Regenerative Agriculture Newsletter

Helping farmers cultivate a better future

Compiled by Keystone Bio-Ag **January 2026**

Current Trends in Agriculture

By Melvin Fisher

Welcome Everyone,

We live in a day and age where many farmers are experiencing less and less success with the chemical approach in crop production. Increasingly, we hear from growers whose crop yields are plateauing, or they have to apply more and more fertilizers to get the same result, and it bothers them. Something seems to be missing. They think there should be a better way, something more regenerative.

At the same time, consumer demand for regeneratively grown crops is on the rise. They want to get away from chemicals. They are willing to pay more for regeneratively grown food. And a large number of them want to know their farmer. This trend is especially prevalent in the younger generation, although there are many of the older generation that are stepping up to the plate as well.

The combination of these factors should get us to sit up and pay attention.

There is risk with change, but there is also some risk in not changing, and certainly this is the case when things aren't working or the global trend is changing substantially and rapidly.

So, what do you do when you're caught in a situation where you want to make a change, but you don't want to bet the farm?

Please remember that if it is your goal to grow healthy crops and food, then you need to stay in business to actually make this happen. This, by extension, means that you need to stay profitable. You need to take calculated and deliberate steps to minimize the risk that can come with making life-changing decisions.

The key to getting the regenerative system working on your farm is to get the biology active in your soil. When you do that successfully, the dynamic of your farming operation will change. Become acquainted with regenerative principles. Try to understand what drive soil health. Try to understand the negative impact that tillage can have, and if you need to use tillage, do it thoughtfully. Try to understand the negative impact that chemicals can have and if you need to use them, use them thoughtfully.

Are chemicals all bad? Should growers stop using them right away?

Not necessarily. Sometimes chemicals are useful or even needed to save a crop. I am certainly appreciative

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Cost effective organic potting soil with strong nutrient charge.

$13.95/bag

$13.53/bag for full pallet

In this issue:

CURRENT TRENDS IN AG, cont.

of what they can do.

But I also recognize the downside of them. How do we use them responsibly? They do get overused and the key point is that they often get used at the "wrong" time. That wrong time, in my opinion, is using them as a preventative treatment. Just like we would never consider taking chemo to prevent cancer, we should not consider putting on a chemical to prevent a problem before it ever shows up.

Instead, we should do all we can to address the core issues that are holding back soil productivity and crop quality, and then monitor carefully and perhaps use them to save a crop if needed – but while on a mission to fix the core issue so that we don't need to do it again.

FAVORITE BOOKS

Education on regenerative agriculture is available from many authors and books, to the point that new growers often don't know where they should start. As a result, we frequently get asked which ones we recommend the most. Depending on context, these would probably be my top recommendations for you:

DETRIMENTAL ASPECTS OF CHEMICALS

- Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF REGENERATIVE AG

- A Soil Owners Manual, by Jon Stika
- From Dirt to Soil, by Gabe Brown

INSPIRING SOIL AND PLANT DETAILS

- Science in Agriculture, by Arden Anderson
- Quality Agriculture, by John Kempf
- Future Proof Farm, by Steve Groff
- Growing Life, by Andre Leu
- The Farm as Ecosystem, by Jerry Brunetti

UNDERSTANDING WEEDS

- Weeds, Control Without Poisons, by Charles Walters
- Weeds and What They Tell, by Ehrenfried Pfeiffer

SMALL SCALE, INTENSIVE FARMING

- No Till Intensive Vegetable Culture, by Byran O'Hara
- The Lean Farm Guide to Growing Vegetables, by Ben Hartman

Soil Balancing (Minerals Perspective)

- The Ideal Soil v2.0, by Michael Astera

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but we expect you will find these helpful. Most are available from Acres USA.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE —FEBRUARY 11

We are once again planning to host a meeting for those who are interested in learning more about regenerative agriculture. This year we are focusing on the theme "Building a Regenerative Future" and we are excited to share this message with you and enable you to hear John Kempf and Steve Groff in person, on the same day, with Q&A from both. See next page for more information on this meeting that is coming up in the next several weeks. We hope to see you then!

OTHER UPDATES

This winter has been a busy time for us. Myron Landis, who has been with us for almost 9 years, has officially retired from active service. We greatly enjoyed and appreciated him, and wish him well. Thank-you Myron!

We also hired several new employees, David Esh and Michael Becker, that are passionate about regenerative agriculture and customer service. Join us in welcoming them when you get a chance.

In addition, we're releasing several new products that have been in the pipeline for some time, including Micro-Force, a super concentrated and effective micronutrient package. So lots of exciting things going on right now.

As always, feel free to contact us and share your ideas and concerns. All constructive feedback is appreciated.

Thank-you!

Keystone Bio-Ag's Winter Meeting

Annual Grower's Conference

FEBRUARY 11

Come join us for a day of learning! This Year's Theme:

Building a Regenerative Future

Guest Speakers:

John Kempf

John Kempf, Advancing Eco Agriculture Founder

John is an expert in the principles of regenerative agriculture. With his insight and two decades of experience as a crop consultant, he brings valuable perspective to this meeting's theme.

He will discuss how to create soil disturbances in a way that benefits soil and plant health, how to manage and reduce detrimental actions, understanding Redox and other modes of action for reducing the need for chemical applications, and managing biological inputs for best ROI.

Steve Groff

Steve Groff, Cedar Meadow Farm, Cover Crop Coach

Steve is a longtime expert in cover crops and regenerative agriculture. Not only does he know and speak the language, he lives it out on his farm, where he grows various crops, including no-till tomatoes.

He will share his story, discuss why regenerative ag is so important for our country, why so many people are paying attention to it, and how to manage cover crops for a profitable farms.

LOCATION:
Ephrata Business Center
400 W Main St, Ephrata PA

Registration opens 7:00 AM
Topics start promptly at 8:30 AM
Adjourning at 3:00 PM

Snacks and Lunch provided.

$40 per person if **preregistered by Feb. 5.** Pay at door. Call 717-354-2115 x2.

$45 for walk-ins and late registrations.

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Regenerative Agriculture

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Winter King
Alfalfa Seed

More Solid Stem, Nutrient Dense Forage, equals more Milk per Acre

Bred by Gary Zimmer, by selecting only the healthiest, most persistent, and highest yielding plants for several decades. 4th Generation Seed.

Please contact us if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter. Thank-you!

Pinion

Controls crop diseases caused by various fungi and bacteria

Pinion is AEA's first disease control product designed to protect the leaf surface from a wide range of fungal and bacterial pathogens—without disrupting the plant microbiome. Safe, effective, and easy to apply, Pinion creates an inhospitable environment for disease-causing organisms, helping crops resist new infections and suppressing existing foliar disease pressure.

Fruits, Vegetables and Broad Acre Crops: Dilute with water to make a 1% solution. As a foliar preventative, apply 2 – 3 qt. per acre ~30 days after germination.

Please check with your certifier prior to use.

Stock Sizes: 1 gal. jug, 2.5 gal. jug, 5 gal. box

Conductor 10

Organic liquid nitrogen (10%)

A blend of both ammonia and amino acid nitrogen approved for organic use and a great additive to liquid N for a synergistic effect and reduce rates needed.

OMRI Listed.

Stock Sizes: 2.5 gal. jug

Contact us for an updated product catalog.

Root Primer

Soil and Plant Enhancer

Root Primer is designed to awaken and feed your soil microbes, make soil minerals more available to the plants, and enhance overall crop health and immunity. Contains multiple forms of sugar to achieve a sustained release, as well as a blend of concentrated ocean minerals, chitin, fulvic acid, and amino acids, all in one concentrated formula.

Apply 2-4 qt. Root Primer per acre directly onto soil, or 2 qt per acre through drip irrigation.

Intended for organic use. Please check with your certifier before application.

Stock Sizes: 2.5 gal. jug, 5 gal. box, 55 gal. barrel