



FARMLAND TRANSITION *program*

The Farmland Transition Program provides holistic support to 32 farmers and ranchers across California and Minnesota transitioning to regenerative agriculture. The program is designed to support a diverse range of farmers and facilitate an experience tailored to their needs. We provide soil health training, one-on-one mentorship, and soil testing to gather data and give feedback on baseline soil health information on the farmland they manage.

By supporting farmers through this three year process we can dramatically reduce barriers for farmers seeking to transition their land management. Our ultimate goal is to deepen our collective understanding of the needs, capacities, and capabilities inherent to different producers, systems, crops and regions. This will ultimately lead to more thought leadership on the front line of soil health and regenerative agriculture, leading the way towards a new future of food production.

Investing in farmers is the most direct way to build healthy soils and achieve the many other extraordinary benefits of regenerating agricultural landscapes. Individuals, brands, and foundations can channel their resources to the farmers bearing the incredible responsibility of stewarding land and growing food through this fund.

TRAINING

These courses provide foundational knowledge on soil health and regenerative farming and ranching. Farmers choose from one of three training programs (Soil Health Academy, Savory Holistic Management, and Regrarians) that provide the knowledge and resources needed to successfully transition to agricultural landscapes that contribute to a healthy living ecosystem. The pioneering farmers leading these trainings provide technical advice, best practices, and strategies to successfully regenerate soil and create a resilient and profitable operation.

SOIL TESTING

Soil testing is conducted in year 1 and year 3 of the program. We collect a robust set of soil health indicators: pH, soil organic matter (SOM), available nitrogen, structure, texture, bulk density, water infiltration, and microbial biomass and diversity (PFLA). These samples are collected by a leading soil health professional, processed by scientific labs, and returned to the producer with an accompanying report that translates the content into relevant and actionable information to inform management decisions. Soil tests provide the opportunity to measure and assess the change in state of different soil health indicators as on-farm practices are implemented, reduced or removed. This data can be used to analyze the effectiveness of a management protocol and can highlight specific practices and their contribution to farmland health as it changes over time. We know that there is a need for measurable changes to be seen by farmers, businesses, investors, and policy makers to show that soil carbon sequestration is possible and regenerative agriculture is profitable and more efficient, in regards to inputs and natural resource use.



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MENTORSHIP

Over the course of the program, each farmer receives support from an experienced farmer mentor in the field of regenerative agriculture. Our mentors are chosen because they've been through this process themselves, and can help others who are beginning their transitional journey. This one-on-one mentorship serves to engage producers around the purpose of their work, address what barriers and opportunities are present, identify and manage valuable resources, and help them work towards a highly functional and resilient agricultural landscape. The mentor will also help to connect local resources and other experts.

To effectively address the complexities of diverse integrated agriculture, each producer will be asked to consider the unique context in which they are operating (landscape, climate, community), and the values they prioritize as part of their operation. The intention of this process is to identify and clarify the interconnectedness of a holistic food system, through the lens of the individual producer, and reveal the unique potential they can each contribute to the evolution of our agricultural system.

We aim to help farmers and ranchers deeply understand and incorporate the principles of healthy soils, water cycles, nutrient cycles, and community dynamics into their decision making process. We do so by reflecting on the content and experience of the training courses, reviewing the soil monitoring results, and discussing this new information in the context of each unique producer and landscape. Along the way, different practices will be considered within the context of their operation and each individual or group will develop their own implementation techniques for their chosen practices.



Schmitz Dairy was started in 2014 in Cold Spring, Minnesota. Their dairy is run by husband and wife team Derek and Taylor along with their young daughter Olivia.