

# @FLOLOfarms

Loran & Brenda Steinlage  
2017

**Adaptation not Adoption**



Using covercrops to some, is about as natural

As Two IOWA farmers Driving around....IRELAND  
Driving around, with just DEAD RECKONING



**6 days..... later,we got this mastered**





# **PUTTING CARBON IN SOIL**



# **IS ABOUT LIKE PUTTING GENIE BACK IN**





***Carbon  
Streaks***

***We  
Found***

***From  
2006***

FFWD to 2016

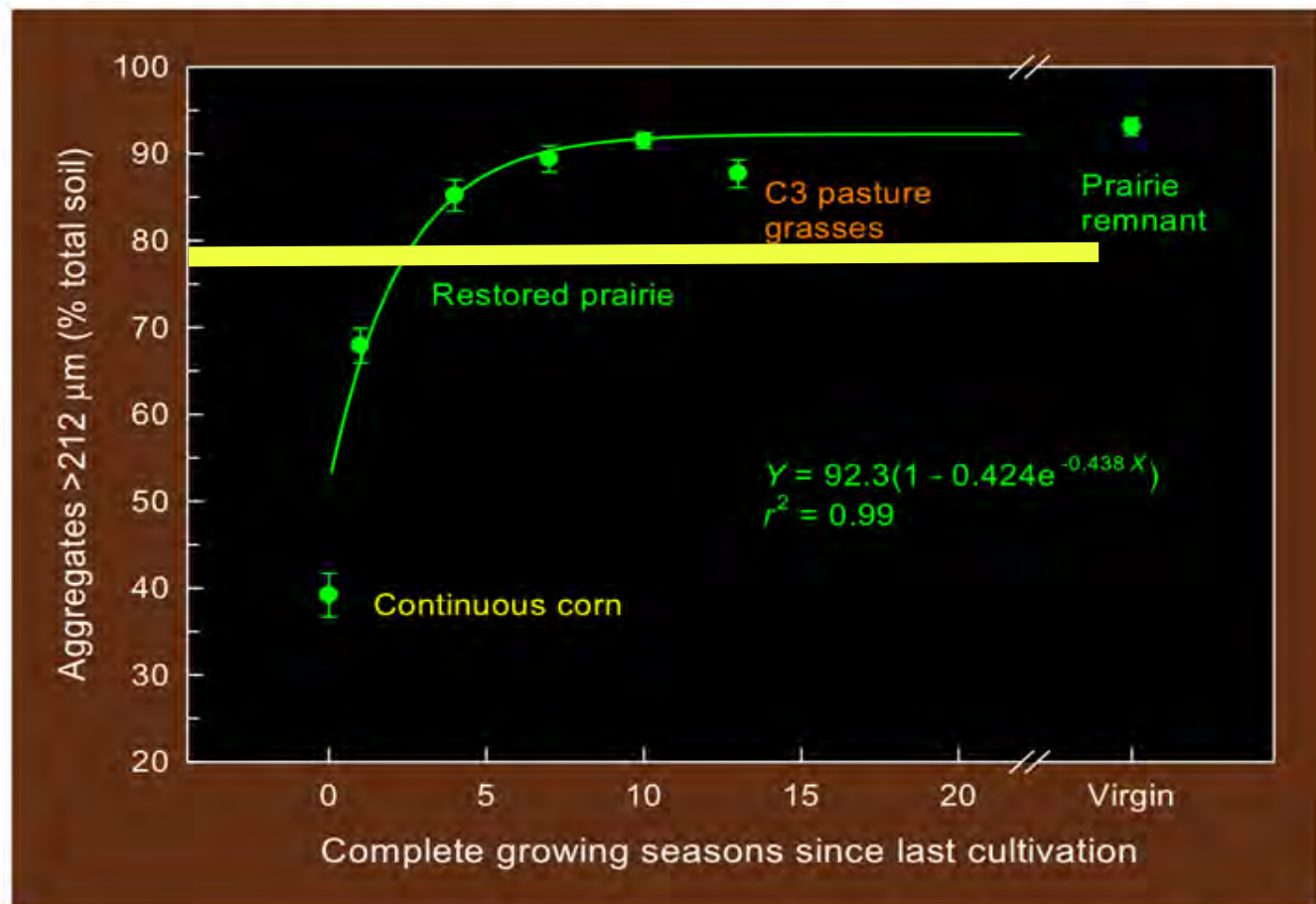






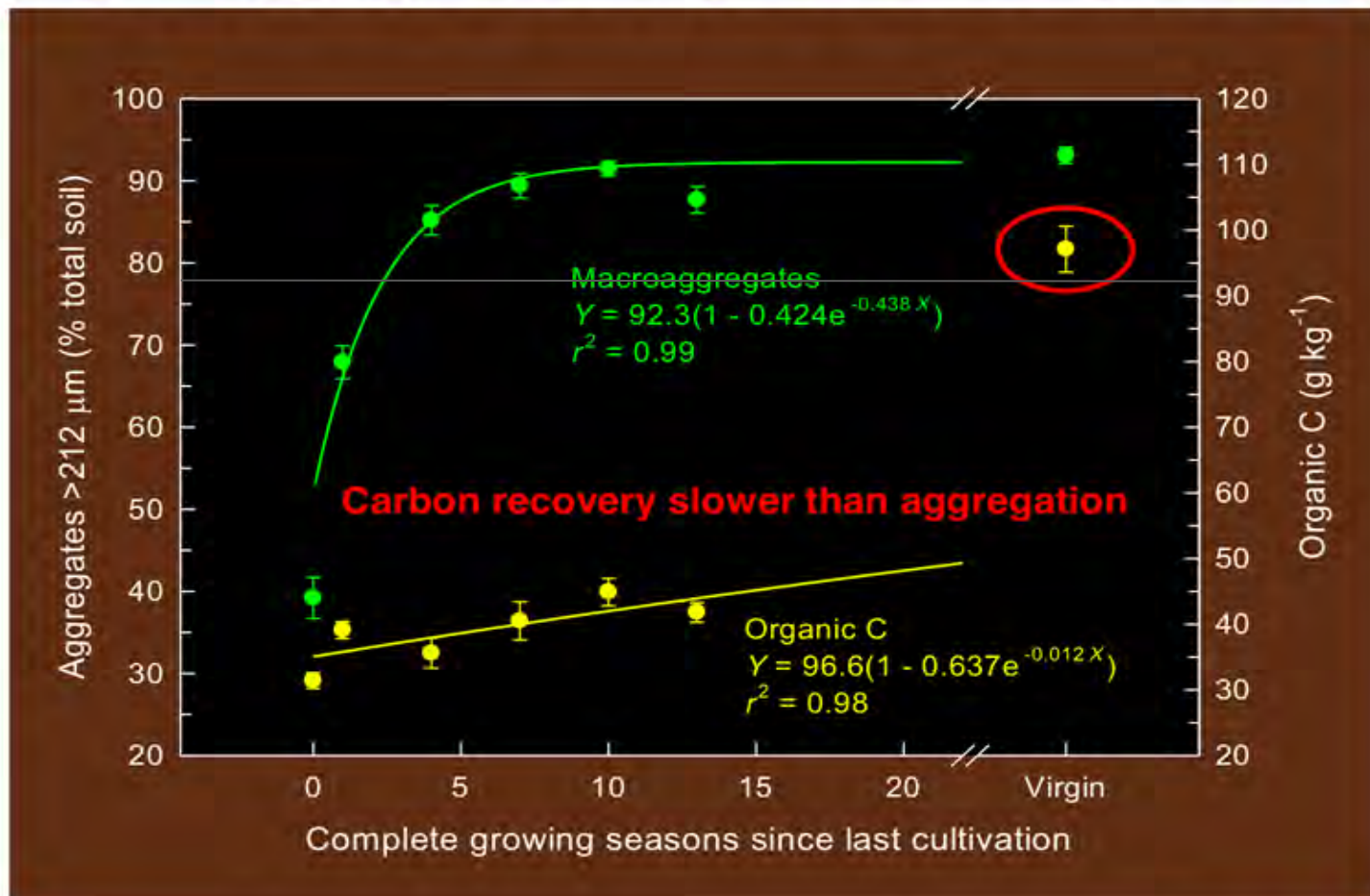


# Rapid recovery of water-stable macroaggregates





# Changes in aggregation and organic carbon in prairie soil





A photograph of a white corrugated pipe discharging water into a stream. The pipe is on the left, and water is flowing out of its end into the water on the right. The background shows green grass and some dark foliage.

# We monitored For Nitrates

Well-- 6.2ppm

Spring in woods --19ppm

Tile outlet 50/50 blend--25ppm

Tile Outlet isolated COB covers 13ppm



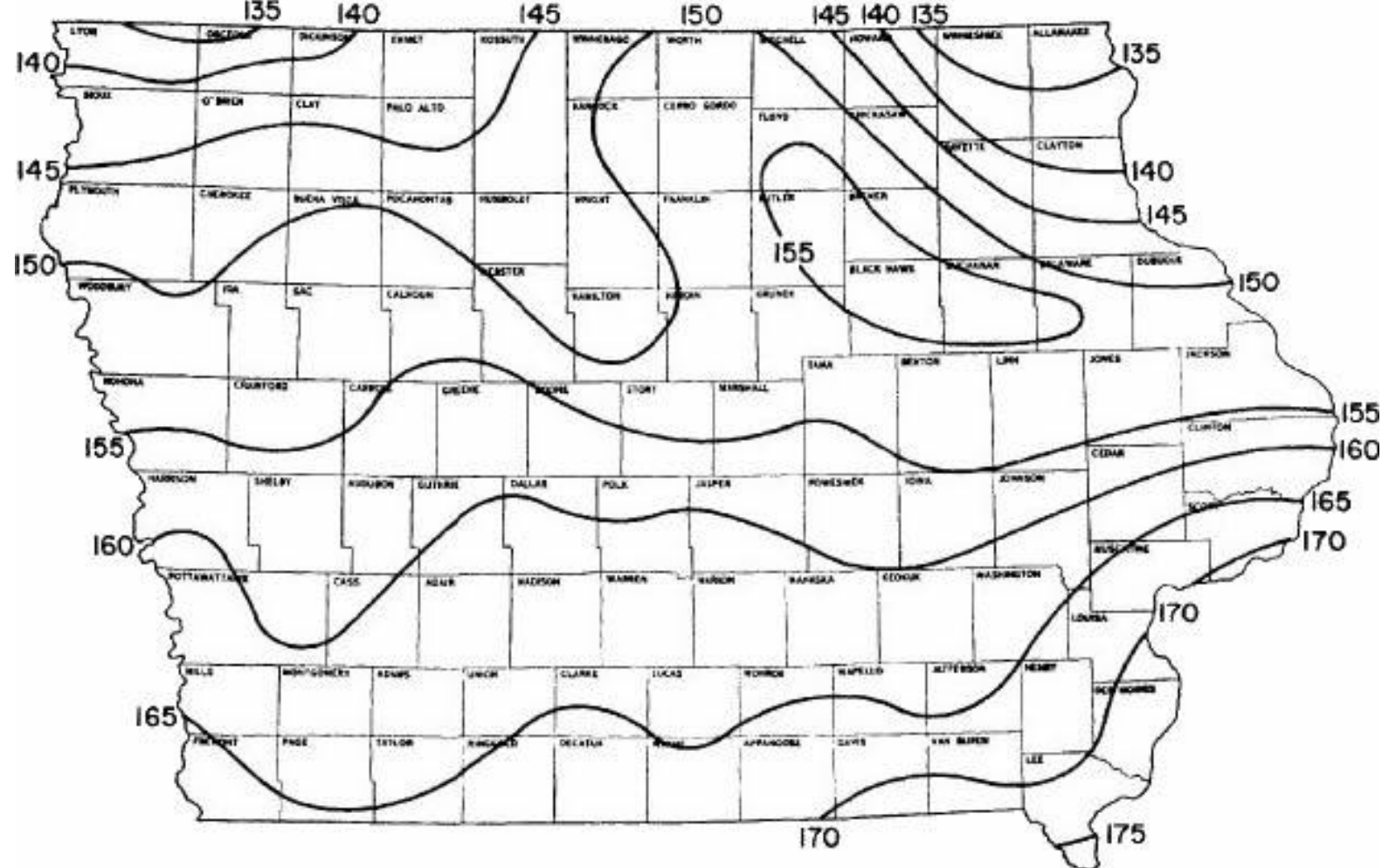
As The journey of our evolution  
continues we strive to keep improving



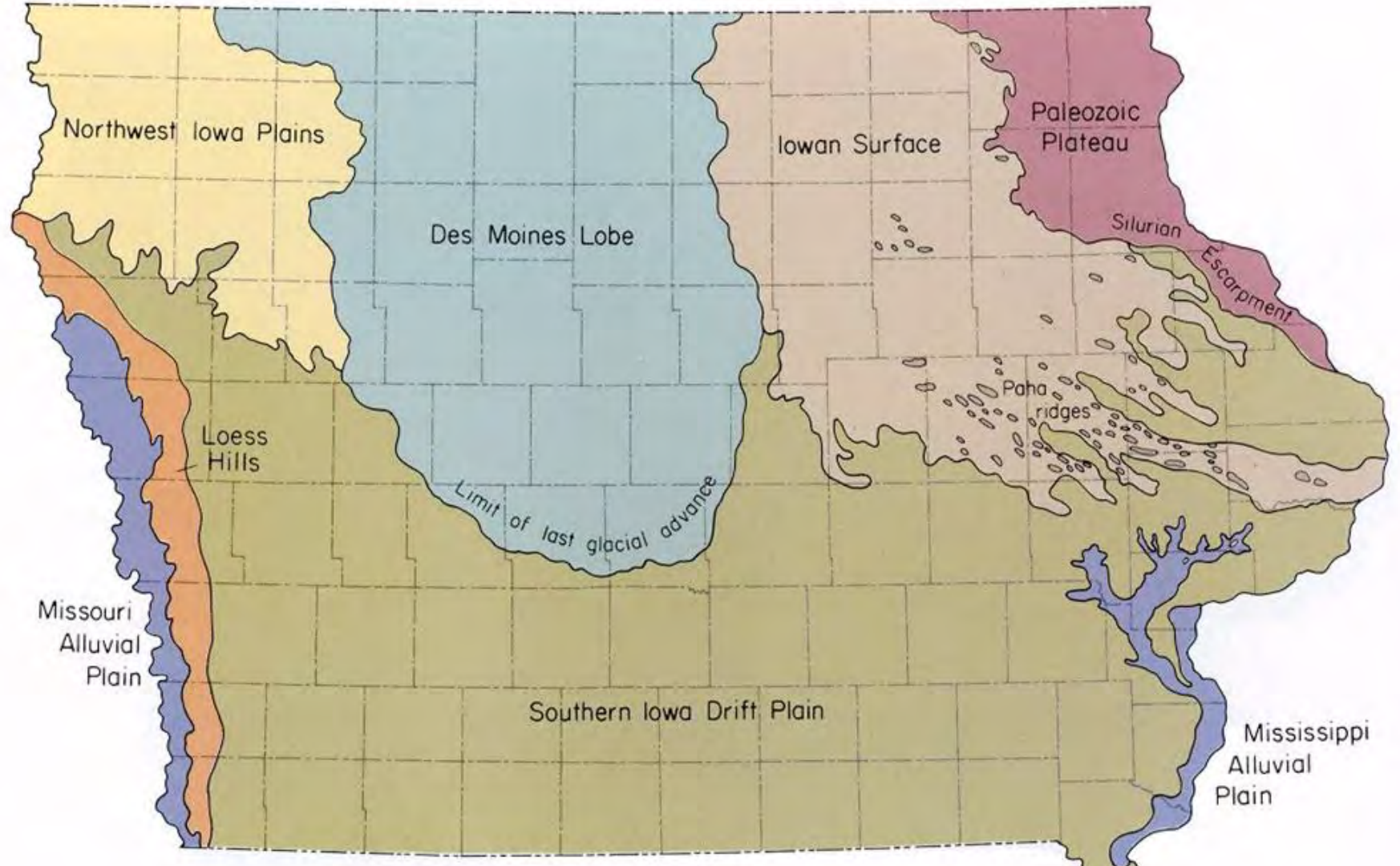
**The pieces of the puzzle coming together**  
**RoBands, InnerSeed, permaculture**  
**Beyond sustainable to Restorative**







Map 2. Length of the growing season (in days).



# Corn into diverse N producing mix







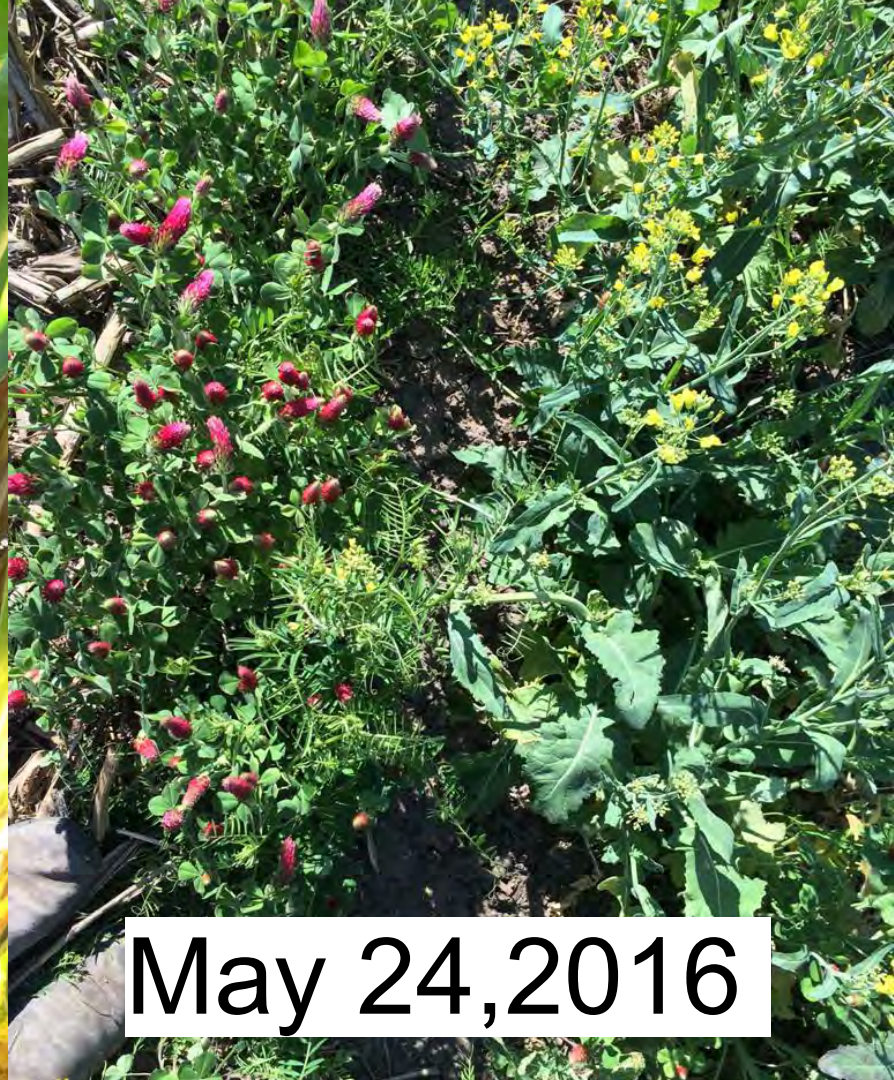








September 08, 2016



May 24, 2016

Somewhere along the line.....it hit me  
I was trying to reinvent the wheel



**Eureka  
Moment**









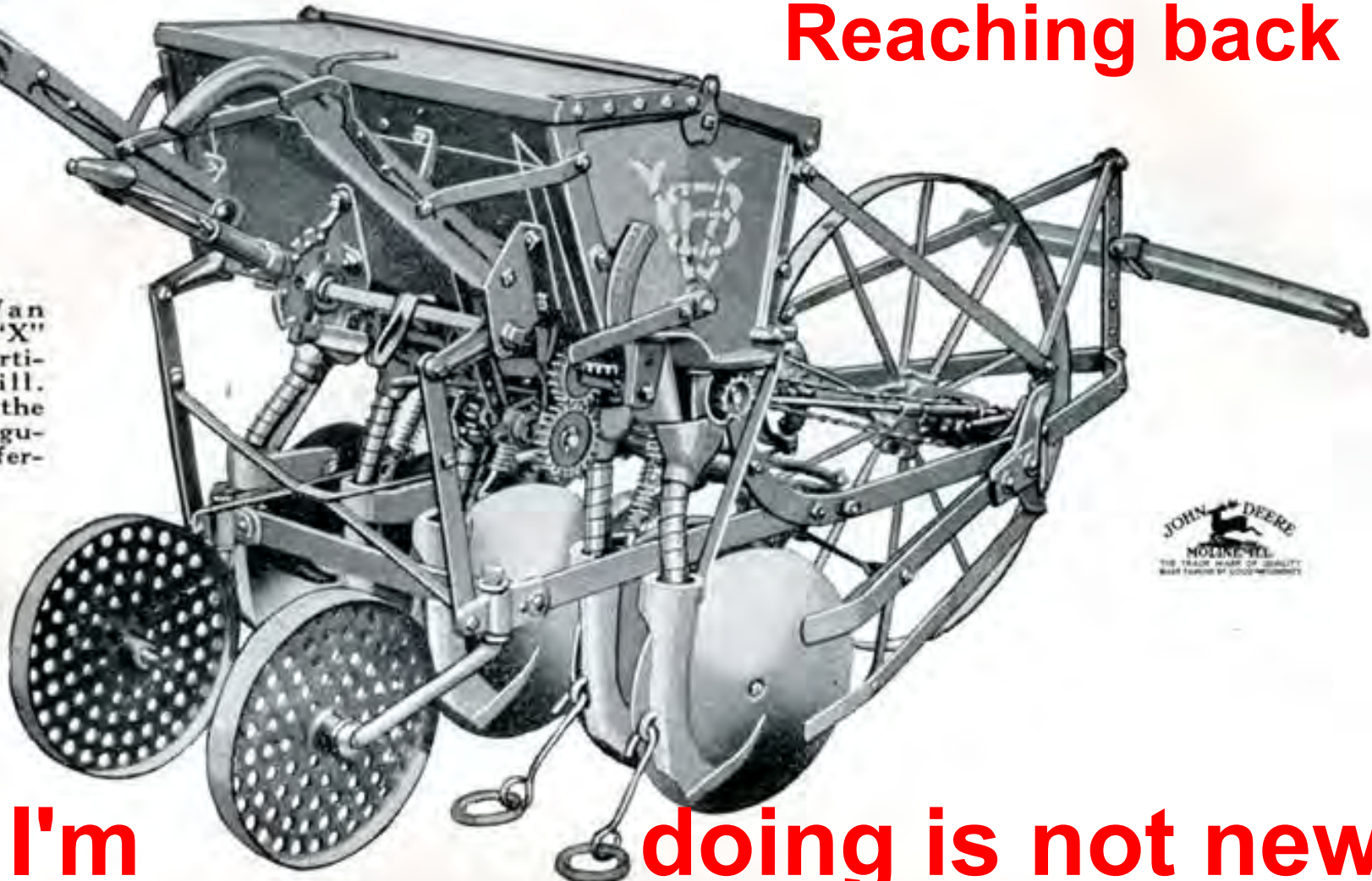


**IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME**

**OR THEY WON'T. HARD TO SAY.**

**Reaching back**

John Deere-Van  
Brunt Model "X"  
Combination Ferti-  
lizer-Grain Drill.  
Hand lever at the  
side of the box regu-  
lates the flow of fer-  
tilizer.



JOHN DEERE  
MOLINE, ILL.  
THE TRADE MARK OF QUALITY  
MADE TO ORDER BY JOHN DEERE & CO.

**what I'm doing is not new**





September 2015





November2015





December 2015



March 2016





April 17, 2016





April 22, 2016





April 28, 2015



May 09, 2015







May 12, 2015





May 15, 2016



May22,2016





May 30, 2016





June 03, 2016





June 10, 2016





***June 17, 2016***



June 29, 2016





***July 08, 2016***





Aug 08, 2016



Sep 13, 2016








**\$15 an acre in seed = 15bu**





***October 10, 2016....***



A photograph of a field with green, leafy plants in the foreground and middle ground. In the background, there are numerous dry, yellowish-brown corn stalks standing upright. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. A white rectangular box with black text is centered in the image.

Nov 04 ,2016



**Corn going to Corn**  
Focus on cool Legumes and Brassicas

**Corn going to beans**  
Focus on cool grasses, control burn Legumes and Brassicas

**Bean going to Corn**  
Drill TwinRow CerealRye drill chasing combine



But



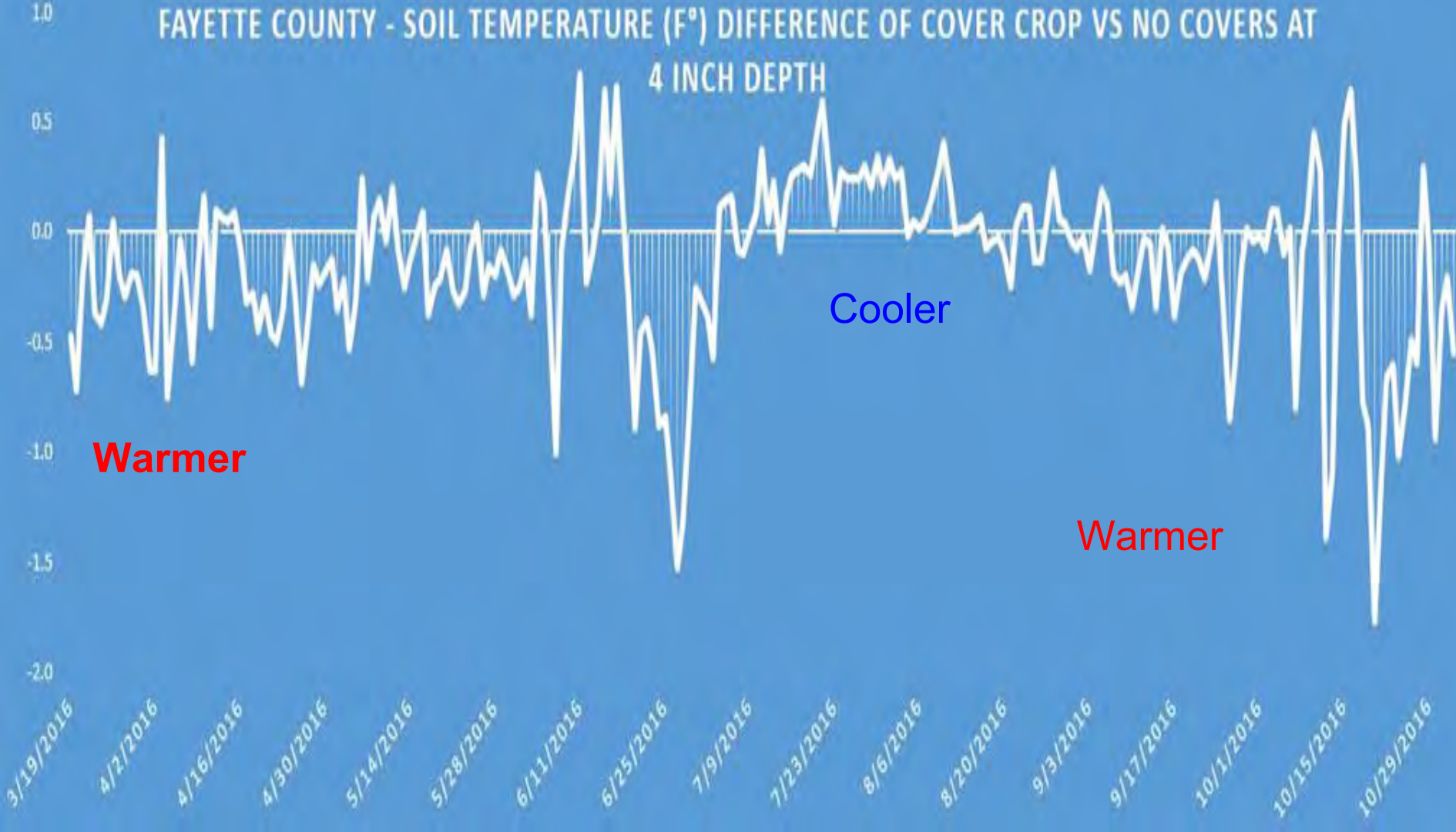


**This was 78% stable soil aggregates  
Atleast 5yr COC permaculture**

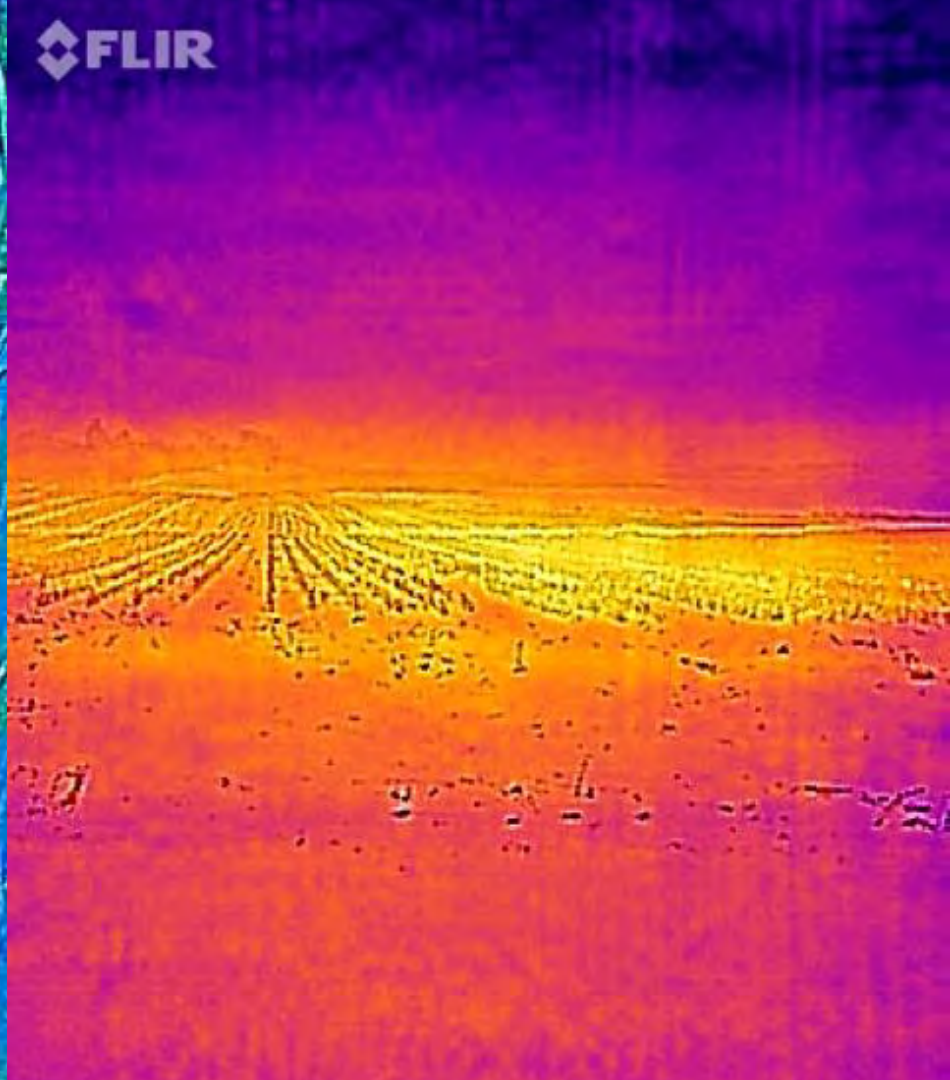
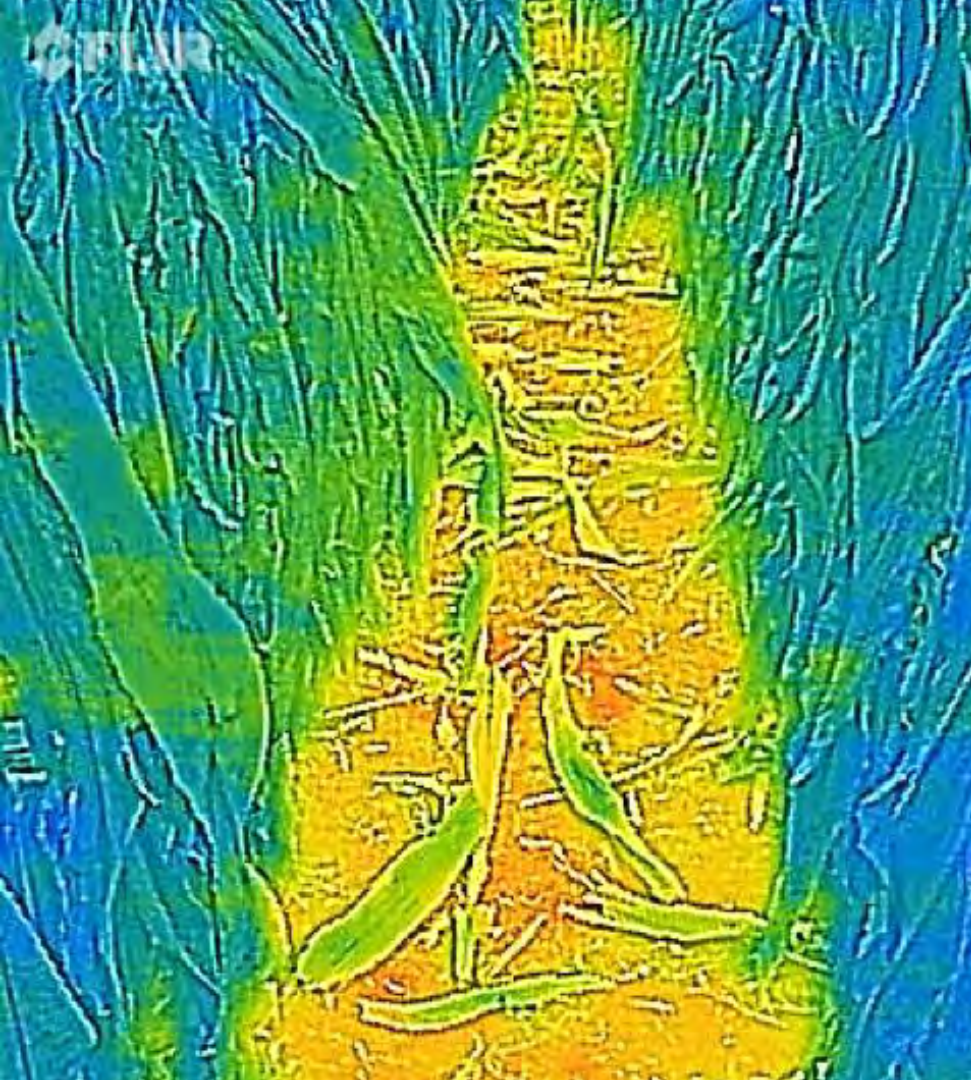




# FAYETTE COUNTY - SOIL TEMPERATURE (F°) DIFFERENCE OF COVER CROP VS NO COVERS AT 4 INCH DEPTH









FLIR

54.4°F

FLIR

79.8°F



# Relay cropping & the start of Companion cropping





# Relay/Companion Crop pluses

Window for double crop

Better Cash Flow

Time management

Labor management

Utilize Water availability

Weed Control

Keeping a living  
roots and Biology active



# Relay/Companion Crop minuses

Window for CoverCrop

The Abyss/unknown

Time management

Labor management

Water availability

Weed Control

## Paying attention to Detail

## MotherNature's sense of humor

**WHEN IT COMES TO READING YOUR PLAN**



**MOTHER NATURE IS ILLITERATE**



# Some things can make you see **RED**

GOing with cheaper herbicide options

Seeding rates

Relative Maturity and timing

Somebody not adhering to strict CTF

DISEASE issues

Apparently 120\* can throw relay crop into stroke

Hail and wind.....can make for interesting harvest or lack of

**Insurance Options are limited**

## St. Paul Regional Office — St. Paul, MN

Revised April 2016

# Cover Crops

## Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin

### What is a cover crop?

A cover crop is a crop generally recognized by agricultural experts as agronomically sound for the area for erosion control or other purposes related to conservation or soil improvement.

### Cover Crop Special Provisions

Insurance coverage begins on a crop following a cover crop when:

- The cover crop meets the definition provided in the Basic Provisions;
- Planted within the last 12 months; and
- Managed and terminated according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) guidelines.

If the growing conditions warrant a deviation from the guidelines, producers should contact either Extension or local NRCS for management guidance. For information on cover crop management and termination guidelines, refer to the Cover Crop Termination Guidelines published at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/).

### Can I insure a spring crop following a cover crop?

Yes, a spring crop following a cover crop can be insured; however, the cover crop must be terminated per the NRCS's Cover Crop Termination Guidelines and Cover Crop Termination Zones Map.

### Can grazing be used as a form of terminating the crop?

Yes, cover crops may be grazed or harvested as hay or silage, unless prohibited by Risk Management Agency (RMA) crop insurance policy provisions. Cover crops cannot be otherwise harvested, such as for grain or seed, etc.

### Can I harvest a cover crop before the insured crop is planted?

Yes, the cover crop can be grazed or harvested as hay or silage; however, if it is harvested as grain or seed in the same year, the conservation cover crop will be considered a "crop" and double crop rules will apply.

### What are my options for planting and harvesting a cover crop on acres prevented from being planted to an insured crop?

- Plant a cover crop and receive a full prevented planting payment (but do not harvest or graze this cover crop before November 1 or otherwise harvest at any time).
- Plant a cover crop after the late planting period or after the final planting date, if no late planting period is available. You may also harvest or graze the cover crop at any time, and receive a prevented planting payment equal to 35 percent of the prevented planting guarantee.

### Will over-seeding or interseeding a conservation cover crop into an insured grain crop affect insurability?

No, as long as the cover crop is seeded at a time that will not impact the yield or harvest of the insured crop. If there was any damage caused by over-seeding the cover crop, uninsured cause of loss appraisals would be applied to the insured crop.

### Will interplanting a conservation cover crop into an insured grain crop affect insurability?

No, unless prohibited by your crop insurance policy or crop provision. If the cover crop and a cash crop are planted in a way that permits separate agronomic maintenance or management, then the cash crop may be insurable. However, the cash crop is not insurable if the cover crop that is interplanted into a cash crop interferes with the agronomic management and the

harvest of the cash crop.

### Definitions

**Overseeding and Interseeding** - With respect to cover crops, overseeding and interseeding is planting one or more cover crop species into an existing or established crop.

According to NRCS Termination Guidelines, common uses that involve over-seeding or interseeding include over-seeding a grass and/or legume cover crop into an existing stand of small grain at an appropriate time for the cover and germination, or seeding a cover crop into an existing crop (e.g., corn or soybeans) at a time that will not impact the yield or harvest of the insured crop.

**Interplanting** - Multiple crop species grown together, with no distinct row pattern and does not permit separate agronomic maintenance or management.

If a cover crop and cash crop are planted in a way that does not permit separate agronomic maintenance or management, then the cash crop will not be insured. This would also apply to cover crops if interplanted into the main crop and the cover crop interfered with the agronomic management and harvest of the main crop.

**Double Cropping** - Harvesting at least two crops from the same land in the same year. This does not include cover crops.

**Prevented Planting** - Failure to plant the insured crop by the final planting date, or within any applicable late planting period, due to an insured cause of loss that is general to the surrounding area and that prevents other producers from planting acreage with similar characteristics.

### More Information

You can find more information about cover crops and commercial crop insurability in your county special provisions at <http://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser/>. Once you reach the site, click on the drop down menus to choose the year, your crop, your state, and your county. All relevant information for your crop, including information on cover crops, is available. For answers to more frequently asked questions, go to [www.rma.usda.gov/gdp/faq/covercrops2016.html](http://www.rma.usda.gov/gdp/faq/covercrops2016.html).

### Where to Buy Crop Insurance

All multi-peril crop insurance, including Catastrophic Risk Protection policies, are available from private insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA service centers and on the RMA website at: [www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent](http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent).

### Contact Us

USDA/RMA  
St. Paul Regional Office  
30 7th Street East, Suite 1800  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: (651) 290-3304  
Fax: (651) 290-4139  
E-mail: [rsamr@rma.usda.gov](mailto:rsamr@rma.usda.gov)

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Places to test and fail....Learned Callisto and other residuals cause issues season long



November 2015







Spring 2015







May 15, 2016 drilling beans



May 29, 2016



June 05, 2016





\$20 seed cost.....2 crops

June 15, 2016



July 06, 2016











***July 14, 2016***





LOWE'S

*Professional*  
**FLO-LO FARMS**  
AMERICA'S BEST  
FARMER'S FIRST TIME



August 16, 2016





**August 22, 2016**







Sept 08, 2016





**September 18, 2016**





**September 26, 2016**









A close-up photograph of a person's hands and arms, wearing a dark t-shirt and olive green cargo pants. The person is reaching into a blue plastic toolbox that is open, revealing various tools including a yellow-handled screwdriver and a red-handled screwdriver. A yellow coiled hose is also visible inside the toolbox. The background is dark and out of focus.

There comes a time when you have to build  
The tools & the toolbox

SURVIVAL TIPS S5 E5

WHAT'S IN  
YOUR TOOLBOX?



# The start of CoverCrops and Evolution to permaculture





Started figuring out the need for InnerSeed









# HINIKER Resurrection

Drilled Soybeans, AirDrop InnerSeed  
Drilled MultiSpecies CoverCrop mix



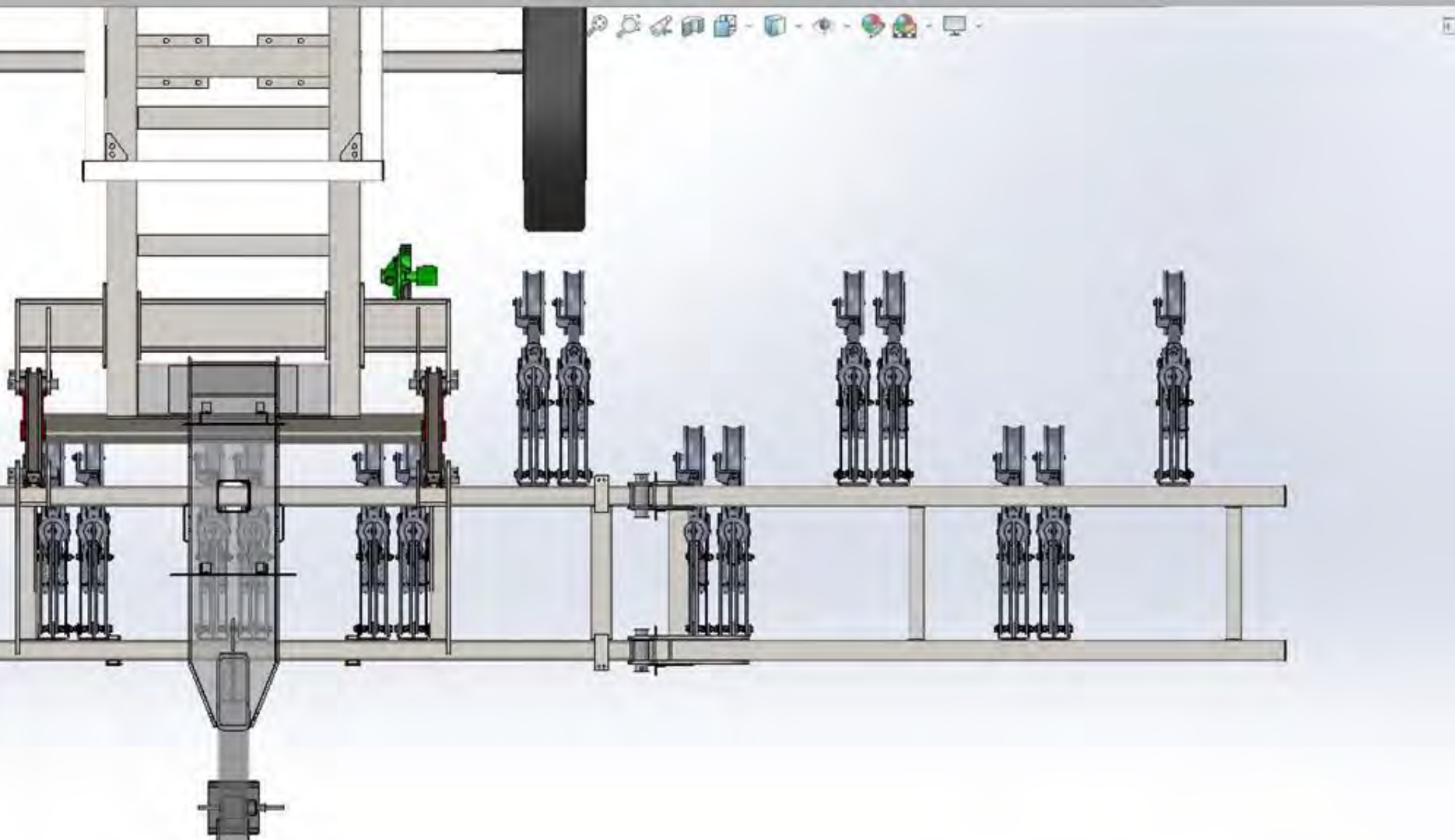














# DALTON TOOLBAR







DAWN DuoSeed RowUnits









HINIKER box on for Soybeans





MonTag

USA D-1







# Roll/Crimp +sidedress\InnerSeed pass





***25# bin run cereal rye***





# 40# WinterWheat





15# cereal rye





Goal for 2017 Roll/Crimp Termination  
In standing corn...Stay Tuned





Advantage will be less herbicides&increased biomass





# Part of the reasoning for the ContolledBurn On fields Rotating to Beans(learned by accident)









# **GREEN COVER COMEDY TOUR**



**FEATURING MADE'R SALAD**



**Loran Steinlage or @FLOLOfarms**



**(563)380-1149**





## SUSTAINABLE FOOD



## PRODUCTION

A Manual of Sustainable Methods of Plant Production  
Helpful in Meeting Food Needs Everywhere

by Don and Lois Tobkoviak

PRODUCED BY SAND INSTITUTES INTERNATIONAL

- AMARANTH - Likes tomatoes. Dislikes rue. Repels mosquitoes.
- ASPARAGUS - Likes tomatoes. Dislikes rue. Repels mosquitoes.
- BASIL - Likes tomatoes. Dislikes rue. Repels mosquitoes.
- BEANS - Likes most vegetables, flowers and herbs. Dislikes onions, garlic, gladiolus.
- BUSH BEANS - Likes potatoes, cucumbers, corn, strawberries, celery, summer savory. Dislikes onions.
- POLE BEANS - Likes corn, summer savory. Dislikes onions, beets, kohlrabi, sunflowers.
- BEE BALM - Improves growth and flavor of tomatoes.
- BEETS - Likes onions, kohlrabi. Dislikes pole beans.
- BORAGE - Helps tomatoes, squash, strawberries. Deters tomato worms.
- CABBAGE FAMILY (broccoli, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, etc.) Likes potatoes, celery, dill, chamomile, sage, thyme, mint, rosemary, lavender, beets, onions. Dislikes strawberries, tomatoes, pole beans.
- CARROT - Likes peas, lettuce, chives, onions, leeks, rosemary, sage, tomatoes. Dislikes dill.
- CATNIP - Deters flea beetles (plant in borders).
- CELERY - Likes leeks, tomatoes, bush beans, cauliflower, cabbage.
- CHAMOMILE - Improves cabbage, onions.
- CHIVE - Improves carrots. Deters insects from fruit trees and berries. Dislikes peas, beans.
- CORN - Likes potatoes, peas, beans, cucumbers, pumpkin, squash.
- CUCUMBERS - Likes beans, corn, peas, radishes, sunflowers. Dislikes potatoes, aromatic herbs.
- DILL - Improves cabbage. Dislikes carrots.
- EGGPLANT - Likes beans (protects from beetles).
- FLAX - Likes and improves carrots, potatoes.
- GARLIC - Likes roses, raspberries. Deters mosquitoes, flies, and other insects.
- HORSERADISH - Likes potatoes. Deters beetles.
- HYSSOP - Improves grapes, cabbage. Antagonizes radishes.
- LEEKS - Likes onions, celery, carrots.
- LETTUCE - Likes carrots, radishes, strawberries, cucumbers.
- MARIGOLD - Deters nematodes and most insects. Plant
- PEAS - Likes carrots, radishes, beans, gladiolus, sunflowers, chives.
- PETUNIAS - Protects beans. Helpful throughout garden.
- PIGWEED - Improves potatoes, onions, corn. Keep well thinned.
- POTATOES - Likes beans, corn, cabbage, horseradish, eggplant. Dislikes pumpkins, squash, cucumbers, sunflowers, tomatoes, raspberries.
- PUMPKIN - Likes corn. Dislikes potatoes.
- RADISHES - Likes peas, nasturtiums, lettuce, cucumbers. Dislikes hyssop.
- ROSEMARY - Helps carrots, beans, cabbage, sage. Deters cabbage moth, bean beetles and carrot flies.
- RUE - Helps roses, raspberries. Deters flies, Japanese beetles. Antagonizes sweet basil.
- SAGE - Improves carrots, cabbage, peas, beans. Deters cabbage flies. Antagonizes cucumber.
- SOW THISTLE - Helps tomatoes, onions, corn (use moderately).
- SOYBEANS - Grows with anything, helps everything.
- SPINACH - Likes and helps strawberries.
- SQUASH - Likes nasturtiums, corn, radishes.
- STRAWBERRIES - Likes bush beans, spinach, borage, lettuce. Dislikes cabbage.
- SUMMER SAVORY - Improves beans, onions. Deters beetles.
- SUNFLOWERS - Benefits corn, cucumbers. Antagonizes potatoes.
- TANSY - Helps roses, raspberry, blackberry, grapes. Repels borers, Japanese beetles, squash bugs, flies, ants.
- THYME - Good throughout garden. Deters cabbage worm.
- TOMATO - Likes chives, onions, parsley, asparagus, carrots, limas, marigolds, nasturtiums. Dislikes cabbage, kohlrabi, potatoes, fennel.
- TURNIPS - Likes peas, radishes. Dislikes cabbage family.
- VALERIAN - Good anywhere in the garden.







CoverCrop totes,a great learning tool most of these are leftover garden seeds from a local farm store and free













# Termination Plan=anytime or anyplace









A photograph of a field of harvested lentils. The ground is covered with a thick layer of brown straw mulch. Small green weeds are growing through the mulch in several rows. In the top left corner, there is a patch of green grass. The word "LENTILS" is written in large, bold, red capital letters in the upper right portion of the image.

**LENTILS**



**This is the kind of thing that drives me  
Multiple passes throughout the yr, perfect  
scouting, the change you see.....7bpa**





# Cover crops 201

Chris Teachout



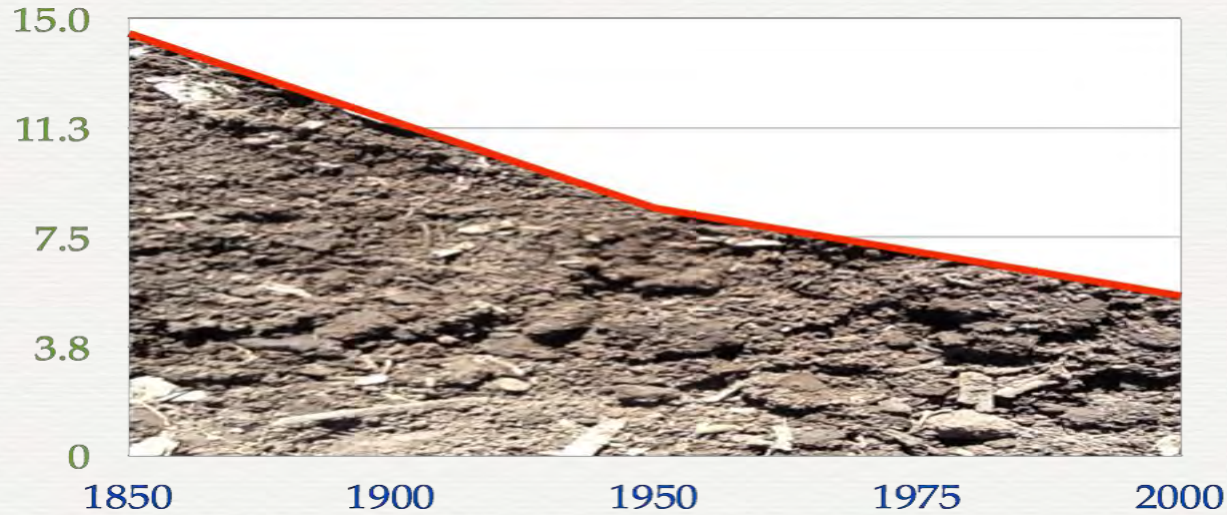




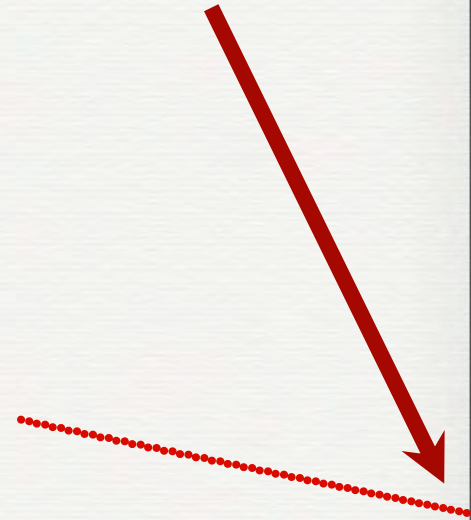


# Top Soil Lost over Time

Inches



2050



























Temperature below heavy rye





Temperature below no rye







A photograph of a field of tall, golden-brown grass, possibly a cover crop, with a dense line of green trees in the background. A thick red line is drawn across the image, starting from the left side and curving downwards towards the bottom right. The text "Variety selection of Covers" is overlaid in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

# Variety selection of Covers





Mimic Nature







Seeding Rate:

	%	Lot	Origin	Germ	Purity	Other	Inert	W
<u>Chickling Vetch</u>	6%	<u>PF-CV-13</u>	<u>NE</u>	96%	99.6%	0.0%	0.4%	
<u>4010 Spring Peas</u>	6%	<u>LN-MT-13</u>	<u>MT</u>	98%	99.2%	0.0%	0.8%	
<u>Spring Forage Barley</u>	33%	<u>MSH5580</u>	<u>ND</u>	96%	99.7%	0.0%	0.3%	
<u>Rockford Oats</u>	33%	<u>MISC.RF-13.1</u>	<u>KS</u>	96%	98.9%	0.3%	0.0%	
<u>Brown Mustard</u>	1%	<u>110753-B</u>	<u>ID</u>	97%	100%	0%	0%	
<u>Broadleaf Mustard</u>	1%	<u>L9-12-MUS1</u>	<u>OR</u>	90%	100%	0%	0%	
<u>Defender Radish</u>	1%	<u>DE010-130481</u>	<u>GR</u>	90%	100%	0%	0%	
<u>Rapeseed "Buckbuster"</u>	1%	<u>RP-11</u>	<u>ID</u>	95%	100%	0%	0%	
<u>Flax-Shelby</u>	7%	<u>5367</u>	<u>MN</u>	92%	98%	0%	1%	
<u>Safflower</u>	2%	<u>8045</u>	<u>SD</u>	90%	98%	1%	1%	
<u>Buckwheat-Mancan</u>	7%	<u>8218</u>	<u>ND</u>	85%	98%	1%	1%	
<u>Phacelia-Balo</u>	2%	<u>BN 4120-1330</u>	<u>Ger.</u>	70%	100%	0%	0%	

You control the Diversity







<u>Spring Forage Barley</u>	42%	<u>MSH5580</u>	<u>ND</u>	96%	99.7%	0.0
<u>Rockford Oats</u>	42%	<u>MISC.RF-13.1</u>	<u>KS</u>	96%	98.9%	0.3

And the Cost

<u>Flax-Shelby</u>	10%	<u>5367</u>	<u>MN</u>	92%	98%
<u>Safflower</u>	5%	<u>8045</u>	<u>SD</u>	90%	98%













# Cover Crop Chart

## GROWTH CYCLE

- A = Annual
- B = Biennial
- P = Perennial

## RELATIVE WATER USE

- = Low
- = Medium
- = High

## PLANT ARCHITECTURE

- ∩ = Upright
- \* = Upright-Spreading
- ≡ = Prostrate

-----Cool Season-----

-----Warm Season-----

---Grass---

---Grass---

-----Broadleaf-----

-----Legumes-----

A <u>Barley</u>	-----Broadleaf-----										A <u>Pearl millet</u>
A <u>Oat</u>	A <u>Phacelia</u>							A <u>Amaranth</u>	A <u>Foxtail millet</u>		
A/P <u>Ryegrass</u>	A <u>Flax</u>	-----Legumes-----						A <u>Buckwheat</u>	A <u>Proso millet</u>		
A <u>Wheat</u>	A <u>Spinach</u>	B <u>Turnip</u>	A <u>Field pea</u>	A <u>Berseem clover</u>	A/P <u>Medic</u>	A <u>Chickpea</u>	A <u>Sunflower</u>	A <u>Sudan grass</u>			
A <u>Cereal rye</u>	A <u>Kale</u>	A <u>Radish</u>	A <u>Lentil</u>	B/P <u>Red clover</u>	P <u>Birdsfoot trefoil</u>	A <u>Cowpea</u>	A <u>Safflower</u>	A <u>Teff</u>			
A <u>Triticale</u>	A/B <u>Canola</u>	B <u>Beet</u>	A <u>Lupin</u>	P <u>White clover</u>	P <u>Sainfoin</u>	A <u>Soybean</u>	A <u>Squash</u>	A <u>Grain sorghum</u>			
A <u>Annual fescue</u>	A/P <u>Mustard</u>	A/B <u>Carrot</u>	A/B <u>Vetch</u>	A/B <u>Sweetclover</u>	P <u>Alfalfa</u>	A <u>Mung bean</u>	P <u>Chicory</u>	A <u>Corn</u>			



# Interplanting









We have done this



Beans And Corn Thrive in Sampson County



























when nothing else would grow. Cowpeas not only increased the fertility but decreased blowing by adding to the humus in the soil. Farmers and editors recommended that they be planted at least every third year to arrest the declining fertility caused by successive crops of corn, wheat, or cotton. As a mixed crop, cowpeas were probably used more than any other crop. They were planted with corn in alternate rows or interplanted in the row after the second plowing or when the corn was laid by.

Cowpeas produced abundant vine, almost covering the ground, and, if left uncut on the land during the winter, protected the soil admirably.

Leave a cover crop of peavines on the land through the winter and when spring comes you may have some of your neighbor's soil but he will have very little, if any, of yours (70).















# Soil Health Testing

- Laboratory Testing
  - Haney soil test
  - Solvita Respiration test
  - S Y U
  - T B I



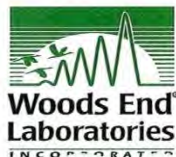


**LAB CO<sub>2</sub>-BURST**



**FIELD TEST**





Innovative Soil Biology and  
Nutrient Testing since 1975

290 Belgrade Road  
P.O. Box 297  
Mount Vernon, ME 04352  
207 293 2457  
for more information:  
[lab@woodsendlab.org](mailto:lab@woodsendlab.org)  
Lab Test Version: 3.1

## Soil Nutrient & Health Premium Test

For:

Chris Teachout  
Teachout Harvest  
1653 400 Ave  
Shenandoah, IA 51601

Lab ID: 9325.0 Acct No: 2890

Sample: Soil: Home West

Sample Received: 4/8/2015  
Report Date: 4/29/2015  
Crop Intended: Corn-200

QAQC:  
*LB*

Measured Factors	Symbol	UNITS	Level Found	Rating
All Soluble N <small>(Org-N + NO<sub>3</sub>-N + NH<sub>4</sub>-N)</small>		ppm	41	MH
Nitrate Only	NO <sub>3</sub> -N	ppm	39	MH
Soluble Exudate Carbon	C <sub>org</sub>	C-ppm	471	M
SLAN <i>Humus Amino-N</i>	NH <sub>2</sub> -N	N-ppm	198	M
Phosphorus (P)	P	ppm	34	M
Potassium (K)	K	ppm	194	MH
Calcium	Ca	ppm	600	L
Extr. Aluminum	Al	ppm	590	H

### Calculated Availability

Nitrogen (N-min+Avail)	lb/a	143	H
Likelihood of N-response?	probability:	Moderately unlikely	
Phosphorus P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	lb/a	155	M
Potassium K <sub>2</sub> O	lb/a	466	MH

### Indicators

Potential acidity (Fe+Al)	ppm	969	H
P-Acid-Saturation Index	P/(Al + Fe)	3.5	OK
Calcium Saturation	Ca/(Fe+Al)	62%	L

### Nutrient Calculations, Value as \$/acre available

N + P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> + K<sub>2</sub>O / acre \$ 334

### Nutrient Requirements

	Nitrogen	Phosphate	Potash
Corn-200	57	None	none
(assumed total nutrient requirement)	200	100	150

Limestone Requirement lbs/acre 4327 Check Magnesium

### Cover Crop Recommendations

>Based on Soil Health Score of: 17.9

**Mix Recommended:** 10% Legume 90% Grass/Non-Legume

### Optional Tests (included with Premium Soil Test)

Soil Organic Matter	LOI %	5.6	MH
Basal CO <sub>2</sub> -C	ppm	18	MH
Effective CEC**	cmol/kg	11.2	-

USDA Climate Zone Used for this report: 5b

\* H3A ARS-Haney Extract

\*\*Effective CEC = H3A extracted Al+Ca+Mg+K+Na; optional SOM by LOI @360°C

Methods: Soil Health Tool, USDA-ARS Temple TX; Soil Test Procedures for the NE USA Bulletin #493; VT Aluminum Index

Soil Health Score (updated 10-15-2014)	17.9	MH
Soluble C:N Ratio	11.5	ML
Solvita CO <sub>2</sub> -Burst	52.3	M
Microbially Active Carbon- "MAC"	11%	L
Soil Wettability & CO <sub>2</sub> Moisture g g <sup>-1</sup>	Fast 0.48	H
Aggregate Stability	66%	H

### Soil Health Score Factors



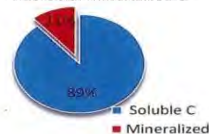
### Nitrogen Pools



### H3A Extractable Cations



### Microbial Mineralized C



pH in Water	5.48	L
Magnesium (lb/a)	264	OK
Sodium lb/a	28	OK

Ratings: VL=Very Low, L=Low, M=Moderate, MH=Medium High, H=High, VH=Very High









## Can drinking tea help us understand climate change?

Yes. Teabags can provide vital information on the global carbon cycle. And consumers worldwide can improve climate modelling without much effort or equipment. That is why we want you, tea consumers, to become tea researchers and help us to plant tea.

### The idea

We developed a simple and cheap method to measure decay rate of plant material by using tea. The method consists of burying tea bags with Green tea and Rooibos and digging them up ca. three months later. In this period, the tea will decay, and will therefore show what will happen with normal plant material in the soil. This method was developed and tested by a team of researchers from the University of Utrecht, Umeå University, The Netherlands Institute of Ecology and the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety Ltd.

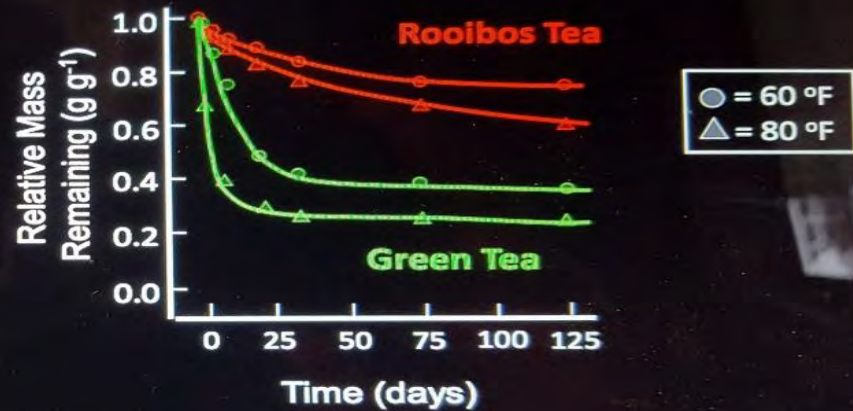
The scientific value of this new method has already been acknowledged and experiments are currently running in countries all over the world. Many school children and other citizen scientists joined. The idea is to use this new method to collect data on decay rates from all over the world. With this data we will make a global soil map, and consequently improve global climate models that use these maps.



# Use two types of tea bags as easy indicators



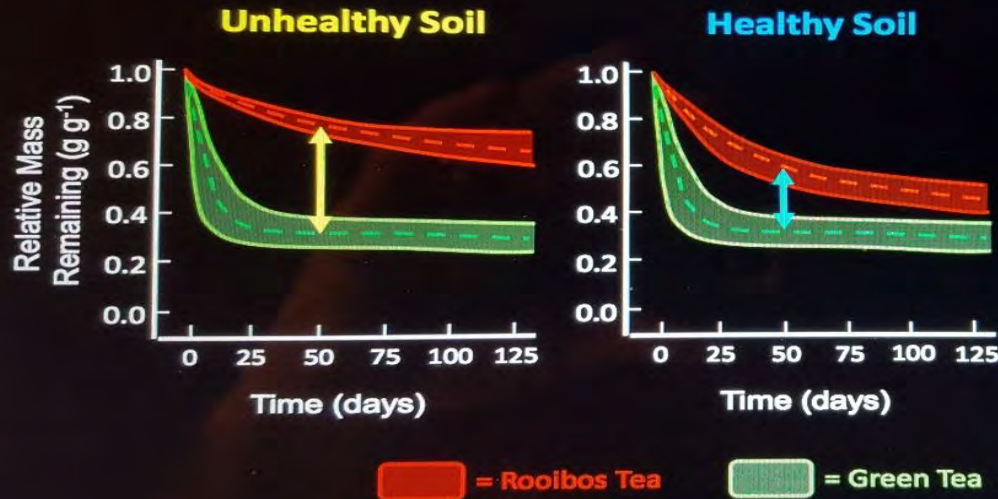
~\$20 for 60 pyramids



adapted from Keuskamp et al. (201



# The Tea Bag Index (or TBI) of Soil Health



$$TBI_{us} = \frac{(1.0 - 0.8)}{(1.0 - 0.35)} = 0.3$$

$$TBI_{hs} = \frac{(1.0 - 0.6)}{(1.0 - 0.35)} = 0.6$$

The closer to 1, the more healthy the soil is



A blue bird with a red crest, possibly a Blue Bird of Paradise, is standing in a field of dry, yellowish-brown grass. The bird is facing left, and its long tail feathers are visible. The background is a dense field of similar dry grass.

Thank You

You never know what  
You will find in your field  
Get out and observe