






Managing Soils for Quality: Collaborative Symposium with Regional Experts

Friday, February 10, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Day two of the [Soil and Nutrition Conference, February 9-11, 2012](#))

Day two is organized around 4 different panels focusing in on different aspects of enhancing biological soil fertility as a means of enhancing crop quality, each of which is 1 hour 45 minutes in length. The format is designed to draw out the particular knowledge of soil building brought by each presenter and each participant so as to facilitate knowledge sharing and develop participants as more knowledgeable leaders in their areas of influence.

Presenter List:

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| <p>Derek Christianson</p>  | <p>Derek Christianson is a farmer and community educator at Brix Bounty Farm in Dartmouth, MA. Founded in 2008, Brix Bounty Farm aims to produce and promote the production of nutrient dense foods, using sustainable growing methods which focus on improving soil health for long-term agricultural viability.</p> <p>His contributions to the symposium include: The importance of including a broad spectrum of minerals and teasing out each one's role in maximizing production; Understanding the impact of our climate on our soils by region and calculating amendment needs based on quantities of macro minerals being leached from the soil on an annual basis.</p> |
| <p>Doug Flack</p>  | <p>Doug Flack for 30 years has been practicing grain-free grass farming. Employing techniques such as mob-stocking, and drawing upon ideas from biodynamics, he has aimed to produce nutrient-dense milk, meat, fermented vegetables, and grain-free breeding stock. He has restored pastures using free-choice minerals, rock powders, compost, biodynamic sprays, and foliar sprays of sea minerals and raw skim milk. The farm produces over 9 tons of sauerkraut and kim-chi, sold in more than 30 stores and restaurants in Vermont. He owns and manages Flack Family Farm in Enosburg Falls, VT.</p> |
| <p>Dan Holmes</p> | <p>Dan Holmes has an abiding interest in how agriculture affects human health. With his wife, Ruth, he managed the Meeting School farm in Rindge, NH, growing vegetables and fruits and raising Milking Devon and Jersey cattle, Icelandic sheep, and heritage pigs, chickens and turkeys. Providing all the meat and milk and about 40% of the vegetables for a community of 50-70 people, revealed how the food we produce is a source of energy and nutrition. Dan and Ruth now jointly manage Sunnyfield Farm in Peterborough, NH where they continue striving to produce the best</p> |

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| | <p>food possible for their community. Dan focuses on pasture and hay quality, and breeding the right animal for a 100% grass based program for feeding ruminants and quality grass for poultry and hogs.</p> |
| <p>Dan Kittredge</p>  | <p>Dan Kittredge is Executive Director of the Real Food Campaign and a Farmer in North Brookfield, MA. The son of prominent leaders in the organic movement, he has been an organic farmer since childhood. His experience managing organic farms and developing sustainable agriculture techniques has connected him to farmers in Central America, Russia, India and the United States. Dan is passionate about raising the quality of nutrition in our food supply through collaboration with committed individuals, businesses, and organizations that support the value of people growing and eating really good food. He teaches courses for farmers and gardeners titled, “Bionutrient Rich Crop Production”, which take place in multiple locations throughout the Northeast.</p> |
| <p>Jack Lazor</p>  | <p>Jack Lazor, along with his wife Anne, owns and operates Butterworks Farm in Westfield, Vermont. Since 1976, they have been dairying and growing forage and grain crops. Jack was inspired by the Albrecht approach to soil fertility in the late 1970’s and has been trying to improve and balance his farm soils ever since. Presently, Jack and Anne have 90 head of Jersey cows and grow crops for livestock and human consumption on 400 acres. Jack has been on a lifelong quest to achieve harmony and bring well-being to the land he stewards and the people who eat the food he produces.</p> |
| <p>Bryan O'Hara</p>  | <p>Bryan O’Hara farms at Tobacco Road Farm in Lebanon, CT. For over 20 years, he has grown crops without the use of pesticides and with careful attention to soil fertility on the farm. This has resulted in high quality vegetable crops and commercial success.</p> <p>His contributions to the symposium include: managing the air and water in the soil, which are the most important fertilizers for crops; managing crop residue and promoting a proper microbial environment through tillage, raised beds, cover cropping and mulches; evaluating soil quality and the judicious use and application of fertilizers for vegetable crops.</p> |
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Julie Rawson



Julie Rawson has farmed all her life, 35 years of it organically, and the last 5 with strong focus on nutrient density for highest possible fertility. Co-owner of Many Hands Organic Farm in Barre, MA, she raises many vegetables, fruits, and pork, beef, and poultry. Her goal is to minimize commercial, bagged feeds as much as possible. She is constantly experimenting with sprouting, improving pasture, kelp, whey, and other additions to the poultry diet.

Her contributions to the symposium include: techniques to improve systems for raising the healthiest, free-range, certified organic poultry on pasture.

Stephen Storch



Stephen Storch became involved in agriculture in 1985. Working as a field hand on a 150 acre family farm he began to observe and understand agriculture 'from the ground up'. He began using Biodynamics in 1989, which involved making, stirring and applying biodynamic preparations. He has drawn upon Rudolf Steiner, Viktor Schauberg, Wilhelm Reich, Nicola Tesla and others to develop his farming practices. Making quality compost is an essential part of his operation, aided by his experience as a marine biologist, commercial fisherman and outdoorsman.

His contributions to the symposium include: how he has developed his composts, stirring machines and vortex brewer equipment and how this can be applied to any farming situation, landscape or even aquatic environment; how to construct a very simple and effective orgone generator for the farm, landscape, or home garden; the science and thought process behind these methods; Examining root causes of dis-ease in plants and correcting them; Putting this info to work in the field?