Regenerative agriculture: merging farming and natural resource conservation profitably
By Claire E. LaCanne, Jonathan G. Lundgren

Most cropland in the United States is characterized by large monocultures, whose productivity is maintained through a strong reliance on costly tillage, external fertilizers, and pesticides (Schipanski et al., 2016). Despite this, farmers have developed a regenerative model of farm production that promotes soil health and biodiversity, while producing nutrient-dense farm products profitably. Little work has focused on the relative costs and benefits of novel regenerative farming operations, which necessitates studying in situ, farmer-defined best management practices. Here, we evaluate the relative effects of regenerative and conventional corn production systems on pest management services, soil conservation, and farmer profitability and productivity throughout the Northern Plains of the United States. Regenerative farming systems provided greater ecosystem services and profitability for farmers than an input-intensive model of corn production. Pests were 10-fold more abundant in insecticide-treated corn fields than on insecticide-free regenerative farms, indicating that farmers who proactively design pest-resilient food systems outperform farmers that react to pests chemically. Regenerative fields had 29% lower grain production but 78% higher profits over traditional corn production systems. Profit was positively correlated with the particulate organic matter of the soil, not yield. These results provide the basis for dialogue on ecologically based farming systems that could be used to simultaneously produce food while conserving our natural resource base: two factors that are pitted against one another in simplified food production systems. To attain this requires a systems-level shift on the farm; simply applying individual regenerative practices within the current production model will not likely produce the documented results.
READ MORE at https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.4428

By promoting soil biology and organic matter and biodiversity on their farms, regenerative farmers required fewer costly inputs like insecticides and fertilizers, and managed their pest populations more effectively.
Poll: Farmers Overwhelmingly Oppose Bayer Monsanto Merger
March 8, 2018

Farmers’ concerns illustrate why merger should be blocked; milder remedies unlikely to work

WASHINGTON, D.C. – An overwhelming majority of surveyed farmers are concerned about the proposed Bayer-Monsanto merger and believe it will have a negative impact on independent farmers and farming communities, a poll released today has found.

According to the poll, of the farmers who responded:
- 93.7 percent are concerned about the proposed merger of Bayer and Monsanto (82.8 percent are very concerned/10.9 percent somewhat concerned);
- 93.7 percent of farmers are concerned that the proposed Bayer-Monsanto merger will negatively impact independent farmers and farming communities (83.9 percent are very concerned/9.8 percent somewhat concerned);

The farmer’s top three concerns of the merger are:
- 91.9 percent of farmers are concerned that the merged company will use its dominance in one product to push sales of other products (79.6 percent very concerned/12.3 percent somewhat concerned);
- 91.7 percent of farmers are concerned that Bayer/Monsanto will control data about farm practices (79.5 percent very concerned/12.2 percent somewhat concerned);
- 89.0 percent of farmers think the merger will result in increased pressure for chemically dependent farming (77.1 percent very concerned/11.9 percent somewhat concerned).


Bayer is Said to Face US Hurdles for Monsanto Antitrust Nod https://www.bloombergquint.com/business/2018/03/15/bayer-is-said-to-face-u-s-hurdles-for-monsanto-antitrust-nod
Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research Awards $7M to 16 Research Teams Advancing Science & Technology to Improve Pollinator Health

New tools and science-based best practices will enhance efforts to combat native and managed pollinator population declines. READ MORE http://foundationfar.org/2018/03/13/7-million-to-pollinator-health/

Finally, Californians are safer from pesticides
By Robert Lieber and Nan Wishner; Special to The Sacramento Bee
March 12, 2018 12:00 PM

It has been going on for decades, but it still shocks many Californians to learn that state agencies spray hazardous pesticides to residential yards, school grounds and organic farms. Read More http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article204233129.html

SEED A LEGACY: New Pollinator Habitat Program Launches in 11 Midwest States

BISMARCK, North Dakota – Midwest landowners who want to help honey bees and monarch butterflies have a unique opportunity through The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund’s SEED A LEGACY Pollinator Habitat Program. The new program expanded in 2018 to include 11 states works with landowners and beekeepers to provide cost-effective, high-quality pollinator habitat to ensure honey bee and monarch butterfly populations thrive. Applications for each state will be accepted online at BeeAndButterflyFund.org/habitat-programs http://beeandbutterflyfund.org/habitat-programs/seed-a-legacy-program starting March 1st. The application deadline is March 31, 2018 for spring planting. A second application period will open later in 2018 for projects to be planted in the fall. READ MORE http://beeandbutterflyfund.org/about-us/media-center/press-releases?rec_id=4
Our Members / Supporters

Butterfly Pavilion  https://www.butterflies.org/
People and Pollinators Action Network http://www.peopleandpollinators.org/
Seib’s Hoosier Honey  http://www.seibhoosierhoney.com/
Strachan Apiaries  https://www.strachanbees.com/
Sunshine Apiary, Inc.  https://www.facebook.com/sunshineapiary
Empire State Honey Producers Assn.  http://www.eshpa.org/
Smith Farm Pure Honey  www.smithfarmpurehoney.com/
Randy Oliver  http://scientificbeekeeping.com/
Browning’s Honey Co., Inc.  http://www.browningshoney.com/
Hackenberg Apiaries  http://hackenbergaapiaries.org/
Delta Bee Club  http://www.deltabeecclub.org/
Heartland Apiicultural Society  http://www.heartlandbees.org/
Beekeepers of Middle Tennessee  http://bomtn.org/
Old Mill Honey Co.
Foothill Honey Farm
Wind River Honey Co.
Miksa Honey Farms
California-Minnesota Honey Farms
Rick Smith
Bob McDonell
Samuel Hall
Headwaters Farm
Hiatt Honey, LLC
South Dakota Beekeepers Assn.
Bret Adee
Indian Run Apiary
California Apiaries, LLC
Harmony Honey Co.
Red-Headed Honey  https://redheadedhoney.com/
Sunrise Feed & Supply  http://sunrisefeed.com/
Kentucky State Beekeepers Association  http://www.ksbabeekkeepers.org/
Los Angeles County Beekeepers Assn.  http://www.losangelescountybeekeepers.com/
The Studio Digital  http://www.thestudiodigital.com/
Beekeeping Insurance Services  http://www.beekeepingins.com/
Cox Honey of Utah
Michigan Commercial Beekeepers Assn.
Lee’s Bees
Bob Brandi Honey & Farming
The Beekeepers of Indiana  http://indianabeekeeper.com/

The Pollinator Stewardship Council is a 501c3 nonprofit organization; donations are tax deductible.