

Soil & Climate Alliance Meeting **Participant Bios**

November 15th, 2023
Virtual Fall Network Meeting



**Soil &
Climate
Alliance**



Kayalin Akens-Irby

Head of Growth

Planet FWD

Kayalin Akens-Irby is an impact-oriented strategist who has spent her career working across tech, investment, and policy to reshape the way we do business to build a sustainable future together. Kayalin is Head of Growth at Planet FWD, the leading decarbonization platform for consumer companies. She joined Julia Collins in building the company from seed-stage and now helps global consumer companies to measure and reduce the carbon footprint of their operations, products, and decarbonize their supply chains. Previously, Kayalin was an early employee and served as Head of VC and Growth equity at Malk Partners where she built environmental, social, governance (ESG) investment strategies for top private equity funds across the US and Europe and helped build the firm into the leading ESG investment advisory for private markets, advising on over \$500B in AUM.

Industry Support



Chris Andrews

Farmer and Co-Founder
The High End



Ayesha Ali

Policy Manager

Kiss the Ground

Ayesha Ali (she/her) is the Policy Manager at Kiss the Ground, where she co-leads the work of the Regenerate America coalition to advance practices and policies to support soil health and regenerative agriculture in the farm bill. She has a background in environmental communications and ecology. She is based out of California.



Robin Baird

Director of Operations and Strategy
Woka Foundation

Robin serves as Woka Foundation's Director of Operations and Strategy. Robin is a new mom, a former educator, and a former philanthropic consultant. She received her bachelor's degree from Oberlin College and her Master's in Education Policy and Leadership from Boston University's School of Education. Serving as Woka's first staff member fulfills Robin's goal to continue her work in philanthropy guided by the belief in our sacred relationship with, and responsibility to, nature.



Brady Barnstable

COO, Co-Founder
Seven Sundays

Brady is the Co-Founder of Seven Sundays, a Minneapolis-based breakfast brand and Certified B Corporation. Seven Sundays is rethinking the food system from the ground up, making cereals that improve the health of people and the planet.

Brand/Retailer



Gail Bliss

Retired

Research/Academic



Brian Brhel

Owner, Farm and Ranch Manager
Brhel Farms

I farm in Eastern Nebraska in mostly clay soils and use cattle, covers and long rotations to improve soil health and productivity. Cover crop seed production is a focus of the operation and works well to get livestock back on the land.

Farmer/Rancher



Erica Campbell

Policy Director

Kiss the Ground

Erica Campbell is the Policy Manager at Kiss the Ground, supporting the Regenerate America campaign. For over two decades she has worked to transform our food system to be more just, equitable, and ecologically regenerative. Erica most recently served as agriculture policy advisor and farmer liaison for Senator Bernie Sanders and has advanced local food systems through the Vermont Farm to Plate Network and the Center for an Agricultural Economy. She lives in Vermont, where she is a community volunteer, mother of three amazing adult children, and wife. Erica loves to cook, garden, and explore nature wherever she goes.



Tom Cotter

Farmer

Cotter Farm & Superior Cannabis Company

Tom is a Regenerative Organic Farmer in southern MN. He is the fourth generation to take care of the land. Him and his wife Alma have raised four kids and enjoy the peace and beauty of their environment. Tom strives to help fellow Farmers take that first step.

Farmer



Hans Eisenbeis

Director of Mission & Messaging Non-GMO Project

Hans Eisenbeis is director of Mission and Messaging at the Non-GMO Project. He served previously as a communications and marketing executive at Organic Valley, where he connected farmers with media and with the general public.



Cynthia Ellis Topsey

Founder and Director

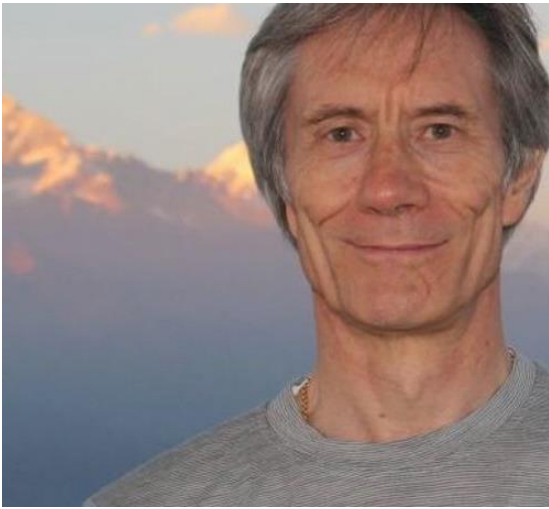
Godsman Ellis Garifuna Cultural Center

Cynthia M. Ellis, Founder/Chairperson of the GODSMAN CELESTINO ELLIS – CENTER FOR GARIFUNA CULTURE (GCE-CFGC) INC., is a paragon of unwavering resolve and resilience. Born on January 16th, 1953, her lifelong mission centers on advocating for Garifuna sovereignty and land rights, both locally and globally. As the Ambassador at Large for the Garifuna Nation and Chief Executive Officer of The Indigenous Peoples Network, she tirelessly champions equality, nurturing the dreams of countless youth, especially in the realms of sustainability and environmental justice.

At the core of her legacy is the dedication to carrying forward the work of her late father, Godsman Celestino Ellis, and husband, Harriot Wentworth Topsey, including her role as Champion of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Belize.

Through this, she inspires and mentor's leaders, propelling transformative initiatives such as the preservation of the El Pilar Forest Gardens.

NGO/Farmer Support



John Fagan

CEO, Chief Scientific Officer Health Research Institute

Dr. John Fagan is an authority on sustainability in the food and agricultural system, on biosafety, and on food safety and authenticity. He is a successful entrepreneur in the field of green biotechnology, having founded, built and sold Global ID Group (now FoodChain ID), where he pioneered innovative molecular biological tools to verify and advance food purity, safety and sustainability. His expertise is sought around the world by industry and government leaders, scientists, and the public, to whom he has presented hundreds of lectures and provided advisory services during the last decades. Dr. Fagan is CEO and Chief Scientific Officer of Health Research Institute, a 501(c)3 non-profit research, education and service institution. Dr. Fagan is also Professor of Molecular Biology at Maharishi International University, where he leads a research program using transcriptomic and metabolomic approaches to understand the molecular biology of higher states of consciousness. He also contributes to the Regenerative Organic Agriculture program. Dr. Fagan's research has been published in leading scientific journals and has been supported by millions of dollars in grants. He earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology, biochemistry, and cell biology from Cornell University.

Industry Support



Alycia Falter

Client Engagement Specialist
The Non-GMO Project

I'm interested in meeting industry friends in this regenerative container and learning how I can build better engagement opportunities with brands in the Non-GMO Project Product Verification Program and beyond.



Tom Farquhar

Farmer

Sandy Spring Gardens

Six years ago, Tom began a small regenerative vegetable farm on his neighbors' properties in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC. The harvest is sold at local farmers market, CSA, and to local food-assistance organizations.

Farmer



Zoe Fox

Regional Coordinator

New England Consulting Services, Inc.

Zoe Fox has over a decade of experience working on and managing farms in New England and beyond. Growing food for our communities requires that we interact with our natural world, and NECS centers farmers as the caretakers of land within these communities. Zoe's work at NECS helps bridge gaps between farm businesses and the natural resources they steward through the implementation of conservation practices and regenerative systems. Zoe believes that clean water and healthy ecosystems are in the interest of all communities and enjoys finding creative ways to foster the relationship between food production and natural resources protection

Farmer/Rancher



Maddie Hamann

Co-Founder, Chief Marketing Officer
PACHA

I've made my way through many career iterations and transitions to land myself in the role of Co-Founder and Director of Marketing at PACHA. Turns out, the smorgasbord of experience and comfort in a cut-your-teeth-on-the-job role are exactly what a company founder needs. I note a common thread of finding work that makes the best use of my skills towards the goal of healing humanity's relationship with our home planet. I was motivated to study Ocean Science as I had demonstrated aptitude for analytical thinking, and I believed more needed to be understood about climate change in order for humanity to address it. When I realized that knowing more wasn't making a difference, I knew a shift was coming. I realized, too, that my math and science skillset might not be as powerful as my ability to organize and execute projects in the face of a global issue. So, the pivot to founding a company focused on leveraging the healthy eating market to support farmers' transitions to Regenerative Agriculture actually made some sense.

Brand/Retailer



Dr. Liz Haney

Owner

Soil Regen

Liz is a soil and ecosystem scientist with experience in soil testing and analyses, carbon and conservation practice modeling, and is the co-developer of the Haney soil health test. Liz's purpose, drive and passion are helping to improve producer profitability, environmental sustainability, and human health through regenerative practices and soil health. Throughout her career she has developed an expansive network of scientists, thought leaders, consultants, farmers and ranchers within the sustainable agriculture space. Liz loves nothing more than creating community and is skilled at coordinating and conducting educational events, workshops and conferences bringing together today's leading innovators in regenerative agriculture. Liz is also a co-founder of Regen Mills and Heritage Ground with Russell. Liz is proud to also be a part of farmer owned Farmers Reserve Distillery.

Industry Support



Kiira Heymann

Industry Research & Engagement Manager The Non-GMO Project

Kiira has worked in client-facing roles at the Non-GMO Project for the past six years. Most recently she has been focusing on industry research and engagement around the topics of soil health, biodiversity, and social justice. She holds a BA from Colby College and an M.Ed. in experiential education from Western Washington University.



Sam Huber

Trustee

Stone Foundation of NJ



Aarushi Jhatro

Ecology and GIS Data Manager
White Buffalo Land Trust

Aarushi is working on measuring how regenerative agricultural practices impact soil properties, biodiversity, and water cycling through the landscape. With master's degrees in water resources management and environmental science, she brings a holistic understanding of natural systems and a passion for integrating data into the development of natural resources management plans. She believes that regenerative practices are key to transitioning agriculture into harmonious systems capable of producing food while restoring ecosystem services.



Carl Jorgensen

Agriculture Consultant

Plant Based Foods Institute

Carl has held a variety of leadership roles in the agri-food industry since 1995. He provides independent consulting services to brands, manufacturers, and investors. Carl is currently Agriculture Consultant for the Plant Based Foods Institute. Previously Carl was Director at Daymon Worldwide, providing global support for major retailers' free-from, organic and natural private brands. He served on the Simple Truth brand development team at Daymon's Kroger account. Carl was President of a USDA-accredited organic certification agency, CEO of an organic specialty food importer and distributor, and a co-founder of a food testing company that offered the world's first commercial test to detect GMOs in crops and food products. He owned an organic farm in Iowa for many years. Carl has a BA from Penn State and an MS from Drexel University and graduated from the UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management's Advanced Retail Strategy certificate program.



Barbara Karplus

Secretary/Treasurer
Woka Foundation

Barbara Karplus is a mother, wife, and semi-retired schoolteacher and tax accountant. She and her husband formed the Woka Foundation to help create a just world that values environmental vitality and recognizes the dignity of all peoples. As Board Member and Secretary/Treasurer of Woka, she melds her passions for human rights, the environment, and a world of compassion and caring.



Kelly Kim

Responsible Sourcing Manager WK Kellogg Co

Kelly Kim recently joined the WK Kellogg Co as the Responsible Sourcing Manager. Kelly started her career in consulting for agribusinesses to build in-house sustainability programs and conduct on-farm sustainability assessments. In her previous role at Sodexo, a food service and facilities management company, she supported the company and its clients in meeting their sustainable sourcing goals. She also managed performance tracking and reporting towards Sodexo's global corporate responsibility commitments. Kelly holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Biology from Virginia Tech. Kelly lives with her spouse and two dogs in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.



Kendra Klein, PhD

Deputy Director of Science
Friends of the Earth

Kendra Klein, PhD is Deputy Director of Science at Friends of the Earth. She leads research on pesticides, environmental health, and sustainable agriculture. Prior to joining FOE, she held positions at Physicians for Social Responsibility, Health Care Without Harm, and Breast Cancer Action. Klein is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and her work has appeared in publications including The Guardian, The Nation, and Gastronomica. She holds a BA from Miami University of Ohio and a PhD in Environmental Science, Policy & Management from UC Berkeley.



Angela Knuth

Co-owner
Knuth Farms

Angela is co-owner of Knuth Farms where their focus is on quality production by adopting new technology, implementing data analytics, pursuing sustainable farming systems, and introducing traceability into the supply chain at the farm level.

Farmer



Levi Kokes

Rancher/Farmer

Kokes Cattle Company

I am a 5th Generation Farmer and Rancher in NE Colorado. I have been transitioning our Farm and Ranch into a more regenerative model for the past 4 years by integrating cover crops, reducing chemicals and synthetic fertilizers, and grazing cattle using holistic management principles.

Farmer/Rancher



Fran Korten

Retired

NGO/Farmer Support



Kristy Lewis

Founder, Chief Visionary Officer Quinn Snacks

Kristy, mom of three little boys, launched Quinn Foods with no prior food industry experience just three days after her first son, Quinn, was born. Disappointed by the chemicals and artificial flavors in her favorite childhood snack, microwave popcorn, Kristy invented and patented a Pure Pop® microwave popcorn bag, which is the first bag without chemical or plastic coatings, such as PFOAs and PFCs. Kristy continued her mission of making better-for-you classic snacks (that never ever compromise on flavor) by launching a line of gluten-free and grain-free pretzels. Since starting Quinn ten years ago, Kristy has been a pioneer in agriculture and ingredient transparency. Quinn's 'Farm-to-Bag'™ Policy connects consumers directly to the source where the ingredients come from and their 'Be Better. Do Better.'™ mission takes these 'Farm-to-Bag' relationships a step further by encouraging growers to improve agricultural practices that will not only benefit them, but also the planet.

Brand/Retailer



Greg Lickteig

President

Omaha Grain Exchange

President and founder of Omaha Grain Exchange, a grain supply and trading company for select world-wide buyers and sellers with a focus on specialty grain and soybeans, Non-GMO and organic. Over thirty-five years experience in the grain trade. An owner and manager of Lickteig Farms Enterprises with over 2,500 acres of row crops/grain under management in Iowa.

Seed & Ingredient Supplier



James Lovold

Program Expansion Manager Non-GMO Project

Equipped with an educational and professional facility for social innovation as well as a deep personal passion for all things food, I have found myself stumbling into the intersection of community and food systems. My work at the Non-GMO Project focuses on ways to catalyze social networks to embed a greater level of resilience and planetary health into our continental and global foodsheds.



Joan McIntyre

Climate Change, Energy and Environment
Commission



Erin Meyer

Executive Director Basil's Harvest

I am the Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit Basil's Harvest (BH), with a clinical associate appointment at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria, IL. I am a registered dietitian, sustainable food systems expert, educator, culinary professional, and food business owner with over three decades of experience in clinical and environmental nutrition, food systems, processing, agriculture, distribution, and executive leadership. All of the initiatives and work led to the creation of Basil's Harvest, a non-profit whose mission is to empower the health of communities by catalyzing leaders to innovate, educate, and develop new models supporting regenerative food systems and community health.



Cameron Miller

Chief Executive of Business Strategy & Innovation Non-GMO Project

Growing up working on a farm on the Palouse, Cameron developed a deep appreciation for the connection between our land, our food, and our health. A varied career that has included time as a design engineer, a Six Sigma Black Belt, a software company executive, a founder of a sharing economy platform for farmers; a rich volunteer background that includes serving on the Board of Directors of Tilth Alliance and Sustainable Connections; and an MBA in Sustainable Systems, positions Cameron well to be a change leader in food systems work. He's stoked to be positively affecting our food systems through his role as Chief Executive of Business Strategy and Innovation at the Non-GMO Project.



Nicole Negowetti

Managing Director

Plant Based Foods Institute

Nicole Negowetti is the Managing Director at the Plant Based Foods Association and Plant Based Foods Institute. She is an attorney, educator, and scholar whose work focuses on the laws and policies shaping the U.S. agriculture and food system. Nicole previously served as a Clinical Instructor and Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School, where she worked at the Animal Law & Policy Clinic and the Food Law & Policy Clinic in the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation. Nicole was the first Policy Director of the Good Food Institute and served as an Associate Professor of Law at the Valparaiso University School of Law. Nicole is an advisor to the Food & Nutrition Innovation Institute at the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, where she teaches Food Law. Nicole is also a co-founder of the Northwest Indiana Food Council, whose mission is to build a just, thriving, and regenerative food system for all.

Industry Support



Renee Nickelson

Policy and Food Systems Associate Plant Based Foods Institute

Renee Smith Nickelson is a policy professional with multidisciplinary expertise in U.S. agriculture and public health. In her role as Policy Associate at the Plant-Based Foods Institute, she leads efforts to connect supply networks in the plant-based food industry led by a vision to transform agriculture to support a regenerative, equitable, and plant-based future. She brings nearly a decade of experience leading state and federal legislative strategy across policy issues. Renee's drive stems from grassroots organizing on environmental and local food issues, addressing systemic injustices through policy and social change, and developing solutions for joy, healing, and justice through food and farming.



John Niswonger

Owner

Niswonger & Son Inc.

Farmer/Rancher for 25+ years.

Farmer



Thea O'Carroll

Farmer and Consultant Yield Organic

Thea manages her family farm in Northeast Nebraska and has been farming organically for well over a decade and continues to transition acres. Lessons learned through her organic transition experience, led her to combine her product development and farming background to design a white-glove consulting service within the industry. Bringing people in agriculture together through tailored solutions around domestic production; assisting food and feed brands to develop unique custom supply chain solutions. Solving the dichotomy of what Farmers grow and what Buyers need

Thea is committed to fostering innovation and opportunity in American Agriculture. By building community in the industry, she endeavors to catalyze necessary change to help and protect the land and farmers that steward over it.



Caitlin Oleson

Director of Operations & Programming Climate Collaborative

Caitlin is the Director of Operations & Programming at the Climate Collaborative. Since 2018, Caitlin has supported the Collaborative's mission to help catalyze and track public climate commitments from more than 760 companies. She works directly with manufacturers, distributors, and retailers to help them reduce their emissions via programmatic opportunities and supports their critical engagement in climate advocacy. Before the Climate Collaborative, Caitlin worked primarily in the nonprofit sector around civic and voter engagement.



Courtney Pineau

Executive Director

Climate Collaborative

Courtney Pineau has a deeply held belief that food companies have the power to be on the leading edge of climate action. Bringing more than 20 years of experience in the food industry with leadership roles at the Non-GMO Project, Green America, and now the Climate Collaborative, she sees the imperative for climate action from our food providers and the opportunity they have to mobilize eaters (all of us!) to engage in building a more regenerative future.



Leah Puro

Project Manager

Edacious, PBC

Leah Puro manages Edacious projects from forming relationships with growers and customers through lab operations and to final reporting. This involves understanding diverse production systems and practices as well as soil chemistry and biology. She pursued a Master in Science in International Agricultural Development from the University of California Davis. Since graduate school she has been managing diverse vegetable and livestock farms and contributing to applied agricultural research. She has conducted research on a range of agricultural systems including small grains in California, cassava in Vietnam, and dairy cow feeding and GHG emissions in Maine.



Dave Rapaport

VP Global Grasslands Program
Native

Dave oversees Native's growing portfolio of regenerative grazing projects that build soil health and drawdown carbon. Native's grasslands projects include the first US project first project validated to Verra's industry leading Verified Carbon Standard in Montana, one undergoing validation in Patagonia, and the largest soil carbon project in the world with traditional pastoralists across 1.9 million hectares in northern Kenya. Prior to joining Native in 2022, Dave was Social Mission Officer for Ben & Jerry's after previously serving in similar roles at Aveda and Seventh Generation.



Raiza Rezende

Co-Founder

Coalition of Health Professionals for
Regenerative Agriculture

Raiza co-founded the Coalition of Health Professionals for Regenerative Agriculture, which focuses on spreading awareness of the connection between soil and human health to health professionals. Raiza has been working for the past 6 years with Regenerative Agriculture in Europe, from planting trees, to community development and cooking, her main interests are human and soil microbiome, nutrient density, holistic nutrition and healthy food. With chemical engineering background her passion for cooking and nutrition has led her to start a bachelor degree in Naturopathic Nutrition from College of Naturopathic Medicine.

Industry Support



Jennifer Risley

Director of Operations

American Independent Business Alliance

Jen Risley served as an early organizer of her local food co-op in 2007. In addition to her co-op work, she's editor of The Main Street Journal, director of operations at American Independent Business Alliance, and program manager of The Local Crowd Monadnock, a community-based crowdfunding program for independently owned businesses. She holds a Master's in Education from Antioch University New England and lives in Keene, NH.



Ken Roseboro

Editor

The Organic & Non-GMO Report

Ken Roseboro is editor and publisher of The Organic & Non-GMO Report, which has been the leading publication focusing on markets for organic and non-GMO foods since 2001. He is also editor and publisher of The Organic & Non-GMO Sourcebook, the world's only "farm to fork" directory of suppliers of non-GMO and organic seeds, grains, ingredients, and food products. Ken's articles have also appeared in leading food and agriculture publications and websites, including Civil Eats, Acres USA, Prepared Foods, EcoWatch, Harvest Public Media, and others.



Lauren Rubin

I am a recent MBA graduate from the Asia School of Business in collaboration with MIT Sloan. I'm looking to get into the regenerative agriculture space and attending this meeting as a learning opportunity. I have 8 years of experience working in food supply chains across the corporate world, starts ups, and non-profits.



Elizabeth Sachs

Director, Sustainable Sourcing Initiative Plant Based Foods Institute

I'm the Director of the Sustainable Sourcing Initiative (SSI) at the Plant Based Foods Institute. The SSI is working to develop ecologically regenerative, socially equitable supply chains in the plant-based food industry. I've spent 23 years working in organic and sustainable agriculture with a focus on specialty crop and small grains production in diversified farming systems. I've also served in research, education, policy, and program roles, with a focus on small farm viability, market development, and Federal Farm Bill programs. In my new role at PBFi, I'm helping food companies invest in sustainable agriculture, grow new markets for diverse crops, and build a healthy plant-based future for people, animals, and the planet.



Lee Sexton

Owner/Manager

Sexton Grazing and Consulting

Livestock, forage management and land stewardship have shaped Lee's life both personally and professionally. He developed, implemented and managed an invasive weed program for the Canadian government, targeting an 11,000 acre leafy spurge infestation. The integrated program initially consisted of 1900 small ruminants, but over the course of the program the numbers grew to 4200. This success helped Lee launch his own targeted grazing business. He continues to develop and operate targeted grazing programs, and work with landowners and those interested in reducing unwanted vegetation. Lee has consulted with landowners, urban planning committees, government agencies, livestock organizations and those who are interested in grazing as a management tool. By promoting and practicing targeted grazing, Lee sees opportunities to enhance the land in a low impact, natural way.

Farmer/Rancher



Rod Sommerfield

Partner

Sunnyfield Farms Partnership

We have been partnering with Nature to grow our soils deeper and more productive since the 1980's using Regenerative Management. In 2012 we helped start Soil Organic Matter Generators to teach and mentor people interested in Regenerative Resource Management. Recently we've been presenting on How Regenerative Resource Management provides resiliency to a changing climate. Read more on [A Regenerative Farmer's Story on How We Fix This.](#)

Farmer/Rancher



Eric Steiner

Founder

Earth Brew Compost

Building soil, by recycling waste into a natural fertilizer, for gardeners and community gardens.

Brand/Retailer



Rachel Stozcko

Marketing and Communications Lead Planet FWD

Rachel Stozcko is an impact-focused communicator and public relations professional specializing in food, technology and education. Today, she leads communications at Planet FWD, the leading climate management platform for consumer companies. The platform is inspired by Planet FWD's own snack brand, Moonshot, which launched in 2020 as the first climate-friendly snack brand where Rachel ran communications as well until it was purchased by Patagonia Provisions in March 2023. Before Planet FWD and Moonshot, Rachel was a communications leader at VSC, a strategic communications firm in San Francisco.



Mitch Theisen

Director of CSR & Regenerative Sourcing
NSI Group, LLC

Mitch Theisen is the Director of CSR & Regenerative Sourcing for Natural Sourcing International - a private label supplier for top grocery retailers in North America. In addition to advising and implementing the company's Corporate Social Responsibility strategy, Mitch works directly in procurement to lead the Regenerative Agriculture Program - including sourcing, supply chain development & supplier management of regenerative commodities.

Seed & Ingredient Supplier



Laura Thomas

Network Coordinator

RegeNErate Nebraska

Laura grew up in rural Nebraska and has had the privilege to live, study and extensively travel nationally and globally. She is an international nonprofit and social impact sector researcher, consultant and director based in Omaha, Nebraska. She received her Masters of Science in International Mission Driven Organizations from the SIT Graduate Institute (formerly named the School for International Training) in Brattleboro, Vermont. She is the Communications and Partnership Manager for GC Resolve and the senior advisor for the Nebraska World Affairs Council. She also serves as the Nebraska State Coordinator for the Midwest Agriculture, Environment, and Health research project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Her greatest joy and most important role is raising her incredible seven-year-old son Grayson.



Steve Tucker

Owner

Tucker Farms

Steve is a regenerative ag production specialist and works hard to promote regenerative practices on his farm. He grows 14 different crops on his highly diversified farm in Southwest Nebraska. He also enjoys marketing directly to food companies, working to product exactly what they are looking for.

Farmer/Rancher



Ladd Wahlen

Co-Owner

Roots Chips LLC

Co-Owner of our family farm operation that emphasizes regenerating the soil and eco-system. And Co-Owner of Roots Potato Chips, which makes chips that are better for the consumer, the community, and the earth.



Kripa Watts

Healthy Farm Standard Manager
MegaFood

Kripa works on the Social Impact team with MegaFood where she serves as the Healthy Farm Standard Manager.



Pam Wavrin

Director of Ranch Operations
Roundhouse Foundation

Working in Sisters Oregon to transition a traditional working cattle ranch into a regenerative system, focusing on creating thriving and healthy ecosystems within the ranch.

Farmer/Rancher



Tim Webster

Chairman and CEO

Farmer Direct Foods

Tim is Chairman and CEO of Farmer Direct Foods, which promotes regeneratively-grown, artisan flours that are better for consumers, farmers, and the earth. Tim is an experienced Managing Director with a demonstrated history of working in the consumer products industry.



Megan Westgate

Executive Director

The Non-GMO Project

After years of passionate food advocacy, Megan helped launch the Non-GMO Project in 2006. She became Executive Director in 2007 and has been hard at work to protect the future of non-GMO food ever since. As a national thought leader on the non-GMO issue, Megan is a highly respected speaker and has been featured in numerous national publications and forums. In addition to the Non-GMO Project, her passions in life include her young children, Robin Wilder and Riverley, and the organic permaculture homestead she and her husband Noah are cultivating in the beautiful Lake Whatcom watershed.

From 2010-17, Megan served on the Board of the Community Food Co-op where she spent two years as Board chair and another two years as chair of the Board Development Committee. Megan is the co-author of The Non-GMO Cookbook and Yoga for Pregnancy



Jim Williams

Farmer

Hi my name is Jim Williams, I farm and ranch in south central South Dakota. I work closely with nature and the soil food web.

Farmer/Rancher



Timothy Wise

Senior Advisor

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Timothy A. Wise is a senior advisor at IATP, where his work focuses on agribusiness, family farmers and the future of food, based on his recent book, *Eating Tomorrow: Agribusiness, Family Farmers, and the Battle for the Future of Food* (The New Press). Tim has a long history of collaboration with IATP on issues including agricultural dumping, U.S. agricultural subsidies and policies, responses to the 2007-8 global food crisis, the WTO and Mexico under NAFTA. He was a senior advisor with the Small Planet Institute, where he directed the Land and Food Rights Program from 2016-2020. He is also a senior research fellow at Tufts University's Global Development and Environment Institute, where he founded and directed its Globalization and Sustainable Development Program. He previously served as executive director of the U.S.-based aid agency Grassroots International. He is the author of *Confronting Globalization: Economic Integration and Popular Resistance in Mexico*, in addition to *Eating Tomorrow*. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Research/Academic



Rod Womer

CEO

Woka Foundation

Rod “Rocket” Womer is a retired Test Pilot, Program Manager, and U.S. Navy Captain. He and his wife formed the Woka Foundation in 2019 with a goal of reversing climate change and building a durable biosphere. The Woka Foundation funds in four focus areas: scientific innovation, regenerative agriculture, gender equity, and education.



Ariel Zakarison

Farmer

Zakarison Partnership

Ariel Zakarison is a fourth-generation farmer in the Palouse region of Eastern Washington state. Our operation is a 600-acre dry land row crop farm. We began the transition to no-till/direct seeding three years ago. We are actively trying to reduce our chemical inputs as much as possible and experimenting with different biological farming techniques such as intercropping, repairman buffers, use of native plants for cover crops, and use of rotational grazing for weed management.

Farmer



Sheryl Hagen-Zakarison

Farmer

Zakarison Partnership LLC

Zakarison LLC is one of the farms participating in the SCI pilot program. We are 4 years into our journey of learning how to farm in a biologically sound system. We farm in what is known as the Palouse in Pullman Washington.

Farmer

GREEN AMERICA Staff





Sarah Andrysiak

Sr. Director, Special Climate & Agriculture Programs
Green America

Sarah is the Senior Director of Special Climate and Agriculture Programs within Green America's Center for Sustainability Solutions. Prior to joining Green America, Sarah provided business consulting services to enterprises working to create a more just and sustainable food system. Her clients included impact investors, food system entrepreneurs, and farmer advocacy organizations. Earlier in her career, Sarah directed a non-profit land conservation organization and led management consulting projects for fortune 500 companies. Sarah holds an BA degree from Yale University and an MBA from the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.



Jeffrey Bos

Strategic Director, Innovation & Verification Green America

Jeff Bos is an entrepreneur, values-based executive, wilderness wanderer and zen practitioner. He is a Strategic Advisor & the Director, Innovation & Verification for Green America's Soil Carbon Initiative, a Soil & Climate Health Certification Program to support farmers and companies in the transition to regenerative agriculture. He is a Co-Founder of Foment, a consultancy that partners with leaders and teams to foment visionary change through co-creating and co-cultivating regenerative cultures and programs. Trained as an ecologist, Jeff has an MBA in Sustainable Business from the Presidio Graduate School.



Julie Davenson

Farm Finance Specialist, Soil Carbon Initiative Green America

Julie Davenson has spent the past decade immersed in the agricultural sector at the intersection of farm management, policy and food system advocacy, and developing regional supply programs. Most recently she developed the supply program a vertically integrated regenerative meat processing company contributing to regional financial pilots. She has experience managing regenerative farm transitions for both dairy farms and no-till market gardens systems. Julie served as a HUB leader and Accredited Educator in the Savory Institute's Global HUB Network where she managed the farm's grazing program and participation in Stonyfield's Open Team HUB trials. Building on her graduate level work in systems thinking, she is passionate about developing systems level solutions, like the SCI model, that address the polycrisis of climate change, food security and resulting economic instability.

Soil Carbon Initiative, Green America



Kristen Efurud

Verification Director, Soil Carbon Initiative
Green America

Growing up on a farm in rural Arkansas, Kristen experienced first-hand the challenges many farm families face. This experience anchored her passion for sustainable food, regenerative farming, and rural livelihood creation. Her expertise spans sustainable operations, local food procurement, sustainable supply chains and food systems, and circular economy. She and her partner, Joe, are starting a small diversified regenerative farm in west central Arkansas.



Justine Ghai

Program Manager, Soil & Climate Alliance Green America

For more than a decade, Justine has been working in nonprofit management and conservation within the U.S. and abroad. Her expertise lies in communications, program development, and community-based conservation programming. Justine is a certified volunteer administrator with a Bachelor of Science in ecology and environmental biology from the University of North Carolina and a Master of Arts in conservation biology from Miami University. Prior to Green America, she led all outreach and education programs for a county-wide land trust. Justine also developed the strategic direction for the organizations communications efforts and worked to expand experiential learning opportunities. From running large-scale habitat restoration projects to working with farmers in rural Namibian communities, Justine brings unique insight into the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem regeneration in the regenerative space. She is currently based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Soil & Climate Alliance, Green America



Alisa Gravitz

President & CEO

Green America

For 30 years, Alisa has led Green America, the national green economy organization. Green America develops marketplace solutions to social and environmental problems with a key focus on tackling climate change, building fair trading systems, stopping corporate abuse, and growing the green economy. Alisa brings years of experience and knowledge of sustainability. She is deeply involved with the development of strategy for the Center and co-chairs the Innovation Networks. Alisa is a nationally recognized leader in the social investment and solar industries and authored Green America's acclaimed Guide to Social Investing and the popular Guide to Community Investing. She co-convened the Solar Circle and co-authored several thought-leadership papers including the Solar Opportunity Assessment Report (SOAR), the Solar High-Impact National Energy (SHINE) Project, and the Utility Solar Assessment (USA) Study: Reaching 10% Solar by 2025. Alisa's board service includes Ceres, Positive Future Network, Network for Good, and the Underdog Ventures Foundation. Prior to Green America, Alisa worked on renewable energy and energy efficiency for the Carter administration, and small business and economic development issues in both the public and private sectors. She earned her MBA from Harvard University and her BA in economics and environmental sciences from Brandeis University.

Green America



Taylor Herren

Program Specialist, Soil Carbon Initiative Green America

Over the past decade, Taylor has worked to grow the healthy soil movement and scale regenerative agriculture. After earning a B.S. in Agriculture and M.S. in Regenerative Agricultural Systems from Chico State, she helped establish the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems. She also worked for Breakthrough Strategies & Solutions on projects including a philanthropic and investment guide to scale soil carbon sequestration, campaigns to advance state policies promoting healthy soils, and international working groups convening farmers, funders, researchers, corporations, government officials, and NGOs. She then joined Kiss the Ground as Development Director. During her tenure, the organization tripled its budget and launched a full-length documentary released on Netflix in 2020. In addition to her role with SCI, Taylor works on a regenerative vegetable and flower farm in Santa Barbara, CA where she spends time doing her favorite thing -- being on the land and putting her hands in soil.

Soil Carbon Initiative, Green America



Jessica Hulse Dillon

Director, Soil & Climate Alliance Green America

Jessica has worked throughout her career to bring together diverse actors to create system wide changes. Jessica focuses on working with members to support the work they outline as being crucial to ensure a sustainable national supply chain. Jessica began her career working to build relationships in Central Asia, Africa, and Latin America in support of US energy companies. She continued this work in the non-profit world, working around the world to bring together experts, practitioners, and local community members to build best practices around Early Childhood Education and Maternal and Newborn health in developing countries. Jessica has also worked to support local and sustainable agriculture in Washington, DC. Jessica received her BA in US Foreign Policy. She then received a MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution, focusing on children's nutrition in post-conflict society as well as a Certificate in Peacebuilding with a focus on maternal health.

Soil & Climate Alliance, Green America



Lindsey Johnson

Program Coordinator, Soil & Climate Alliance Green America

Lindsey is the new Program Coordinator for the Soil & Climate Alliance through Green America's Center for Sustainability Solutions. She supports general Soil & Climate Alliance operations and initiatives, assists with network events, and helps with the Nutrient Density Alliance. Interested in the intersection of climate and health, she focuses on work that promotes equitable food systems and regenerative agriculture. She is excited to bring her experience in project management, operational support, research, and communications to Soil & Climate Alliance initiatives. Lindsey is also passionate about the ways regenerative agritourism can support sustainable food systems and serves on the *Sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture and Agritourism* subcommittee of the Global Agritourism Network. Lindsey is also an alum of Terra.do's Climate Farm School program.



Adam Kotin

Managing Director, Soil Carbon Initiative Green America

Adam has worked for the past decade at the intersection of climate and agriculture. At Quantis, he led sustainability projects for food & ag clients around the world, with a focus on natural climate solutions and regenerative agriculture. Prior to Quantis, he was Director, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs for Wine Institute and Associate Policy Director at the California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN), where he helped create California's Healthy Soils Initiative and other climate-smart ag programs. He's partnered with growers from certified organic to conventional, and regularly works on side projects for his aunt's biodynamic farm in Northern California. Adam lives in Providence, Rhode Island.



Ginger Leib

Coordinator, Soil & Climate Alliance
Green America

Ginger serves as the Coordinator for the Soil & Climate Alliance and the Clean Electronics Production Network where she assists with network events, collateral production, and research. Ginger's previous work has been in the nonprofit sector, where she has worked in program operations, event planning, and development at open space organizations. Prior to joining Green America, Ginger completed her MA in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy, where she conducted research on housing, sustainable transportation, and workers' rights, and recently completed her thesis on fare-free bus programs in medium-sized cities. Ginger believes in elevating and raising awareness about the intersection of environmental justice, economic empowerment, and community resilience. Ginger lives in the greater Boston area and enjoys gardening, cooking, and mountain biking.



Teletha McJunkin

Independent Consultant
Resolutionist Consulting



Tina Owens

Senior Fellow, Nutrient Density Alliance Green America

Tina works at the intersection of regenerative business, financing on farm regenerative transitions, sustainable sourcing, supply chain management, fueling soil carbon sequestration, non-punitive cost savings, and topline growth. She has been at the forefront of several transformational shifts within the food system, including the Non-GMO Project movement, unprecedented growth on large organic brands, launching of the Certified Transitional protocol, and emerging Regenerative Agriculture certifications, agricultural carbon imperatives, and regenerative food and financial systems. She has led major initiatives in sustainability on natural and organic brands as a Director at Kellogg's and created the first regenerative finance portfolio as a Senior Director at Danone North America. Tina is a board member at Regenerative Rising, a member of GOOGLE Food Labs, and an advisor to the Culinary Institute of America for their Master's degree in Sustainable Food Systems. She is currently the Senior Fellow at the Center for Sustainability Solutions at Green America and co-leading the Nutrient Density Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture.

Nutrient Density Alliance, Green America



Megan Tymesko

Company Program Manager, Soil Carbon Initiative
Green America

Megan serves as the Company Program Manager for Green America’s Soil Carbon Initiative. She’s inspired to collaborate daily with innovative and values-driven leaders supporting soil regeneration and prioritizing climate-based solutions throughout the US and abroad. Prior to joining Green America, Megan’s background in environmental design influenced her passion for a wide range of sustainability initiatives that included involvement in nonprofit management, urban design, and integrative health and wellness. Her expertise lies in program and partnership development, corporate sustainability, design and communications, systems-thinking, and community-based programming. For over a decade, she’s developed wealth of experience in environmental leadership, most recently in advancing wellness brands on their sustainability journey and helping to reimagine the potential to evolve beyond.

Soil Carbon Initiative, Green America



**Soil &
Climate
Alliance**

**NETWORK
MEMBERS**

unable to
join us



Bayu Agumsah

Project Officer

Local Biome

I am Bayu Agumsah a permaculture-based farmer from Indonesia. I am a bachelor of information systems and I am 29 years old.

Farmer/Rancher



Anna Akey

Farmer

Flat Acre Farms

6th Generation on Montana Family Farm

Farmer



Juana Domingo Andres

Community Garden

Maya Community Center

Gardening is Juana's life. Juana talks with our plant and animal relatives while she is out working at our community garden at the Maya Community Center and at home. Juana's spiritual relationship with Mother Earth, plants and animals inspires not only the Maya community but our wider Omaha community.



Keith Berns

President

Green Cover Seed

Keith combines 20+ years of no-till farming with 10 years of teaching Agriculture and Computers. In addition to no-tilling 2,000 acres of irrigated and dryland corn, soybeans, rye, triticale, peas, sunflowers, and buckwheat in South Central Nebraska, he also co-owns Green Cover Seed, one of the major cover crop seed providers and educators in the US. Through Green Cover Seed, Keith has experimented with 100+ different cover crop types and hundreds of mixes planted into various situations and has learned a great deal about cover crop growth, nitrogen fixation, moisture usage, and grazing utilization of cover crops. Keith was honored by the White House as a 2016 Champion of Change for Sustainable and Climate-Smart Agriculture. He also developed the SmartMix Calculator™. Keith has a Masters in Agricultural Education from University of Nebraska and teaches on cover crops and soil health to various groups and audiences. He was appointed by Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts to be part of the Nebraska Healthy Soils Task Force, serving as chairman.

Seed & Ingredient Supplier



Stacia Betley

Director of Sustainability & Social Impact MegaFood

Stacia believes in using business as a force for positive change and that it is critical to create food that is not only healthier for people but also healthier for the planet. During her 12 years of academic and professional involvement in sustainability, she has worked in the outdoor gear industry, obtained an MBA, and pivoted to the food industry. Most recently, she led the sustainable sourcing efforts at Amy's Kitchen and was named a GreenBiz 30 Under 30 honoree, breaking new ground in sustainable business across the globe. Now, she is excited to lead sustainability at MegaFood, as embedding this into all aspects of business is her greatest passion.

Brand/Retailer



Jeremy Bunch

CEO

Shepherd's Grain

Jeremy Bunch is the CEO of Shepherd's Grain. Over the last 10 years he has built sustainable supply chains for farmers who have implemented regenerative practices.



Elizabeth Candelario

Director of Strategic Partnerships
Mad Agriculture

Elizabeth Candelario is the director of strategic partnerships for Mad Agriculture, whose mission is nothing less than to revolutionize agriculture for the benefit of farmers, people and planet. This work is part of her more than decade-long quest to leverage the marketplace to drive adoption of regenerative agriculture. She retired in 2019 from Demeter USA, where she most recently served as president. Demeter USA is the nation's only certifier of Biodynamic farms and products.



Adam Chappell

Owner/Operator
Chappell Brothers Farm

Adam Chappell is a regenerative farmer in Cotton Plant, AR. He grows 8,000 acres of irrigated cotton, soybeans, corn and rice. Adam utilizes no-till cover crops and livestock to build soil health.

Farmer



Graham Christensen

Founder/President
GC Resolve

Graham Christensen, from Oakland NE, has long believed that the farmer would have a critical role in reversing climate change with alternative energy and regenerative agriculture. This belief led to a career dealing with environmental issues and green infrastructure development. Christensen also keeps it close to home and has been active in his family's farm in northeast Nebraska his entire life, continuing a family tradition that first started in 1867. For fun, Christensen likes to play baseball, listen to a wide array of amazing music, cook and eat local foods, and adventure to new places.

Farmer



Rafaela Crevoshay

Consulting Horticulturist The Soil Project

Rafaela (pronouns: she, her) is a Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) and a Certified Professional Horticulturist (CPH). She has been active for 15 years in the sales, marketing, import, and certifications for a farm in Baja California Sur that produces Organic Heirloom Tomatoes and Bell Peppers for the US market. Rafa is featured in the webinar series "Transformational Gardening" for Green America's Climate Victory Gardens. Her team was recently awarded a research grant through the U. of California San Diego, to classify and analyze soil management techniques by genomic sequencing. She seeks qualifying farmers to donate soil samples.



Osei Doyle

Co-Founder & Head Cultivator Salem Hemp Kings

Osei Doyle is a hemp farmer with his family business The Salem HempKings. He has just completed his second season and hopes to teach kids and baby boomers about the benefits of plant medicine, including hemp. He attended St. Louis University and received his Cannabis Science & Operations Certificate. His family just purchased new property in Central Missouri and his hope is to train a small workforce to support with the hemp fiber industry. Please reach out to connect!

Farmer/Rancher



Katherine Favor

Sustainable Ag Specialist

National Center for Appropriate Technology

Katherine is an Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture Specialist at NCAT, where she provides technical assistance, training, education, and access to resources to farmers and ranchers to help scale the adoption of agroforestry and other climate-beneficial practices. She received a Master of Science degree in Agroforestry from the University of Missouri - Columbia where she researched vineyard agroforestry systems in Argentina. She has worked on organic farms in California, Montana, and South America for over twelve years, managed an award-winning organic vineyard, and is a certified Permaculture Designer. She spent two years in Paraguay with the Peace Corps, working on food security and agroforestry projects with small farmers, and she has also worked for many years as an educational program coordinator for environmental organizations and conferences throughout California.

NGO/Farmer Support



Emma Flynn

Strategic Operations Manager Non-GMO Project

Emma supports the Non-GMO Project as the Strategic Operations Manager, and coordinates and facilitates strategic work between the Board, Executive team, and staff. Emma is passionately curious about regenerative work both on the farm, and in ways of working in the hopes of disrupting the status quo to realize a multi-fruitful future. Emma currently resides in Ames, Iowa where she is involved in local sustainability initiatives.



Tummy Francisco

Education Initiatives

Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim

Tummy Francisco belongs to the Q'anjob'al Maya Nation. Expert in Q'anjob'al Maya Education Systems. Tummy directs CMPI's Maya Education Initiative with emphasis on Earth Based Education with all ages.

Tummy is passionate about community service and is highly respected and loved by her students.

NGO/Farmer Support



Maria Gaspar

President of the Board of Directors Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim

Maria Gaspar is a member of the Akateko Maya Nation and serves as President of the Board of Directors at CMPI. She has a profound understanding of Indigenous People's inherent and inalienable rights to self-determination and self-governance. As President, Maria leads and manages relationships with Maya governments and has led efforts to develop our regenerative agriculture program. She is also a mother of four adult children.



Rebecca Gildiner

Director of Sustainability

Daily Harvest

Rebecca Gildiner is the Director of Sustainability at Daily Harvest, which delivers chef-crafted food built on real, organic fruits + vegetables directly to customers' freezers. She leads sustainability strategy and program development across the business, with a focus on scaling regenerative, organic agriculture through a farmer-centric approach. Prior, Rebecca built the sustainability and social impact program at Sir Kensington's, a natural condiment brand. Overall she has collected 14+ years of experiences across the food system including farm labor, food education, foodservice, retail, corporate strategy, and waste management, all informing her career journey to learn everything about food and how to harness its power for good. Rebecca received her Master of Environmental Management at the Yale School of the Environment and her BA from Colgate University.

Brand/Retailer



Mike Gill

Senior Advisor, Sustainable Ag Nutrien Ag Solutions

Mike is responsible for researching and advising Nutrien Ag Solutions on the future direction of sustainable agriculture and carbon programs across the US. Mike joined Nutrien Ag Solutions in April 2022 and has since been advising the Nutrien Ag Solutions Platform on implementation of sustainability programs around carbon emission, carbon sequestration, soil health and improved production efficiency. Prior to this, Mike was Director of Conservation Agriculture for the Illinois Soybean Association. Mike has also held the positions of Crop Nutrient Technical Manager for Growmark and Research Agronomist for The Climate Corporation. Other positions include positions with Monsanto Company Inc. as IFS Technology Development Manager, Technology Development Representative for Illinois/Wisconsin, and DEKALB/Asgrow Territory Agronomy Adviser. Mike also held the position of Field Sales Agronomist for Pioneer/DuPont for Illinois/Wisconsin. Mike is a Certified Crop Adviser, Certified Professional Agronomist and holds degrees in Soil Science and Field Biology/Land Reclamation. Mike is passionate about regenerative agriculture, the economic well-being of farmers and the environment.

Brand/Retailer



Dr. Rick Haney

Chief Scientist Regen Ag Lab

Rick's dedication to helping producers and experience, as both a leading research scientist and on-farm manager, helps Regen Ag Lab bridge the gap between data founded in sound science and practical knowledge. Dr. Haney is a former Soil Chemist/Microbiologist and Research Farmer at the USDA-ARS Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory in Temple, TX, and is the creator of the Haney Soil Health Test. Rick grew up farming in Custer County, OK, before he earned his PhD in soil microbial ecology and chemistry from Texas A&M University. Rick has researched soil ecology and soil testing for more than 30 years. In 2017, he was awarded the USDA's Plains Area and National Technology Transfer Awards. Rick was also awarded the 2018 USDA REE Under Secretary's award for the Haney Test and the 2018 Secretary of Agriculture Honor Award for the USDA's strategic goal of strengthening the stewardship of private lands through technology and research. Rick enjoys spending time with his wife, Liz, and his 2 daughters.

Industry Support



Russell Hedrick

Farmer & Co-Owner Soil Regen

Russell is a first-generation farmer in the foothills of Hickory, North Carolina, where he farms JRH Grain Farms, LLC. Russell is known as one of the most progressive young farmers in the country. Russell has been a featured producer in Top Producer Magazine, Furrow Magazine, and on RFD TV, Ag PhD, and National No-till Farmer for profitably farming by reducing fertilizer inputs and using soil health practices on cash crops . In 2017 he won the North Carolina Corn Yield contest, the first person to win in the state using regenerative practices. Russell's operation focuses on maximizing profits and direct consumer marketing for all their products, including corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, pastures beef and pork. He is the co-founder of Regen Mills and Heritage Ground with Liz, owner of Soil Regen, LLC, and has partnered with Foothills Distillery producing the first bourbon in North Carolina since prohibition.

Farmer/Rancher



Mitch Hinrichs

Marketing Consultant & Farmer
Farm.Marketing

It's been my focus to bridge my agricultural background and curiosities with my digital marketing, storytelling, and eCommerce skills to help regenerative brands and farmers grow, profit and thrive.



Ann Marie Hourigan

Quality Standards Whole Foods Market

Ann Marie Hourigan is currently a Sr Team Leader on the Quality Standards Team at Whole Foods Market. There, Ann Marie works on Agricultural Programs and Sourcing Standards. For the past 20 years, she has worked in the organic and natural foods industry in a variety of roles. Prior to working at Whole Foods Market, Ann Marie was the Director of Organic Integrity and Compliance Programs at Earthbound Farm, an organic produce grower and shipper. In previous roles, Ann Marie has been an organic inspector and technical reviewer for Quality Assurance International (QAI). Ann Marie has also served as member of the California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC), and California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) chapter leader. She holds a Bachelor Degree from UC San Diego in Psychology and a Masters of Business Administration from San Diego State University.

Brand/Retailer



Trish Jackson

Director of Regenerative Ag PrairieFood

Trisha hails from central Kansas, where she learned to value prairies and rural communities. Her educational and personal adventures took her around the world, where she admired diverse cultures, foods, landscapes, and agriculture. Through her graduate studies in soil science, environmental studies, and climatology, she came to understand how regenerative agricultural practices build healthy soil to create truly resilient communities brimming with nutrient-dense food, clean water, and plentiful wildlife. With these values in mind, she was pleased to join the PrairieFood™ team to help ensure that rich, fertile soil is the number one crop.



Brian James

Farmer

James Ag Farms

I'm a farmer in the SCI program. I farm with my family in southeast Nebraska and Northwest Kansas.

Farmer



Brandon Johnson

Agronomist

Self Employed

My name is Brandon Johnson, I am an independent consultant for regenerative agriculture and sales. I am a former golf course superintendent and ag retail consultant.

Farmer



Lindsey Kane

Director, Strategic Nutrition Partnerships

WISEcode

Lindsey Kane MS, RDN, LDN is a Registered Dietitian, Certified Intuitive Eating Counselor, Behavior Change Expert, and Nutrition Champion with 12+ years of experience in the Food, Health, and Wellness space where she leverages nutrition research, behavioral science, consumer insights, and industry trends to create win-win opportunities that drive business results and optimize health and wellbeing. In her role at WISEcode as Director of Strategic Nutrition Partnerships, her mission is to empower the food and health industry with next-gen nutrition data to enhance the nutritional quality of our food system and improve population health outcomes through the power of Food As Medicine.



Taylor Keen, MBA, MPA

Instructor

Creighton University

Taylor is an instructor in the Heider College of Business Administration in Strategy and Entrepreneurship and Founder of Sacred Seed whose mission is to propagate tribal seed sovereignty, battle for tribal sacred geography and seek cultural revitalization among tribal peoples. Keen is embarking on a journey with indigenous seeds of the upper Missouri River tribes to grow, harvest and celebrate the cosmology of the 4 Sisters (corn, bean, squash, and sunflower). From his book-in-progress, he incorporates teachings of the sacred masculine /feminine of tribal peoples including the cosmology of Mother Corn and the Earth Mother goddess. Keen holds a bachelor's from Dartmouth College and an MBA and MPA from Harvard University, where he was a Fellow in the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. Taylor is the author of the book-in-progress entitled "Rediscovering America: Sacred Geography, the Ancient Earthen Works and an Indigenous History of Turtle Island". Keen is Trustee Emeritus of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Board member Emeritus of the Humanities Nebraska, and Chairman Emeritus of the Blackbird Bend Corporation.

Research/Academic



Brendalyn King

Co-Founder

Salem Hemp Kings

In April 2020, I committed to the next phase of my life's purpose by moving back home to St. Louis, MO. We have launched Salem HempKings a new family venture researching the medicinal and industrial uses of hemp. We're in phase 1 of the project and are in our second season of growing medicinal hemp in Salem, Illinois. We seek to build unique learning experiences for our youth, the formerly incarcerated and the baby boomers of our St. Louis and Kansas City communities. In April 2021 Salem HempKings acquired a 244 acre plot near the Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri with an interesting history. In 1935 to be fashioned as a Recreational Center for Colored People. We'd love to share the story with you.

Farmer/Rancher



Emily Kokes

Rancher/Farmer

Kokes Cattle Company

I farm and ranch with my husband in NE Colorado on his family's ranch.

Farmer/Rancher



Emily Lafferty

Operations

Seven Sundays

I am passionate about farmers, food systems, and connecting agronomic and gastronomic choices to planet and human health. I have over eight years of experience driving CPG product innovation and commercialization, leading B2B/B2C/B2F value chain creation, rallying stakeholder collaboration, and accelerating impact measurements & messaging. Other hobbies include being active outside-- biking, hiking, and coaching youth softball. I am based in Austin, TX.

Brand/Retailer



Timothy J. LaSalle, PhD

Co-Founder

Center for Regenerative Agriculture, CSU Chico

Tim LaSalle is Co-founder of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture, CSU Chico. He previously served as the first CEO of Rodale Institute, Executive Director of the Allan Savory Center for Holistic Management, and he was research coordinator for the Howard G. Buffett Foundation in Africa on soils and food security for smallholder farmers.

Research/Academic



Aaron LaPointe Sr.

Senior Manager

Ho-Chunk Farms Inc.

Aaron is an enrolled Winnebago Tribal Member and has been employed with Ho-Chunk, Inc. over 6 years. He is the Senior Manager at Ho-Chunk Farms Inc. and also oversees Ho-Chunk Management Services.

Farmer/Rancher



Melanie Levine

Manager, Food and Agriculture
World Business Council for Sustainable
Development

Melanie Levine is a Manager on the Food & Agriculture team at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), overseeing work on plant and protein diversification. She is Chicago-based and has worked to improve global food systems for 10 years, previously with the World Cocoa Foundation, United Nations agencies, and on USAID food security projects.



Sarah Day Levesque

Founder & Managing Director

Regenerative Food Systems Investment

Sarah has spent more than 15 years working to connect agriculture & food systems stakeholders to the information & networks they need to be successful. She is committed to contributing to a healthy & productive path forward for the food system. Sarah has worked closely with regenerative farmers in her role leading the development and execution of educational experiences at Acres USA, a Questor Regen Co. company. Sarah is a firm believer in the power of learning & enrichment experiences to bring communities of all kinds together for positive change & in late 2018, Sarah started Regenerative Food Systems Investment to address a lack of attention, awareness, & capital being given to investment opportunities in regenerative ag. Before joining Acres USA in 2016, Sarah spent a decade in agricultural media, playing a key role in the development of successful event & media brands, including Women in Agribusiness & Organic & Non-GMO Forum and served as Editor-in-Chief of Global AgInvesting Media. Sarah holds an M.S. in Agriculture and Resource Economics and an M.S. in International Agricultural Development from UC Davis. When she's not working, you can find Sarah running, hiking, coaching youth basketball, or playing ball with her family.

Industry Support



Ryan Locke

Director, Sustainability Partnerships & Business Development Nutrien Ag Solutions

Ryan is Director of Sustainability Partnerships and Business Development at Nutrien Ag Solutions, the largest agricultural fertilizer and crop inputs provider in the world. He guides the North American engagement and partnership strategy for Nutrien's retail sustainability efforts supporting agriculture producer's access, participation, and value capture in sustainability and climate smart programs throughout the ag value channel. Before his time at Nutrien, Ryan held roles of increasing responsibility at market leading organizations Bayer, Novozymes, and Syngenta. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University, holds an Executive Business degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and certification in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Corporate and Organizational Structures from the University of South Florida. He is also a professional member of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences, a founding member of Young Professionals in Agriculture, and a 2023 Farm Foundation Young Agri-Food Leader.

Brand/Retailer



Lizandra Mateo Lorenzo

Office Manager

Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim

Lizandra belongs to the Q'anjob'al Maya Nation. Liz is passionate about working with the Maya Youth and Community Gardens. Liz is CMPI's Office Manager; her passion is to see the community from all walks of life coming together during our Maya Ceremonies and sharing a meal after. Liz provides critical day-to-day support for Maya Q'anjob'al community and leadership in Omaha and Maya Territory.



Luis Marcos

Luis Marcos belongs to the Q'anjob'al Maya Nation. Luis Marcos is a Spiritual and Political Authority within the Q'anjob'al Maya Government and Ambassador to the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska. Luis and the Maya Community in Nebraska use an evidence-based process of Native Nations Rebuilding (NNR). NNR represents more than 30 years of research by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (HPAIED) and the Native Nations Institute (NNI) of the University of Arizona on sustainable economic development lead by Indigenous Peoples across the United States. Luis is founder of Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim (CMPI) and the Maya Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Both CMPI and the MEDC are instruments of the displaced Q'anjob'al Maya Nation to rebuild their nationhood and contribute to the wellbeing of humanity today and the generations to come.



Sycamore May

Sustainability Manager

Handsome Brook Farms

Sycamore May is a New York based Sustainability Manager at Handsome Brook Farms, a pasture-raised organic egg company. Sycamore's various food system experiences have included organic farm educator, nonprofit researcher, environmental policy writer, and a Research and Writing Fellow for the food policy advocacy organization, Food Tank. Sycamore is interested in food justice, climate action, and regenerative agriculture.



Jaime Painter

Farmer

Smith Farms

Massage therapist, photographer, and farmer

Farmer



Eulalia Pedro

Civic Engagement

Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim

Eulalia Pedro is a member of the Q'anjob'al Maya Nation and the original Director of the Maya Parliament working to advance Maya customary law and governance. Eulalia leads CMPI's civic engagement efforts to ensure that Maya community members' interests are represented. Eulalia also led CMPI's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples Conferences in 2013 and 2014 which led to diplomatic relations between the Omaha Tribe and the Q'anjob'al, Popti and Akateko Nations.



Kristi Peyton

Sustainability Advisor

Pure Strategies

Kristi is a Sustainability Advisor for Pure Strategies. She works with clients to help develop sustainability strategies, advance regenerative agriculture in supply chains, and track and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to align with science-based targets. Prior to joining Pure Strategies, Kristi worked as a Technical Account Manager for Upstream Tech. She was the primary account manager for enterprise and strategic customers, providing technical expertise on leveraging remote sensing data for monitoring, analysis, and reporting across a range of conservation and environmental industries, including forestry, agriculture, carbon, and mitigation banking to enhance sustainability impacts. Kristi holds an M.S in Agriculture, Food and the Environment from the Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and a B.A. in Environmental Studies, minor in Chemistry, from the University of Pittsburgh.



Nicholas Romano

CEO

Lattini

CEO & Co-founder of Lattini.

Brand/Retailer



Jim Sheppard

Vice President of Food and Feed Legacy Agripartners

Jim Sheppard is passionate about producing healthy food, for people and animals. As an MSU class of '78 Crop Science graduate, Jim has witnessed the biotech revolution in corn and soybean production as well as the consolidation of the ag industry. Past work experience includes ConAgra, Harvey Milling, and currently Legacy Seed Companies. Jim enjoys being active. Pursuits include hunting, fishing, beer league hockey, mountain biking and trail running. Any of those washed down with a cold IPA makes a perfect day.



Alex Smith

Farmer/Owner

Smith Farms / Venedocia Farms

Alex is a third generation farmer who has been working towards converting a large, mainstream agriculture farming business to a more regenerative style farming operation. He is six years into the transition and has been focusing his efforts on soil conservation with no till practices and planting cover crops. Additionally, he has made significant strides in reducing chemical use and seed treatment as well as synthetic fertilizer. He is excited to continue to bring life back to the land, learn from his fellow regen ag farming colleagues, and continue to bring knowledge and education back to his farming community.

Farmer



Ford Smith

Owner

Regenerative Land Solutions

Ford Smith works with Regenerative Land Solutions to help producers implement biologically focused fertility programs. This reduces overall chemical inputs without reducing yields and results in healthier soil biology, more nutrient dense food, increasingly resilient crops, higher soil carbon, and improved water holding capacity.



Ryan Smith

Senior Manager, Agriculture
Danone North America

Ryan works on the Agriculture Team at Danone North America where he manages regenerative agriculture project portfolios cross milk and plant based categories. Ryan also leads on-farm project implementation with external partners and leads external partnerships and collaborations to grow and drive the future of regenerative agriculture and connecting soil health to human health.



Taylor Smith

Business Management

Smith Farms / Venedocia Farms

Taylor's path to farming has not been as linear as her brother Alex's path. She is a practicing Physician Assistant with a background in Integrative Family Medicine where she believes strongly in the concept as food as medicine. She helps with business management and tracking to assist her brother with the transition to a more regenerative agriculture approach. Taylor is extremely excited to learn more about regenerative agriculture and how she can help make the transition more seamless.

Farmer



Candace Spencer

Mediator & Program Manager

Meridian Institute

Candace Spencer is a Mediator and Program Manager in Meridian's Washington, D.C. office. She focuses on Meridian's food and agriculture projects, including the AGree Economic and Environmental Risk Coalition. Candace is an attorney who is passionate about Black farmland ownership, food sovereignty, and racial equity. Prior to joining Meridian, she served as a Policy Specialist with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition focused on agriculture structure issues, such as crop insurance. As the Manager of Environmental Justice Projects at the University of Florida College of Law Conservation Clinic, she worked across many issues, including heirs property, community economic development, and urban agriculture policy. Candace lives in D.C. and has the most fun baking dairy-free desserts, swinging in her hammock, and embracing the summer heat (she's a native Floridian!).



Clarenda "Cee" Stanley

CEO/President

Green Heffa Farms

From an agrarian family in Alabama's Black Belt, Cee did not see herself as a farmer. But in 2018, she co-founded Green Heffa Farms and was selected to be the 2019 Featured Farmer for Hemp History Week. In 2019, Cee found herself being solely responsible for Green Heffa Farms and began to reimagine the legacy she wanted to leave for her children and grandchildren. It was from this experience she developed the farm's commitment to the 4Es: Economic empowerment, Equity, Education, and Environment. Raised largely by maternal grandparents who taught her to always grow organically, conscientiously, consciously - Cee was taught to honor and respect the land, that land was true wealth because it produced. She is a student of heritage farming and indigenous traditional knowledge and incorporates honor and reverence to the ancestors throughout the farm's processes, products, and presentations. The packaging's patterns are inspired by the rich tapestries of the Gee's Bends Quilters, who hail from her home county of Wilcox County, Alabama along with the fabrics of her African ancestry. The plants used in Green Heffa Farm's teas are those with strong cultural connectivity that Cee has studied voraciously.

Farmer



Brant Streit

Farmer

Flat Acre Farms, Inc

6th Generation Montana Farmer

Farmer



Jillien Streit

Owner

Flat Acre Farms, Inc

We are a 5th generation farm family in Montana that have started to implement some regenerative farming practices and look to implement more practices. We pride ourselves in being good stewards of our land.

Farmer



Tyler Streit

Owner

Flat Acre Farms, Inc

We are a 5th generation farm family in Montana that have started to implement some regenerative farming practices and look to implement more practices. We pride ourselves in being good stewards of our land.

Farmer



John Strohfus

Founder & CEO

Field Theory Foods (Minnesota Hemp Farms, Inc)

John is Founder & CEO of Minnesota Hemp Farms, Inc. & the brand Field Theory™ based in Hastings, MN. He is a farmer, processor & marketer of hemp products in bulk wholesale channels as well as retail under the brand Field Theory™. John was a graduate of St. Cloud State University with a BS in Marketing & minor in IT. Prior to founding Minnesota Hemp Farms & Field Theory™ he spent 19 years working for the world leading technology consulting company Accenture. John has been involved in Agriculture his entire life & comes from a small farm operation raising American Quarter Horses, Beef Cattle, Alfalfa, Corn, Soybeans, Sunflowers plus other specialty crops. Since 2016 he has raised Hemp. John helped build out the Supply Chain logistics for Hemp in the US in the Food, Fiber & Extract oil markets. He enjoys working with farmers of all crops to create unique value-add direct markets for their production. Field Theory™ is a foods company grounded with personal roots in Regenerative Agriculture & focused on providing innovative quality products using plant-based proteins such as hempseed along with Upcycled ingredients to reduce food waste whenever possible. Read more about Field Theory™ [here](#).

Seed & Ingredient Supplier



Sophie Waechter-Cass

Sales & Marketing Team Member

Green Cover

I just completed a 6 month farm apprenticeship at Apricot Lane Farms and I've been with Green Cover for 1.5 years, working in their marketing and sales departments. I'm very passionate about how regenerative agriculture can increase biodiversity and improve wellness for all living beings. I believe reconnecting ourselves to the potential healing powers of nature is crucial to making the world a healthier, happier place. This is my heart's work and I am so grateful for this community!



Amy Walker

Program Manager
Whole Foods Market

Amy is a program manager on the Quality Standards team at Whole Foods Market, she works closely with internal & external stakeholders to implement WFM's agricultural and seafood standards across the business.



Michael Ward

President

New England Consulting Services, Inc.

Ocean Spray grower/owner from Massachusetts.

Farmer/Rancher



Chef Anthony Warrior

Chef/Owner

Warriors'Palate Catering and Consultation

My name is Ma-te-yi-ma-pe-to, I am an active member of the Little Axe Little River Ceremonial ground of the Shawnee. I have been in the Food and Beverage industry for 25 years and am a self-taught chef. During my tenure I have traveled to 48 of the 50 United States, China and the Philippines, focusing my efforts towards educating/motivating the youth and community leaders to embrace culture and tradition.

Industry Support



Chris Wiegert

Sustainability Officer

Healthy Food Ingredients

Excited about regenerative agriculture, excited about food and excited to tie the two together.



Glenda Yoder

Associate Director
Farm Aid

Farm Aid is working with farmers around the country on supporting transitions to more ecological production practices. With our HOMEGROWN Concessions we are working change food in the music business.