Sustainable Farming Association welcomes you to the ninth annual

**Midwest Soil Health Summit**

**Day Two: Soil Health for Crop & Livestock Producers • March 9, 2022 • Oliver Kelley Farm, Elk River**

8:15 a.m. — Registration & Coffee
Sponsored by:

9 a.m. — Opening Welcome Session
Troy Daniell, Minnesota State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Lucinda Winter, Executive Director, Sustainable Farming Association
Angie Walter, Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Project Outreach Coordinator

9:30 a.m. — Farming Green and the Benefits of Regenerative Stewardship
Rick Clark, Clark Land & Cattle, Farm Green Consulting, Warren County, Ind.
Rick will discuss the farm’s journey of cover crop no-till, which then developed into farming green, which then developed into regenerative organic stewardship. Rick will also explain the economic benefits of farming green and letting your cover crops maximize what they were intended to do.

11 a.m. — Break & Exhibits

11:20 a.m. — BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Alternative Grazing Enterprises (Community Room)
Doug Voss, SFA Grazing Lead, Paynesville
Jordan Meyer, Wholesome Family Farms, Caledonia
Mike Schneider, Schneider Farms, Sacred Heart
Learn about various approaches to grazing enterprises and creative ways to apply grazing on the land. Hear from adaptive grazing practitioners and their story about how they have made improvements in their ecosystems, livestock, businesses, and quality of life.

Economics of Silvopasture (Community Room)
Kalvin Moschkau, Graduate Student, Humphrey School of Public Affairs
Learn about the financial incentives and economic and ecological benefits of silvopasture. After an overview from studies across the country, Kalvin will showcase the new silvopasture decision-making tool that looks at assessing costs, benefits, and potential income streams to help land managers make decisions about their silvopasture design and implementation options. The tool will also provide links to resources useful for assessing silvopasture options.

12:20 p.m. — Exhibits and Local Foods Taco Lunch from Elbows Allowed Distinct Catering
Featuring food from Pastures a Plenty, Swany White Flour Mills, Redhead Creamery, Whole Grain Milling, Farm Girl Fresh, Salsa Lisa, La Perla Tortillas and Organic Valley.

1:20 p.m. — BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Wide-Row Corn (Deal/Land O’ Lakes Room)
Brady Wulf, Clear Springs Cattle Company, Starbuck
Alan Kraus, Conservation Program Manager, Clean River Partners
Interseeding covers into corn is a perfect opportunity to continue building soil well into the fall and have high-quality feed available after the grain harvest. Learn from these panelists how farmers are doing this and finding success with planting wide-row corn.

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12:50 p.m. – BREAKOUTS (CONT.)
Long Term Benefits of “The Learning Curve” (Deal/Land O’ Lakes Room)
Myron Sylling, Farmer, Houston County
Myron has been no-till for decades and cover cropping for several years with great success. In his talk he will share the results of years of regenerative farming that have directly improved his farm’s profitability.

2:20 p.m. – Break and Exhibits
2:40 p.m. – BREAKOUT SESSIONS
New Dairy Concept: A Model to Scale Managed Grazing Dairies to Reduce Soil Loss (Community Room)
Joe Tomandl, Program Director, Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship, Tomandl Farms, Marathon and Taylor Counties, Wis.
Managed grazing systems centered around perennial forages are proven to reduce soil loss, retain phosphorous and sequester carbon better than other other production models. The economics of commodity production agriculture require systems to scale at the farm level in order to be economically viable, compromising the ratio of land to animal unit and almost eliminating the use of managed grazing. In this session we will discuss a model to scale our dairies without giving up the soil health impacts of managed grazing dairy. Can the new 3,000 cow dairy be fifteen 200-cow operations in a neighborhood?

Progress on Developing Kernza® Perennial Grain as a Soil Health Solution (Deal/Land O’ Lakes Room)
Collin Cureton, Director of Adoption and Scaling, UMN Forever Green Initiative
Dr. Jessica Gutknecht, Gutknecht Lab, Soil Microbial Ecology and Sustainable Ecosystems
Anne Schwagerl, Prairie Point Farm, Browns Valley
Alan Kraus, Conservation Program Manager, Clean River Partners
Rapid advances in research and commercialization have brought Kernza® perennial grain to an early stage of production, supply chains, and markets. As of 2021, there are about 4,000 acres of Kernza® production nationwide, mostly in the Upper Midwestern US and Great Plains. This session will overview what we know and don’t yet know about the soil health impacts of Kernza® perennial grain production, share results from recent Kernza grazing trials, provide a grower perspective on the role of Kernza on an organic farm, highlight fast-paced cooperative development efforts, and provide an overview of current Kernza supply chains and markets.

4 p.m. – Soil Health Research in Minnesota: Learning from Local Data
Hava Blair, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Minnesota Dept. of Soil, Water and Climate
Anna Cates, Minnesota Office of Soil Health
For the last three years, the Minnesota Office for Soil Health has worked closely with partners across the state to build a database of soil health metrics from Minnesota farms. At this session, learn more about the results of this research and how we’re using local data to evaluate a range of biological, physical, and chemical soil health metrics.

4:30 p.m. Financials of Soil Health
Wayne Honeycutt, President & CEO, Soil Health Institute
Several on-farm and environmental benefits from improving soil health are widely known. However, to increase adoption of soil health systems and achieve these benefits at scale, more information is needed on the business case for adoption. To address this need, the Soil Health Institute interviewed 100 farmers in nine Midwestern states who have been using soil health systems for more than 5 years. Results will be presented for all 100 farms, with emphasis on the 10 Minnesota farms included in the study.

SFA Soil Health Resources and Guides
- Soil Health for Fruit & Vegetable Producers
- ‘Dirt Rich’ Podcast Series
- Silvopasture Handbook
- Fact Sheet: Silvopasture in Minnesota
- Fact Sheet: How-Tos of Silvopasture
- Fact Sheet: Converting Wooded Area Into a Silvopasture Site & Resource Assessment
- And much more!

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