 - 22, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.](#)

[Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference, Jan 21 - 22, Ames, Iowa](#)

Check out LSP's Latest Videos

LSP has a series of videos about Direct Marketing: check out our [playlist!](#)



Interested in getting in touch with other farmers in your area? Want to ask about soil health practices? Let us know what information you're looking for and our soil health team will try to connect you with another farmer in our network.

Get in Touch with a Farmer



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

Click here to send us your favorite soil health resources or recommend a song for our next newsletter!