Ecological / Sustainable / Organic / Regenerative Agriculture

-- Guiding principles --Karl Hakanson / karl.ivar.h@gmail.com / 608.408.0568

... is profitable for more not fewer farms
... welcomes and supports family farmers of all kinds
    --new, beginning, young, immigrant, Native American, non-European descendants, cooperative
... reconciles historic/systematic injustices in land tenure, land access and farmer support programs

... is supported by non-farming fellow citizens
    --those of us that eat, wear clothes, build with wood, etc. We are not hapless “consumers”
... is supported by local/regional competitive/cooperative markets/buyers/processors/haulers
... is supported by local/regional education/consulting/service/equipment services

... provides real food and real nutrition for everyone, everywhere, all the time --no more junk food
... produces health, thus reducing the need for (so-called) “health care”
    --thereby saving untold trillions, whereby hospitals and drug companies actually get smaller

... prioritizes and asserts farmland as a common good
... is deliberate about the lifecycle of a farm and the transition of farmland to future generations
... prioritizes farmland access for farmers over real estate speculation
    --the “highest and best use” is not corporate wealth acclamation, aka colonialism 2.0

... humanely cares for livestock
... does not pollute land, air, surface or groundwater
... creates wildlife habitat and restores ecological functionality
... is based on soil health principals
    --keep it covered, minimize tillage, increase diversity, maintain living roots, integrate livestock
... is net carbon positive --only living things/soil can drawdown atmospheric CO₂
... is the basis for the “green”, zero waste, nontoxic, post fossil fuel economy
... mimics nature by including livestock, perennialism, high diversity, multi-functionality

... is based on nature’s capital: does not exploit people/families/communities
... does not profit via economic “externalities” nor market distorting subsidizes
... is regenerative and productive, not extractive and destructive
    --full cost accounting/lifecycle analysis that includes people, comminutes, ecology

... supports farmers who’s farms “produce” the above invaluable ecological and social services
    --the new basis of “farm programs”

... is supported by We the People, aka “the Government”, to create the conditions whereby all of the above can be realized through Federal, State and local policies and programs, rules and regulations, agencies and organizations, research and education.

Current policies and programs will never get us where we need to go. We need major, widespread changes in land tenure and how we manage the land. The climate catastrophe upon us does not afford us much time to get it right. We need an entirely new way forward. Consider this: There was not a single environmental bone in President Nixon’s body, yet he signed the EPA into existence. Why did he do that? “The people” demanded action. Politically he had no choice. The 2023 (Food,) Farm(ing, Forestry and Climate Mitigation) Bill will require millions of Americans, heretofore not part of the process, to be a major part of the process. To become citizens. To vote and vote with their pocketbooks. To be the change they want to see in the world. We simply do not have the outcomes we need from agriculture, no matter how much corporate profiteers scream at us about feeding the world. Destroying the village to save it is a false choice. Industrial scale, commodity agriculture must be phased out, quickly. It’s not working. What is needed is no less than a redefining of Agriculture. Our green, water planet has been perfecting life for countless billions of years. Time to pivot.