



Global Support for the Future of No-Till

Carrie Vollmer-Sanders



Sustainability,
resilience, and
progress is a
systems
approach that
starts with a
mindset.





CREATING A ROBUST
SYSTEM OF SUPPORT
TO ENHANCE

FARMERS
LIVELIHOODS + RESILIENT
ECOSYSTEMS

Field to Market Board of Directors

GROWER

CIVIL SOCIETY

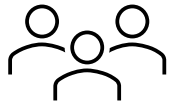
AFFILIATE

AGRIBUSINESS

BRANDS & RETAIL



OUR VALUE



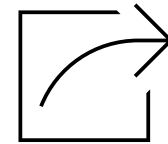
CONVENE

Foster
Collaborative
Action Across
the Ag Value
Chain



CREATE

Develop Tools That
Allow Farmers to
Measure their
Sustainability
Impact



DELIVER

Provide
Programs and
Innovative
Solutions for
Sustainability
Goals

Defining...

Sustainable Agriculture

Meeting the needs of the present while improving the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by:

- Increasing **productivity** to meet future food, feed, fiber and fuel demands
- Improving the **environment**
- Improving **human health**
- Improving the **social and economic well-being** of agricultural communities

Regenerative Agriculture

Using a systems-based perspective, regenerative agriculture sequesters carbon in the soil and intentionally improves soil health, biodiversity, water quality and air quality while ensuring the viability of farm production.

The principles of a regenerative agriculture system are based in Indigenous ways of land management and are adaptive to local physical conditions and culture. These principles include:

- Minimizing **soil disturbance**
- Maintaining **living roots** in soil
- Continuously covering **bare soil**
- Maximizing **diversity** with emphasis on crops, soil microbes and pollinators
- Integrating **livestock** where it is feasible

CO₂

CH₄

N₂O

HFCs

PFCs

SF₆

NF₃

Scope 2
INDIRECT

Scope 1
DIRECT

Scope 3
INDIRECT

Scope 3
INDIRECT



purchased goods and services



capital goods



fuel and energy related activities



transportation and distribution



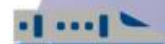
waste generated in operations



business travel



employee commuting



leased assets



leased assets



company facilities



company vehicles



transportation and distribution



processing of sold products



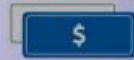
use of sold products



end-of-life treatment of sold products



leased assets



investments



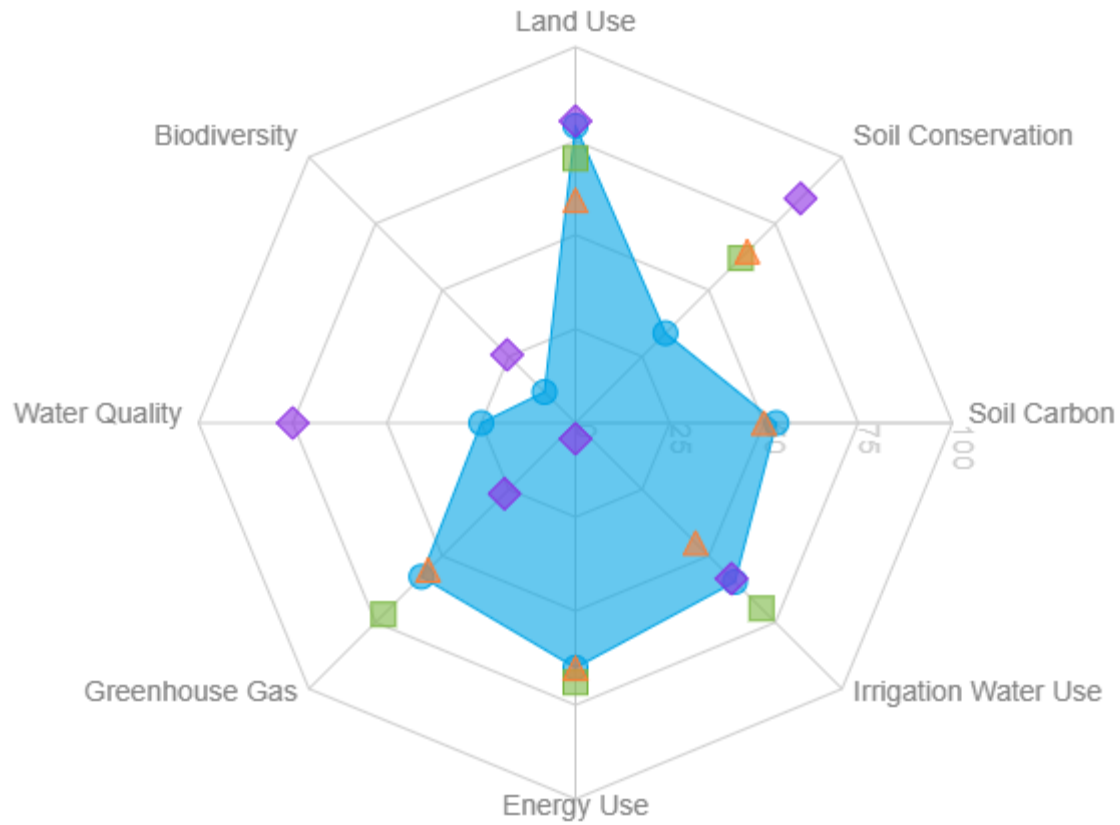
franchises

UPSTREAM ACTIVITIES

REPORTING COMPANY

DOWNSTREAM ACTIVITIES

FIELDPRINT PLATFORM

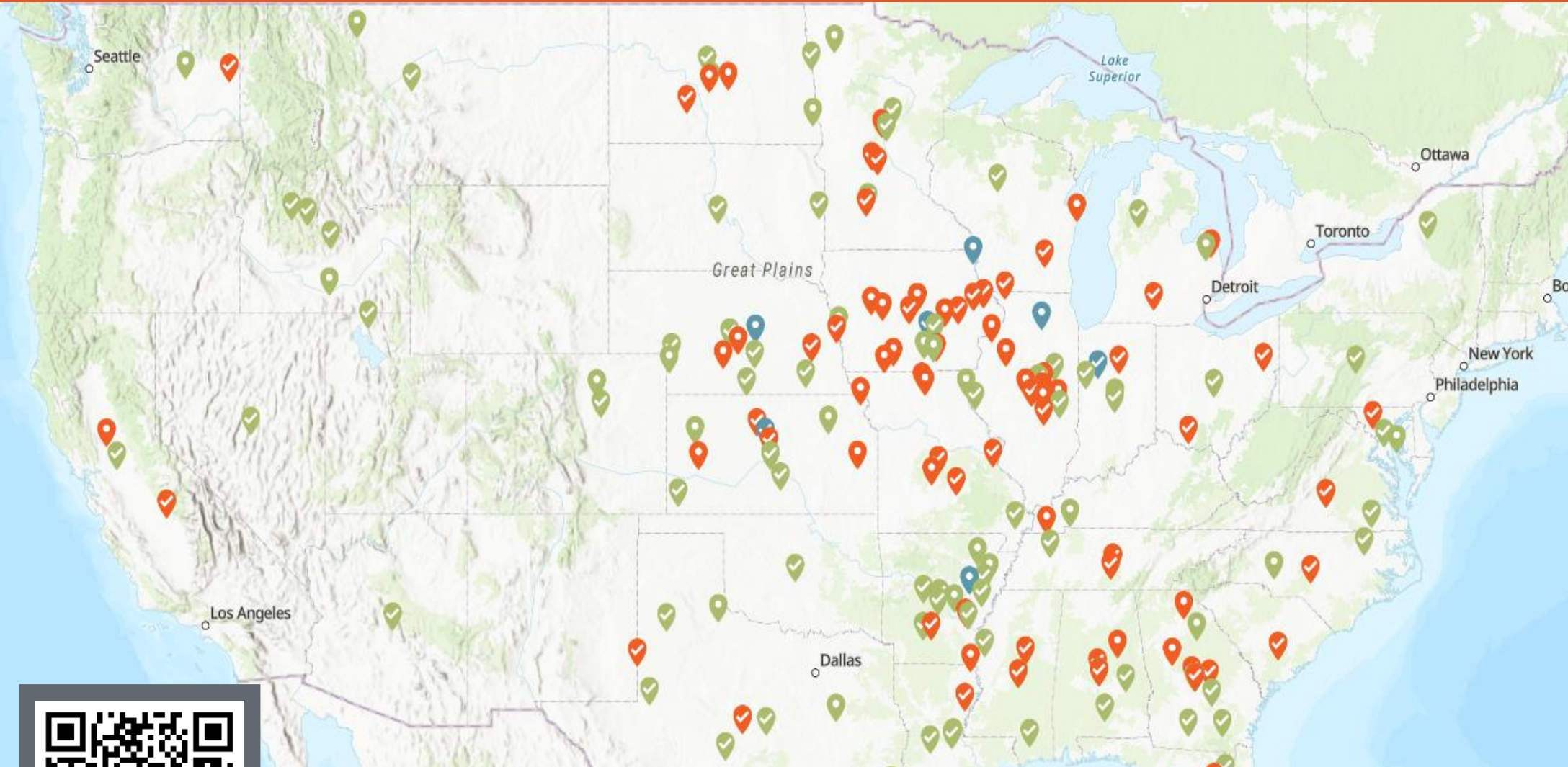


● Your Score ■ State Benchmarks ▲ National Benchmarks ◆ Project Benchmarks

Data Management Partners:



FIELD TO MARKET PROJECT






>10K
farmers

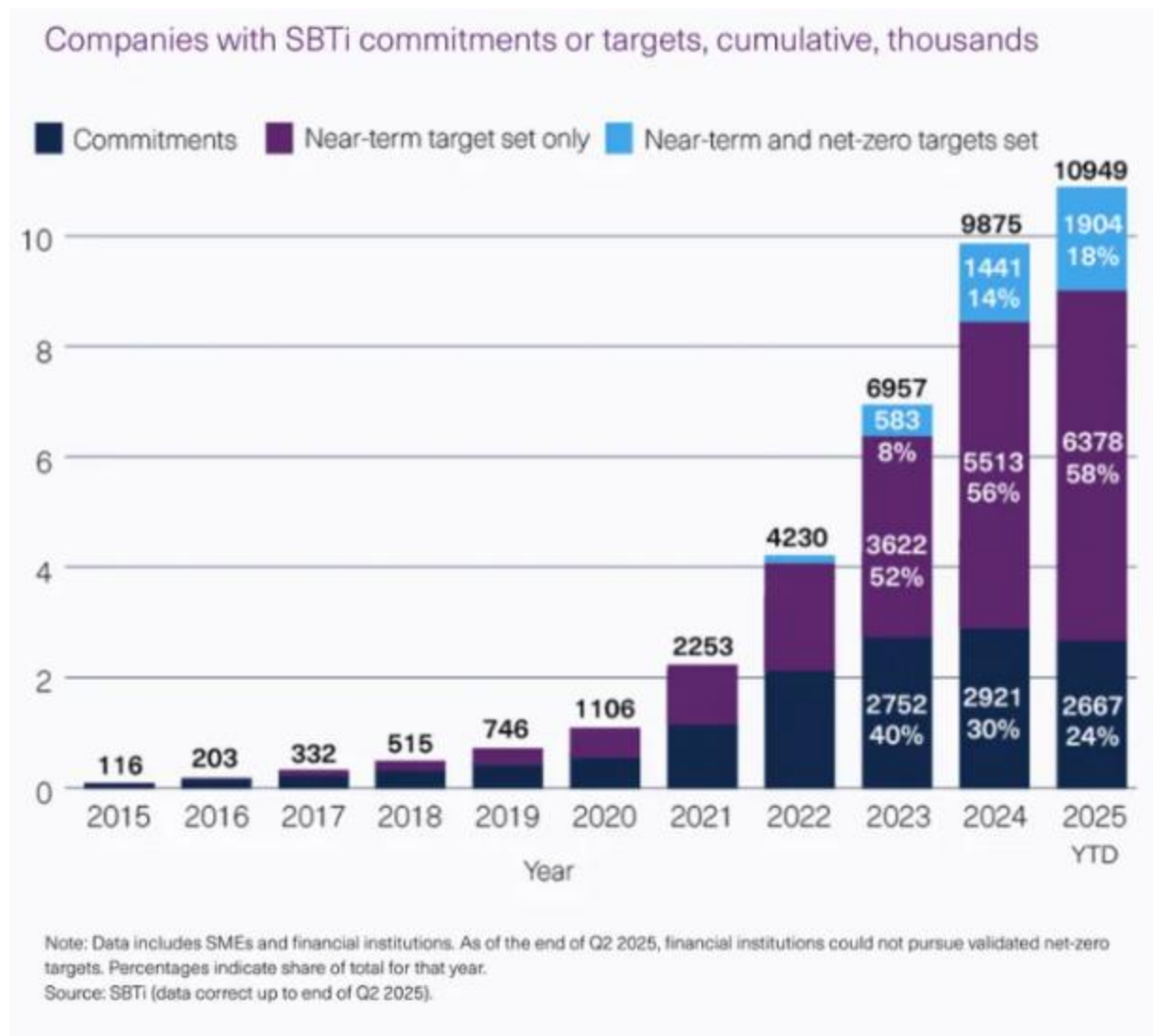
30+
states

> 6
million
acres



-  *Incubation projects focus on education and grower engagement*
-  *Insight projects focus on measurement and benchmarking*
-  *Innovation projects focus on technical and financial assistance*

















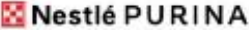























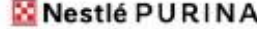
Science Based Targets



2025 Sustainability Commitments Hub

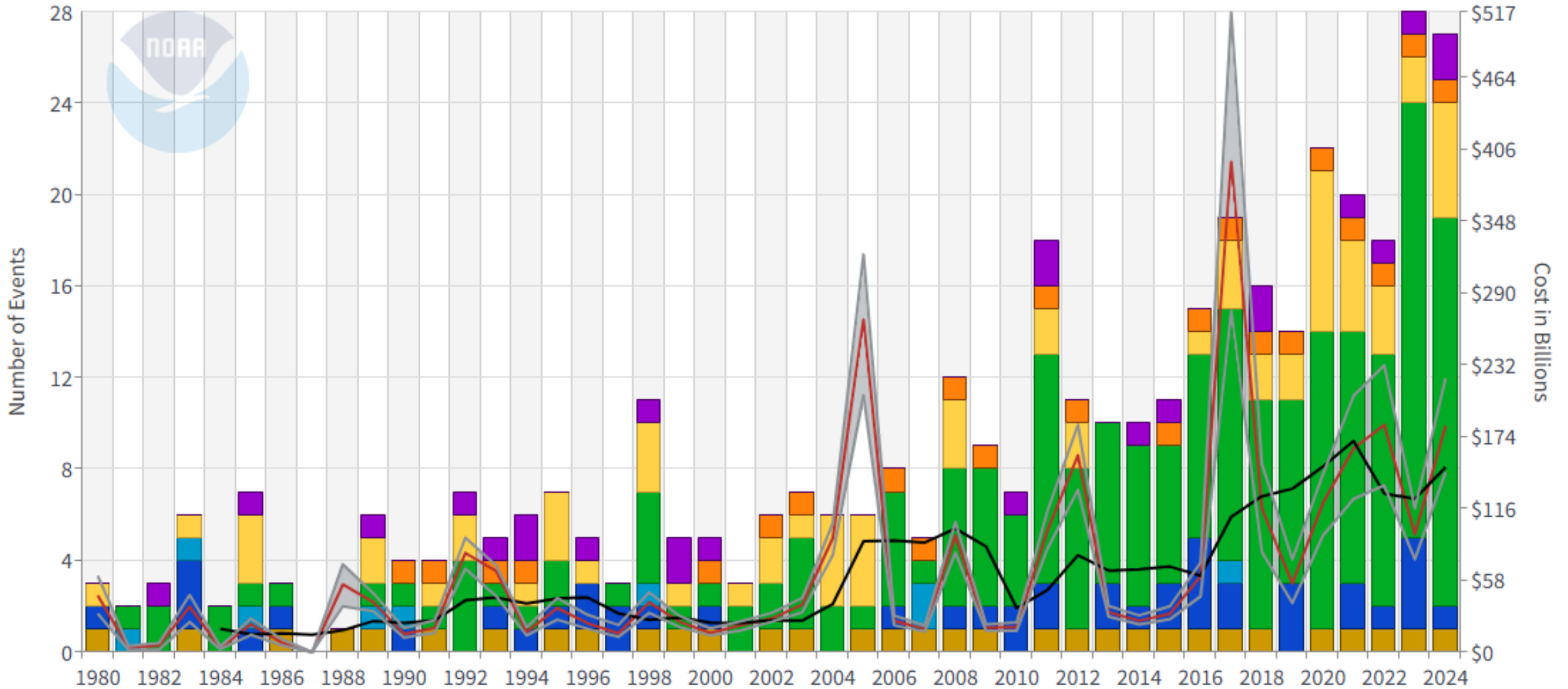
- **63% (118)** of Field to Market's 187 members have public sustainability commitments.
- **4** of the commodity groups engaged in the Alliance have set national, industry-wide targets for emissions reduction from all producers - Corn, Cotton, Soybean, and Dairy.
- **24% (20)** of Field to Market's 82 corporate members have SBTi validated goals.
- **30% (6)** of Field to Market's 20 corporate members with SBTi goals have set net-zero commitments.



Target	2028	2029	2030	2050
Net-Zero 1.5°C				     
Near-Term: 2.0°C				
Near-Term & Long-Term: NA			               	   
FLAG: Scope 3			     	    

United States Billion-Dollar Disaster Events 1980-2024 (CPI-Adjusted)

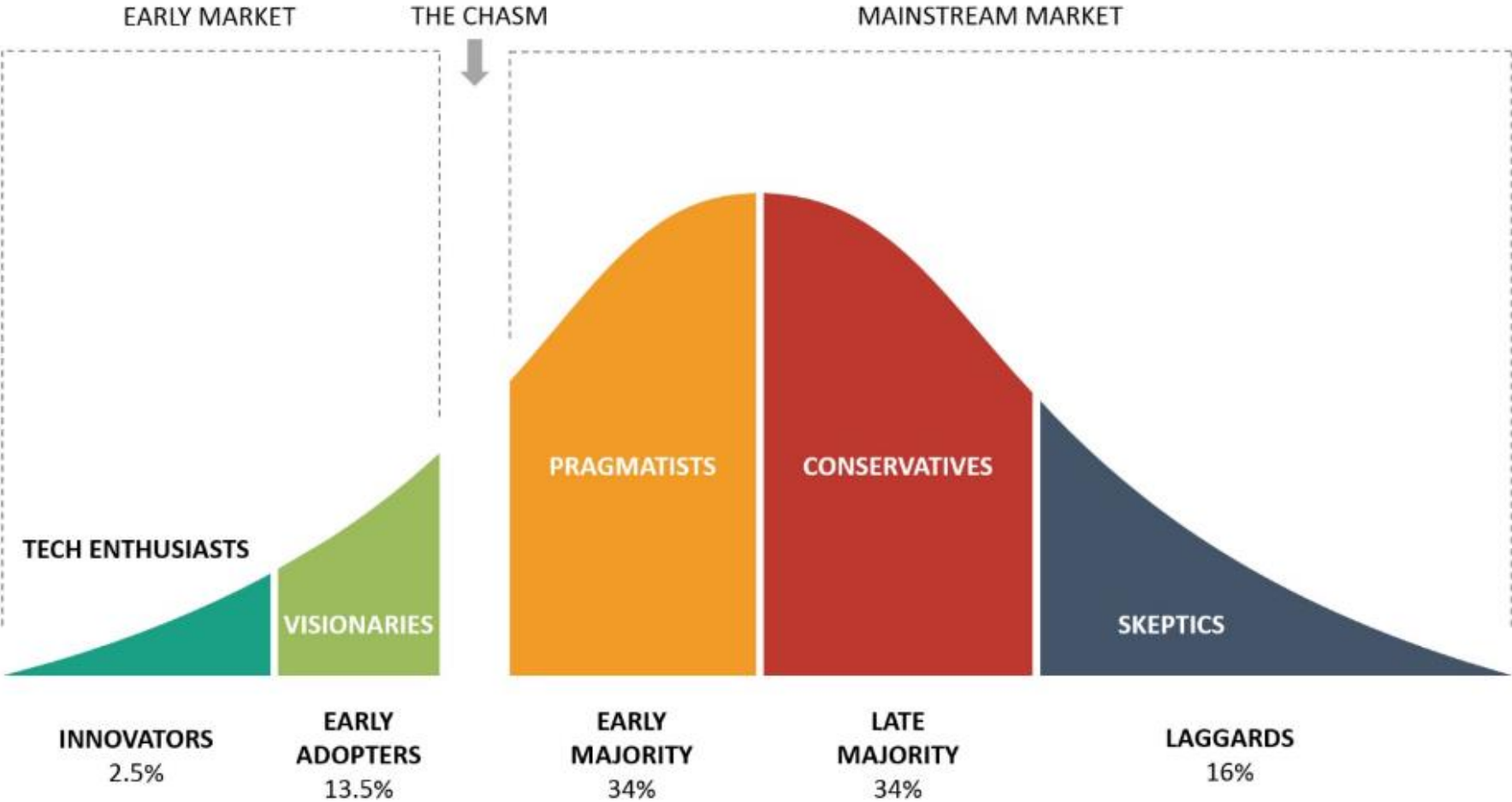
- Drought Count
- Flooding Count
- Freeze Count
- Severe Storm Count
- Tropical Cyclone Count
- Wildfire Count
- Winter Storm Count
- Combined Disaster Cost
- Costs 95% CI
- 5-Year Avg Costs



Updated: January 10, 2025

Powered by ZingChart

Change at Scale



GROWER



CIVIL SOCIETY



AFFILIATE



AGRIBUSINESS



BRANDS & RETAIL



Uniting the ag value chain to define, measure, and advance the sustainability of food, feed, fiber and fuel production in the United States.

**IT WILL TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION TO TACKLE THE
MOST PRESSING CHALLENGES FACING
AGRICULTURE, SOCIETY, AND THE PLANET**

www.fieldtomarket.org

csanders@fieldtomarket.org



Field to Market®

A herd of cows of various colors (white, black, brown, and spotted) is grazing in a lush green field. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is peaceful and rural.

What if?

Learning to Farm by Design™

It started 10 years ago at the NNTC



I learned No-Till is not enough: All 5 Soil Health Principles are needed.

I became frustrated with how to do the right thing at scale.

So I created AgEmerge to bring together the best and brightest minds:

- Farmer leaders
- Leading scientists
- AgTech Entrepreneurs
- Medical Doctors
- And many more



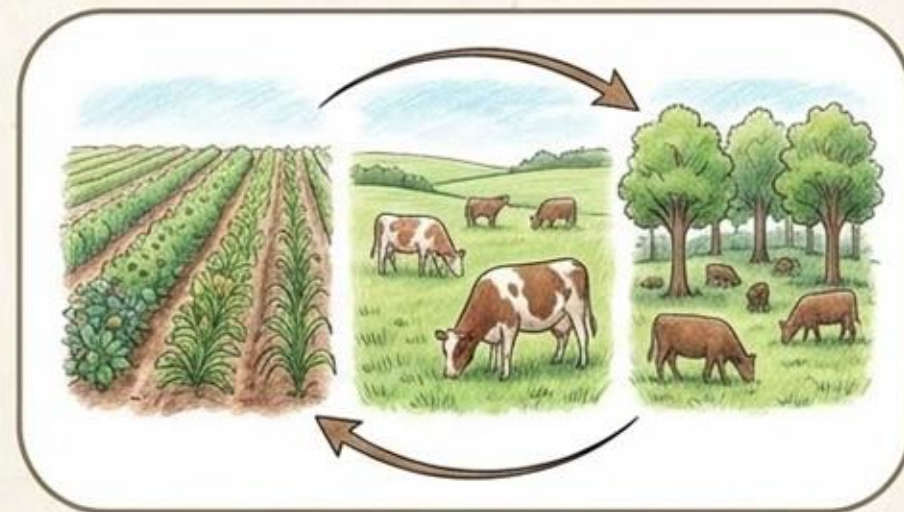
What have I learned?



178 podcasts



**100s of meetings,
events, field days**



**Multiple on farm tests from
relay cropping, livestock
integration to silvopasture**



I am more thoroughly
confused at a higher level!

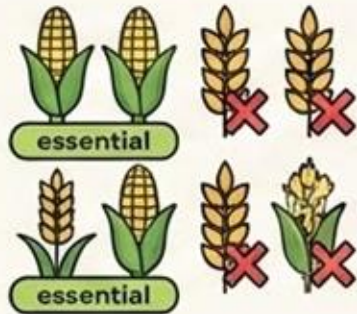


5 things I have come to understand that can help you.



1. Learn by Trying.

"Columbus took a chance".



2. Unnecessary Growth

Many of the things we grow are simply unnecessary.



3. Loss = Pollution

Your LOSS is someone else's pollution.



4. Expect the Unexpected

Be prepared for anything.



5. Consumer Demand Shift

The Consumer wants something totally different than what we are providing.

#1 Columbus took a chance



FEAR - Get over it

What is one new thing you are trying in 2026?

- Need a suggestion? Let's talk during the conference

Try something large enough to learn, and small enough to stay in business.

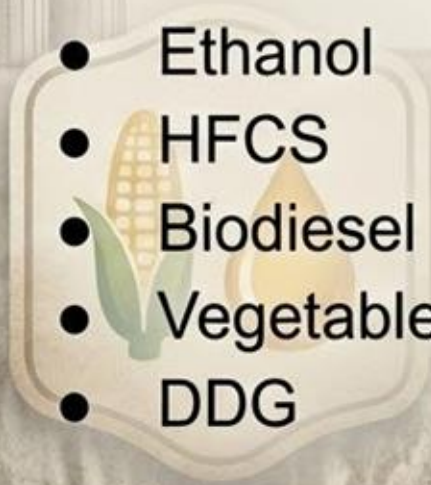
#2 Unnecessary or Unhealthy products

Think about EV's and consumer trends.

What is the fate of products like these?



Ethanol



HFCS



Biodiesel



Vegetable Oil



DDG

Now for some math

Practice & Soil Loss Impact

No-Till and Cover Crop



Soil Lost:
~10 lbs/bushel



20 pounds

No-Till only



Soil Lost:
~22 lbs/bushel



44 pounds

Conventional Tillage



Soil Lost:
~56 lbs/bushel



112 pounds

The Reality of Soil Regeneration



Soil is formed at .5 ton/acre/yr
(5 lbs/bushel of corn)



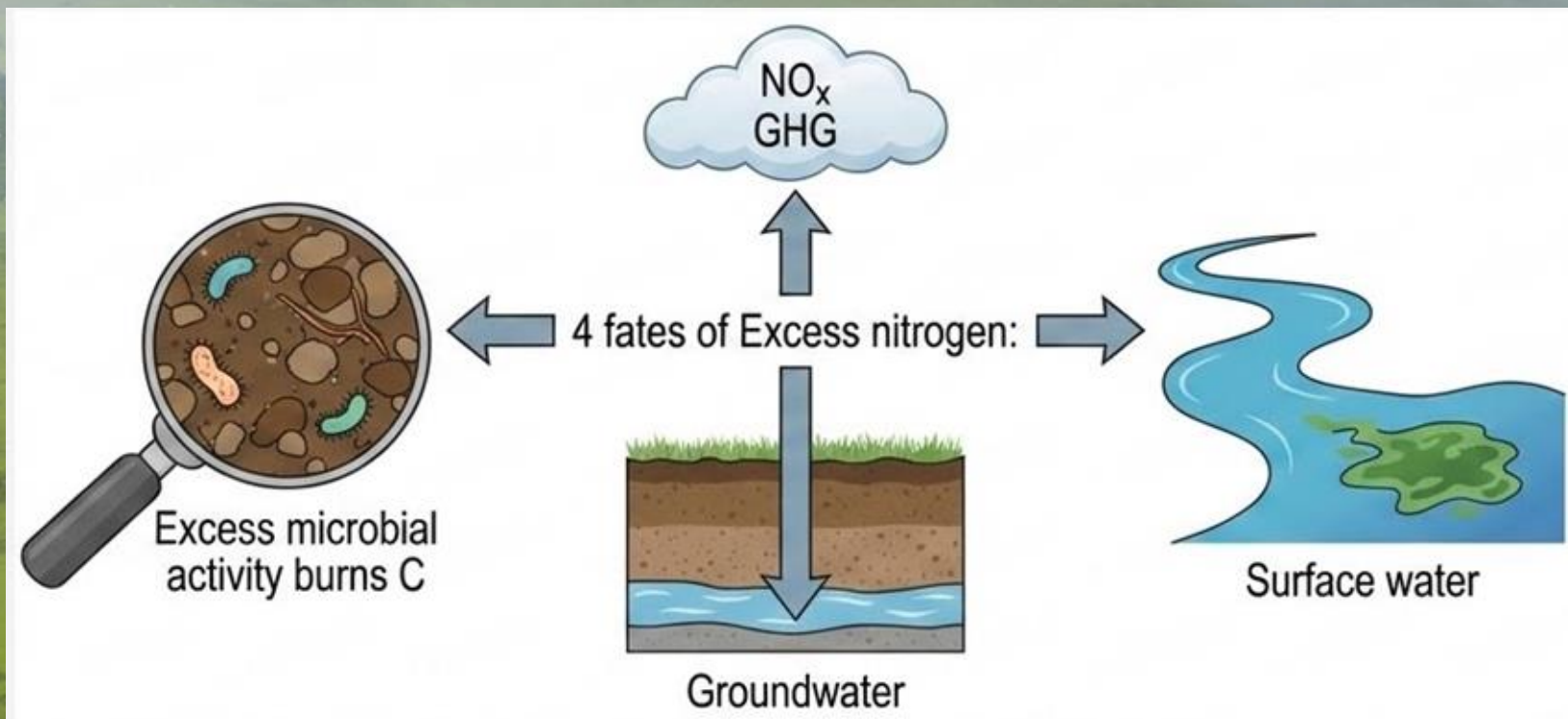
Soil loss in MIG Pastures:
.1 ton/acre/year

#3 Your LOSS is someone else's pollution

How much "extra" do you put on just for safety?

What you do affects everyone else.

Bottom line, don't be a More-On



#4 Expect the Unexpected

Biggest advantage to Cover Crops



Weeds



SDS/SCN mitigation

- ✓ Use Covers
- ✓ Plant Naked Seed
- ✓ **Never farm naked!**



#5 What does a consumer want?

Conventional System



- GMO
- Pesticides
- CAFO
- Conventional

Cheap

Regenerative System



- Non-GMO
- Organic
- Pasture
- Organic

Expensive

Food as Medicine

Soil Health = Plant Health = Animal Health = Human Health = Planet Health



There will be a groundswell of support to redirect funding from the conventional ag production to a regenerative agriculture model.

Never doubt a Mom on a Mission!



We are facing a demand shift

Why would a non-farm taxpayer want to support paying for...



something they don't like or understand



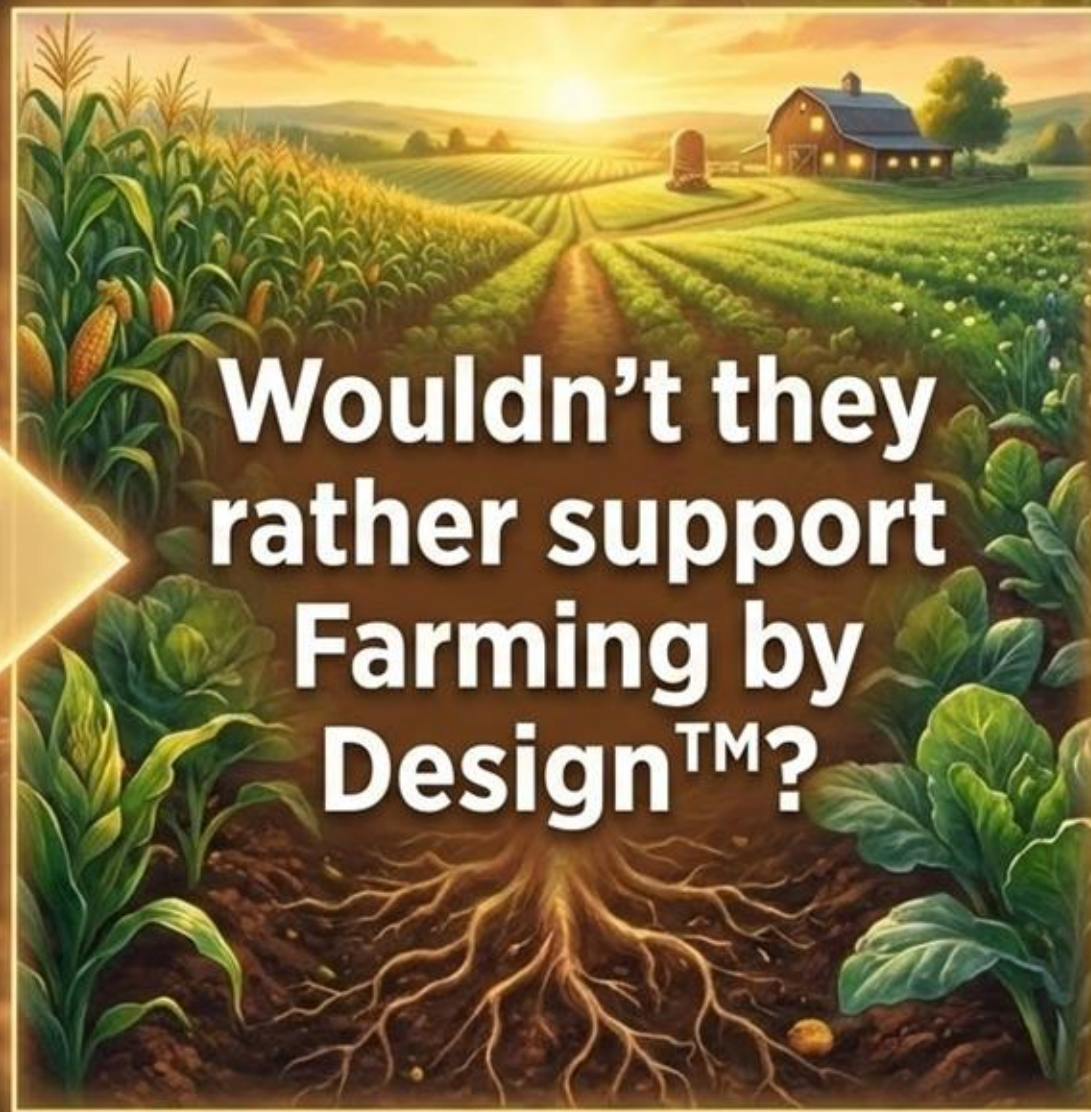
that is unnecessary



unhealthy



causes pollution



Wouldn't they rather support Farming by Design™?

Meet your new food pyramid

Health is winning!

Eat Real Food



What if...



We were not afraid to try new things?



We quit growing crops for unnecessary and unhealthy products?



There was accountability or limitations for our losses/pollution?



Every acre was farmed regeneratively?



What if we grew what the consumer wanted?





What if?

Now it's your turn to ask.



James Hepp

Rockwell City, IA



Farm Info

- 1st Generation Farmer
- 1600 acres -Corn, Beans, Rye and Oats
- No till beans
- ½ no till corn , ½ strip till
- Split apply all nitrogen
- Cover crops on every acre
- NW Missouri State University Grad
- Ag Retail Business owner
- Crop insurance agent



★ Designed by TownMapsUSA.com



Most Important Part of the Operation

Wife – Paige
Oldest son – Karsten 4 years old
Youngest – August 20 months

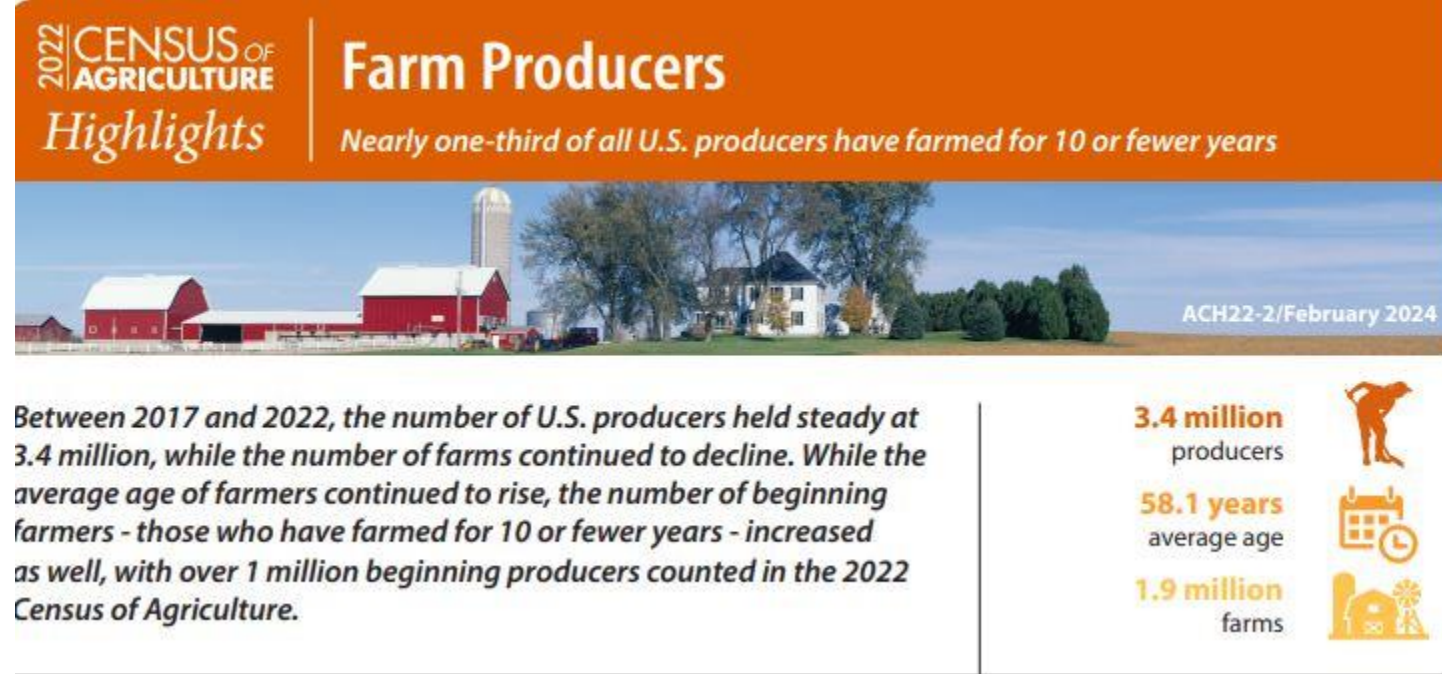


How I got started, How can YOU?!

- High school friend's dad was nearing retirement
- Helped him for a season
- Began crop share
- Purchase home place & buildings
- Purchase equipment on contract



Crisis Mode



- 2022 census showed average age farmer 58 * (I feel this is low)
- Start working on your family farm succession planning! Don't wait !
- 70% of farms intend to pass the farm on to the next generation, but only 20-30% estimated have a plan
- Farms have massive assets, it's a big job getting everything squared away
- DON'T LET THE FAMILY FARM DIE ON YOUR WATCH! START PLANNING NOW! GET IT IN ALL ON PAPER

How to Survive in today's world of Agriculture

“Biggest limiting factor for farms is the 6’ above it”
.....(YOU)

Be willing to change, don’t say,
“that doesn’t work here”

Try to ignore peer pressure





Most Important Tools

- KNOW YOUR NUMBERS!!
WRITE THEM DOWN

- SCRUITANIZE EVERY
OPERATION AND COST (even
the one you think you got to do)

Look up cost for everything you do!

FM 1698

2025 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey

\$0.00

Download

Avg Cost Value (corn stalks to beans)

- Rip -\$25.10 (fall)
- Field Cultivate -\$18.20 (spring)
- Total Value =\$43.30 **
- \$10 fall 26' Beans = Cost you 4.3 Bu for this
- You need to gain more then 4.3 bu for this to make sense! \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Tillage	Average Charge	Median Charge
Chopping cornstalks / acre	\$13.45	\$15.00
Moldboard plowing / acre	18.95	20.00
Chisel plowing / acre	19.65	20.00
Disk/chiseling / acre	21.85	23.00
Vertical tillage / acre	21.85	22.00
Strip tillage / acre	21.65	22.00
- extra charge, dry bulk fertilizer, banded, no materials / acre	4.00	3.65
- extra charge, liquid fertilizer, knifed, no materials / acre	4.35	4.50
- extra charge, anhydrous fertilizer, no materials / acre	5.15	5.00
Subsoiling (8 to 15 inches deep) / acre	24.85	25.00
V-ripping (over 15 inches deep) / acre	24.70	25.50
V-ripping with tandem disk / acre	25.10	25.55
Disking, tandem / acre	18.75	18.50
Disking, heavy or offset / acre	21.40	21.50
Harrowing or dragging / acre	10.55	10.80
Soil finishing / acre	19.35	19.00
Field cultivating / acre	18.20	18.00
Rock picking / acre	14.50	15.00
Cultivating, conventional / acre	15.60	15.00
Cultivating, ridge-till / acre	15.35	15.00
Rotary hoeing / acre	11.95	12.00
Land rolling / acre	8.85	8.00

Systems Approach 2+2=6

- Soil sample every 4 years to keep track of progress
- In season testing \$\$\$ SAP , tissue, Haney etc (know what's under your hood)
- If you have good soil , you can reduce your dry fertility a lot. Poor ROI on dry 10-20% efficiency, reallocate those funds to other forms.
- Take 20-40 acres and try stuff !
- Work with great peer groups, don't do it alone!



Cover Crops



Before & After



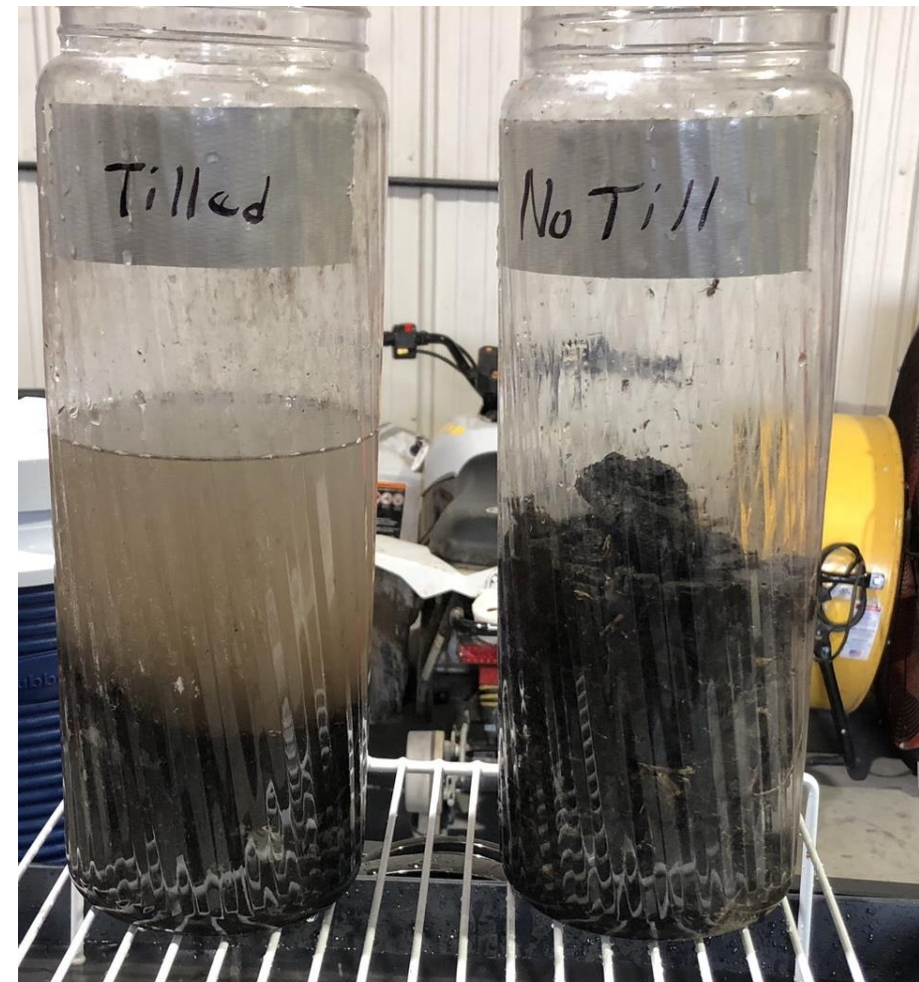
No Till Soybeans



- Weed pressure where the seeder skipped a row

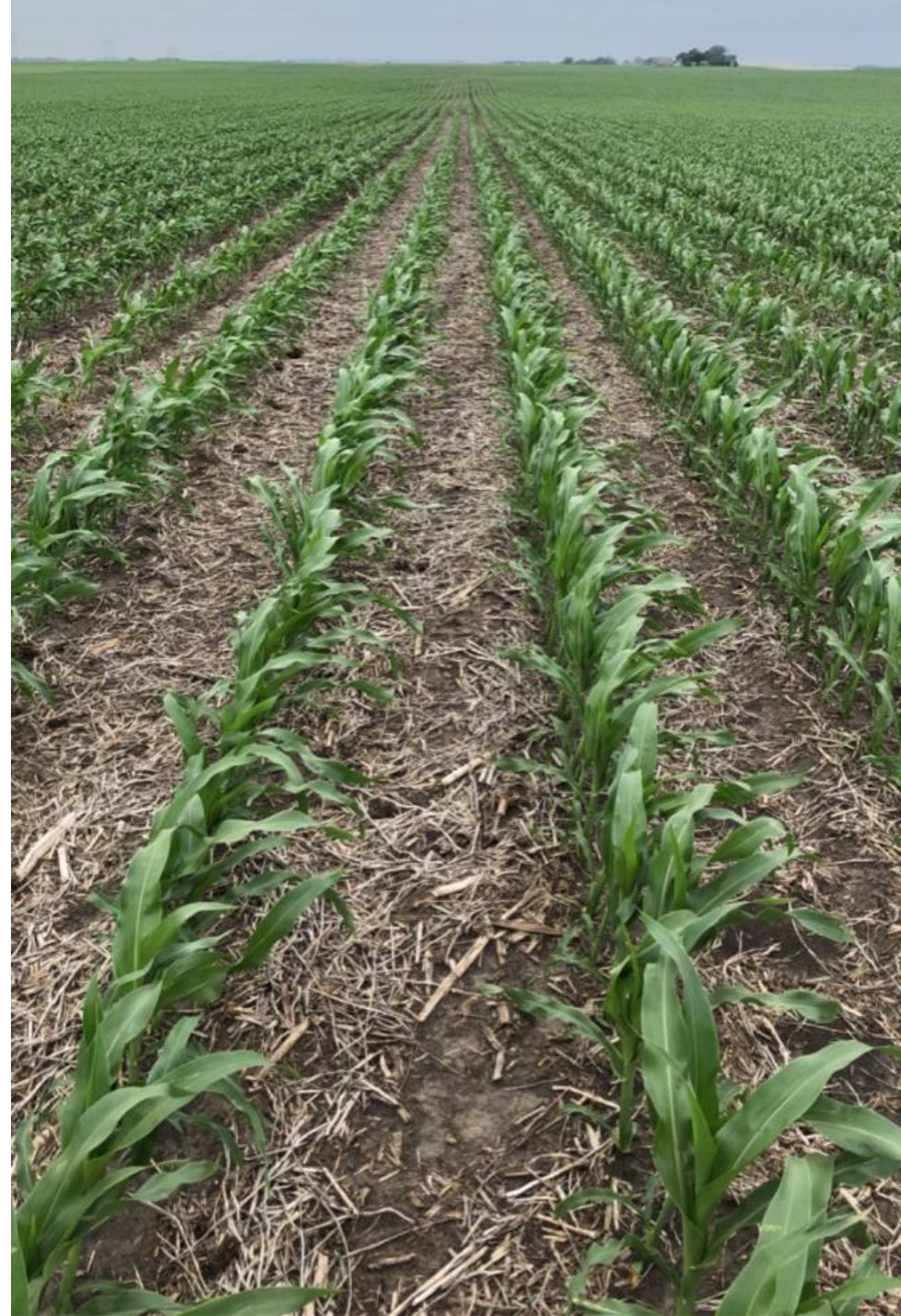


Water Infiltration



STRIP TILL









**Split apply nitrogen
Y drops**

Advise in Closing



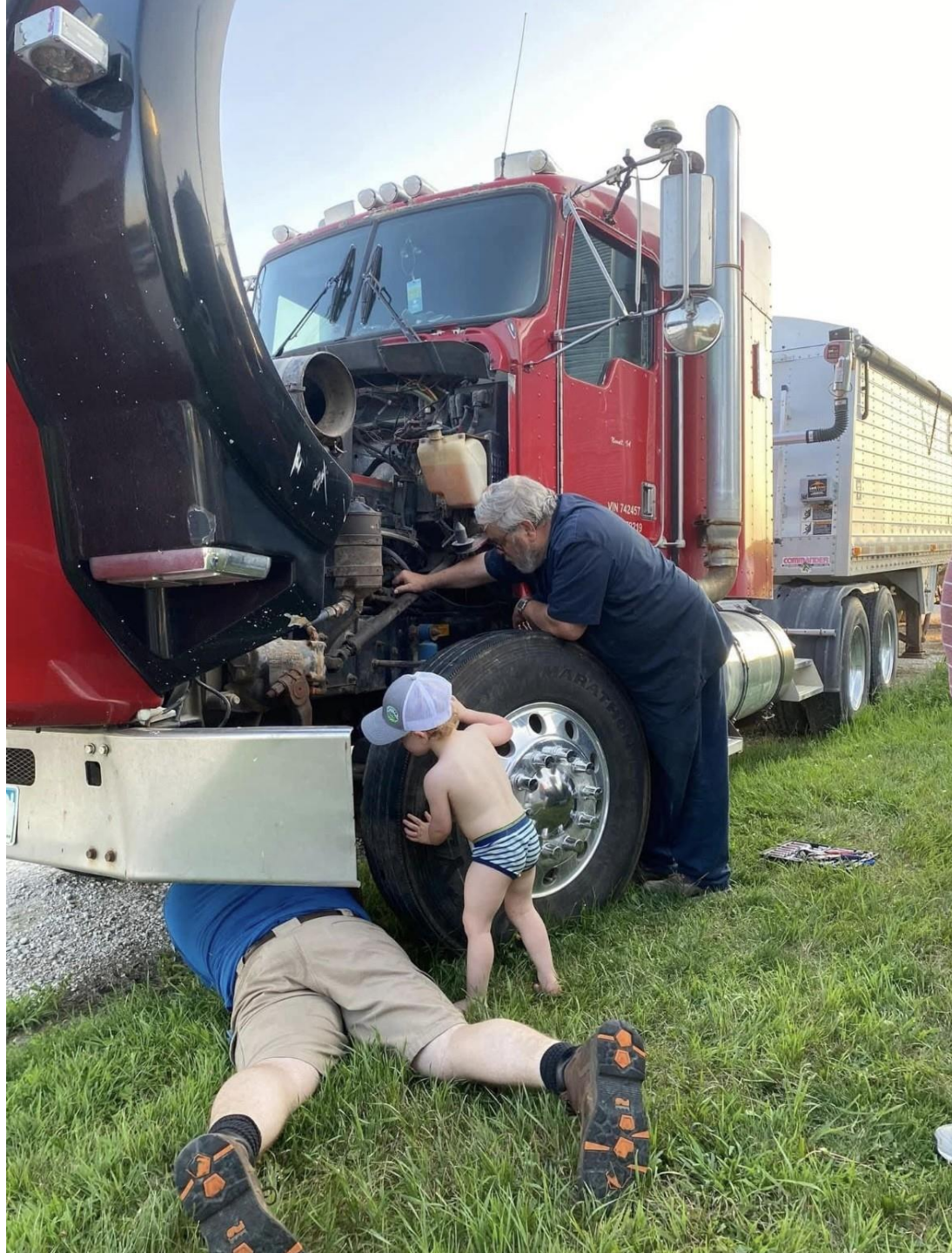
- Look for opportunities, they are everywhere, people need to work on the future operators

- Get the younger generation involved, think outside the box (its ok to seek out a first generation !)

- Build something that's worth them coming back to, get Involved with management, not just as cheap labor

- **Get living! Spend time busy with your family**







"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit." — Greek Proverb

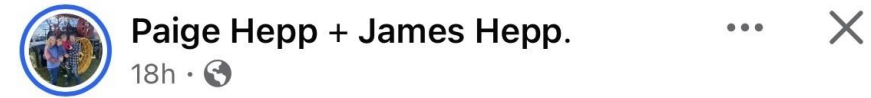
Contact Info

- Please reach out to me on facebook or call/text with questions






COVER CROPS | CROP INSURANCE | AGRONOMY

712.887.0734

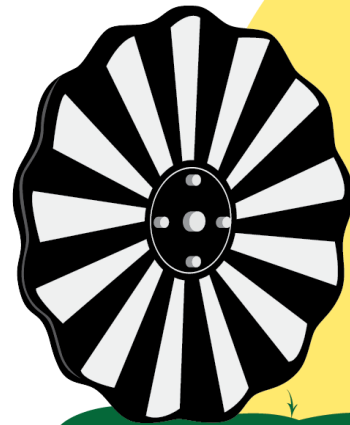


Extra thankful this year...

Adding pink to our blue crew   

Baby GIRL Hepp arriving March 2026! 





34th Annual
**NATIONAL
NO-TILLAGE
CONFERENCE**

January 6-9, 2026 • St. Louis, Mo.

Control Weeds, Not Farming

Elizabeth Burns-Thompson



A Challenging Moment for Farmers



The Crisis

60% ↑

Farm bankruptcies

58% ↓

Commodity prices

52%

Of farms profitable

\$44B

Ag losses in 2025



No-till is a choice—and a commitment...
+
Chemistry and Conservation go hand in hand



Without Key Crop Protection Tools:

40%

Of crops lost
to pests &
disease

85%

Crop
yields loss

2.5x ↑

Input
costs

2.4x ↑

Food
inflation



Conservation Outcomes Farmers Are Already Delivering

Reduced water use

Decreased erosion

Fewer nutrient losses

Better outcomes for the land, today's farmers, and future generations



What's at stake: Protecting progress that's already been made.

The Modern Ag Alliance, alongside our **110+** partners, is working to safeguard farmers' access to critical crop protection tools.



How Crop Protection Tools Are Regulated

Federal law: FIFRA

- Rigorous EPA review
- Science-based approvals
- Label = law

States' Role

- Can regulate use
- Can restrict or ban products
- Cannot override EPA science

The problem? That system is being undermined.



The Problem

The U.S. pesticide labeling process has been upended by discredited science and unclear interpretation of the law, leading to a lack of legislative certainty at the state and federal levels, alongside other regulatory threats.



The Solution: Legislation

State

- Solidify that label = law
- Companies can't be subject to litigation for following federal law

Federal

- Ensure health and safety warning are consistent and federally regulated

Reassert state + federal roles to ensure label uniformity



We're in a momentous time

Farm Relief Package	\$12B in federal relief	<u>But:</u> farmers have lost \$44B+
SG Amicus Brief	Admin support for science-based labeling	<u>But:</u> court outcomes remain uncertain and slow
Regenerative Ag Initiative	\$700M for reduced tillage & cover cropping	<u>But:</u> dependent on availability of crop protection tools



Join us in protecting the progress

- Stay engaged in the conversation
- Publicly voice support for federal and state solutions
- Spread the word!

Learn more!



ControlWeedsNotFarming.com



Thank you!

