

2019 Annual Report

Soil Health Academy



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Soil Health Academy's Mission

The Soil Health Academy mission is to teach and assist farmers and ranchers in applying time-tested, ecological principles and biomimicry to regenerate our living and lifegiving soil. In restoring the health of our soil's ecosystem, we will restore the health of our bodies, our farms, our communities, and our planet.



Letter from the President

Dear SHA friends and supporters:

On behalf of the Soil Health Academy, our instructors and students, we are grateful for your support throughout our first full year of operation, teaching and assisting farmers and ranchers in applying time-tested, ecological principles and biomimicry to regenerate our living and life-giving soil.

In total, nearly 500 students from 12 countries attended an SHA school this past year. Based on our follow up surveys, our students and those we've reached through our educational outreach efforts are applying regenerative agriculture principles on an estimated 5 million acres.

Through your generous financial support of the SHA Scholarship Program, farmers and ranchers who otherwise may have been unable to attend, were able to do so. These farmers and ranchers came from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and operations and gained the knowledge, skills and ongoing technical support to successfully and profitably transition to regenerative agricultural systems.

Through our student surveys, we have discovered that most of our graduates became ambassadors, advocates and trainers of regenerative agriculture in their own communities and among their farming peers, further advancing the widespread adoption of regenerative agricultural systems throughout the nation.

We're proud of this past year's accomplishments, as well as the accomplishments of our graduates and we hope you will take a few minutes to review the information and stories about some of our graduates in our 2019 annual report. As we look to 2020 and beyond, we remain committed to working with you to realize the full potential of soil health-focused, regenerative agricultural principles and practices—all of which will restore the health of our bodies, our farms, our communities, and our planet.

Thank you again for your support of the Soil Health Academy, our students and our scholarship program.

Sincerely,

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David Brandt, President

The Soil Health Academy: Regenerating hope and healing in the heartland

The wide-spread adoption of regenerative agriculture has the remarkable potential to restore the health of our bodies, our farms, our communities, and our planet, as well as the economic viability of our nation's farms and rural communities. But unless farmers and ranchers can learn how to practically and successfully apply soil health-improving principles on their land, the likelihood of scalable regenerative agriculture adoption is remote. Soil Health Academy was created specifically to address this critical issue.

SHA focuses its efforts on helping farmers first UNDERSTAND and then successfully apply nature's time-proven, regenerative agriculture principles today—in order to grow healthier soil, food, farms and communities for tomorrow.

SHA receives non-profit status

As part of its long-term commitment to the cause of regenerative agriculture, SHA applied to be recognized as a 501(c)(3), non-profit, public charity organization, managed by an independent board of directors and headed by David Brandt, one of SHA's original founders. In late 2019, the application was approved by the Internal Revenue Service, which allows SHA to receive qualifying, tax-deductible and non-profit contributions from individuals and organizations.

A proven model for success

SHA's practical, effective teaching model and supporting communications activities represent such potential, it's featured as a top "solution in action" in the 2019 Philanthropic Action Guide: Healthy Soils to Cool the Planet publication, wherein the publication's authors encourage organizations to fund innovative technical assistance and peer-to-peer learning opportunities like those provided by the Soil Health Academy in order to "reach large numbers of farmers in support of regenerative and climate friendly practices" and to "demonstrate the business and livelihood case for farmers."



A top "solution in action" in the 2019 Philanthropic Action Guide: Healthy Soils to Cool the Planet

On-Farm Schools

Through its on-farm schools, cooperative projects and educational products, SHA seeks to grow the regenerative agriculture movement by...

- Vastly expanding and replicating the on-farm Soil Health Academy learning model
- Creating regenerative agriculture learning center hubs in every agronomic region of the U.S.
- Providing direct assistance and learning resources to existing, but often underfunded, local regenerative agricultural organizations, food groups, underserved and limited resource farming organizations
- Influencing the new farmer "supply chain" by providing SHA-produced practical learning resources and experts to agricultural colleges, student programs and producer organizations
- Identifying, supporting and leveraging local, state and federal funding to energize existing regenerative agriculture efforts
- Creating regenerative agriculture television programming, video and/or interactive learning resources to expose far more farmers, landowners and consumers to on- and off-farm regenerative ag benefits.

Nature provides the tools. We simply teach others how to use them." – David Brandt, SHA President

Growing the Regeneration Generation: A summary of 2019 accomplishments

Throughout 2019, SHA's board, instructors and consultants delivered world-class training throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Thanks to the generous donations from several philanthropic organizations and organizations, SHA provided scholarships to vastly expand farmer/rancher exposure to soil health and regenerative agricultural principles, as well as increase the practical application of those principles on the farm.

Another important goal of the SHA Scholarship Program was to expand the cadre of instructors, teachers and regenerative farmers who can take Soil Health Academy curricula where it is needed: To farmers and ranchers throughout the U.S. and beyond.

Targeting key audiences

To help ensure a wide range of groups and individuals can benefit from regenerative agriculture, and to help maximize the impact attendees have in promoting the benefits of regenerative agricultural principles in their own communities, SHA placed special emphasis on awarding scholarships to support the following targeted groups:

- 1. Minority/tribal/military veteran/historically disadvantaged. Regenerative agricultural systems help provide economic resiliency and increased market opportunity for all farming and ranching operations regardless of size. However, military veteran, minority, tribal and historically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers are especially in need of regenerative farming education in order to improve the profitability of their farms and ranches.
- 2. Traditional farmers and ranchers looking for a "better way." Successful regenerative farmers, and their willingness to share their experiences with others, are the foundation of the soil health and regenerative agricultural movement. Their on-farm experience provides unparalleled credibility among their farming and ranching peers. Consequently, it is important to identify, recruit, teach and support key members of the established farming and ranching community to attend SHA schools and to work to ensure their success in applying regenerative agricultural systems on their respective operations. History has shown that these successful regenerative farmers and ranchers become the ambassadors for advancing the regenerative cause and SHA post-attendance survey results confirm those observations.
- **3.** Agricultural professionals and educators. Key agricultural professionals in the retail, education, conservation and ag program areas of the industry often carry significant influence over major blocks of the farming and ranching segments they serve. In particular, SHA believes it is especially important to introduce key audiences to new ideas, principles and practices BEFORE more conventional farming methods become personalized and entrenched in farming operations. In other words, engaging, educating and motivating young or soon-to-be farmers and non-operator landowners can preempt the supply chain of "conventional agriculturalists" who rely on practices that focus on tillage and synthetic inputs rather than regenerative agricultural practices like no-till, cover crops and diverse species and rotations.



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12

Number of 2019 Soil Health Academy schools

48

Number of farmer attendees

€ 82

Total Soil Health Academy scholarships awarded

\$61к

Scholarship funding

93_K

Farmers, policy makers and stakeholders reached directly

₽ 1.2 MIL

Number of video views

Estimated acres directly affected

Impact of scholarships beyond the schools

Following their SHA school attendance, scholarship recipients participated in on-line surveys to help the organization more accurately assess the need for and impact of the SHA scholarship program. Here's what the scholarship recipients told US:

- 100% Are "significantly more" or "more" confident implementing regenerative agricultural principles on their farms or ranches.
- 100% Are "significantly more" or "more" optimistic about their farming/ranching futures as a result of attending the SHA school.
- 98% "Definitely will" or "probably will" or participate in of SHA's follow up Q&A teleconferences and webinars.
- 95% "Definitely will" talk to other farmers/ranchers about making the transition from conventional agriculture to soil health-focused regenerative agriculture.
- 85% "Definitely will" participate in soil health/regenerative agricultural groups or organizations within 1-3 years.

In addition to the scholarship recipient surveys, all SHA school graduates participate in post-attendance surveys to help the organization assess its landscape impact and to continually improve its curriculum and service delivery. Here's their responses to two key questions:

- Within the coming year, I will apply one or more of the principles learned at SHA
 - 91% Strongly agreed •
 - 9% Agreed
- I am confident the principles taught will result in increased profitability on my operation.
 - 80% Strongly agreed •
 - ٠ 20% Agreed



During the past year alone, the Soil Health Academy's cadre of instructors have instructed, in person through a Soil Health Academy, hundreds of farmers and ranchers and have reached more than 93,000 producers. policy makers and stakeholders through their presentations and direct consultations. Several major agribusiness companies have sent key personnel through the academy in the past year, and three in-process documentaries have filmed portions of several academies.

Non-governmental organizations ranging from No-Till on the Plains, Departments of Natural Resources, Departments of Conservation, and the Audubon Society, as well as American Indian Tribal organizations, colleges, small and limited resource farmers, women and beginning farmers, and urban food banks, have all received assistance through the existing Soil Health Academy model.

This three-minute video

overview may well be the best way to understand what the Soil Health Academy means to its GABE BROWN CADEM students and the future of our farms, our food, our rural communities and our planet. Other videos produced by and/or featuring Soil Health Academy instructors and associates have garnered more than 1.2 million views in the past year. In total, more than 5 million acres of farmland and ranchland have been positively affected through SHA's schools, videos and other educational efforts.

Through its outreach and marketing communications efforts in 2019, SHA and its instructors have garnered significant **news and editorial coverage** which further extended the reach of SHA's regenerative agriculture messages and helped promote SHA's schools and scholarships.

Strategic impact on the farm and beyond



Growing the regenerative revolution: 2020 and beyond

SHA's first year accomplishments are significant and have had a profound impact on the farmers and ranchers who attended our schools. The resulting successful application of regenerative agricultural principles on thousands of acres of farm and ranch lands will continue to have a positive impact on local farms, watersheds and communities, as well as the broader environment for years to come.

Still, so much more needs to be done.

Upon its inception in 2017, SHA's goal was to increase by 10-fold the number of acres farmed using regenerative agricultural systems by the year 2023. We continue to believe this ambitious goal is not just a dream, it's an imperative for our farms, our communities and our planet.

To realize this goal, we hope to build on our 2019 success by partnering with other regenerative agriculture-minded organizations and funders to greatly expand SHA's teaching cadre, its schools and its educational reach through multi-media platforms, student curricula and expanded educational venues. Specifically, SHA seeks to triple donor contributions to SHA's scholarship program and to secure funding for key video and interactive educational projects. More specifically, SHA seeks to:

• Continue to expand both the number of Academies offered and the core curriculum focuses of those academies. As a result of generous donations for "Train the Trainer" Scholarships, we have been able to grow our highly qualified teaching team so that the SHA can now field multiple teaching



teams to more reach more farmers and ranchers each year. Our expanded teaching team also allows us to offer the basic Soil Health Academies titled "Regenerative Farming & Ranching", and also offer more topic specific curriculum such as Nutrient Management, Alternative Marketing, Adaptive Grazing, Effective & Efficient Irrigation, and other topics. We are now able to effectively reach more farmers, ranchers, business leaders, lenders, institution and agency professionals, and consumers than ever before.

Increase educational opportunities for historically disadvantaged groups, including but not limited to; African Americans, women, Native Americans and other historically underserved farmers. We have had the privilege of educating numerous historically disadvantaged peoples in 2019, but there is evident need for additional assistance for these groups. Interest in regenerative agriculture is quite high among these groups but it's increasingly clear more need financial assistance to be able to attend the Soil Health Academies. One of our goals in 2020 is to double the number of scholarships that we can offer to individuals who meet these criteria.



Growing the regenerative revolution: 2020 and beyond (continued)

- Educate students and the next generation of regenerative farmers and ranchers by developing curricula to be used in grades K-12 and postsecondary institutions. This is a major undertaking which has the potential to change the way society looks at food, health and the environment. We have been approached by several colleges to develop this curricula and Green America has expressed an interest in funding this endeavor.
- Support and further educate graduates of the Soil Health Academy. We recognize that attending an academy is just the start of our graduates' education, so follow-up support is crucial to further development and success. Due to the fact that the learning and discovery process for regenerative agriculture is continuous, there is a need for a viable method to effectively communicate the newest information and practices to our former graduates in an on-going manner. Based on our experience, we believe the best methods to accomplish this are: 1.) How-To Informational videos, 2.) Online curriculum development, 3.) Frequent webinars, 4.) Book series on regenerative ag. We will continue to further the education of graduates of our Soil Health Academies., who will, in turn, multiply our efforts by educating others in their communities.
- Grow its cadre of qualified instructors by providing additional mentoring and advanced regenerative agriculture instruction in order to scale-up SHA's capacity to deliver practical, world-class regenerative agriculture instruction to individuals, organizations and businesses.

This year's graduates have reported a wide range of benefits from attending SHA's schools including:

- ☑ Significant reduction in input costs.
- ☑ Greater ability to reduce and even pay off debt.
- Ø Several have been able to purchase new farms due to savings in input costs.
- Significant improvements in soil health parameters on their individual farms that include improved water infiltration rates, reduced erosion, greater resilience, enhanced soil biology, increased SOM and Carbon.
- Many reported far greater populations of earthworms, birds, and other wildlife species.
- ☑ Enhanced animal performance and health.
- Inhanced plant diversity, health, and biomass production.
- ☑ Greater net margins per acre.
- ☑ Improved quality of life.
- \blacksquare Increased ability to bring next generation back on to the farm.



Dear Gabe: I want to start out by saying the past two weeks listening to you and the Soil Health Academy/ Understanding Ag group has been amazing. I love the passion that the team has for everyone that you encounter. The way you make things easy to understand, address people without belittling them, and your overall full dedication to the regenerative agriculture movement is more than inspiring. Attending the SHA in Kansas changed my life. Thank you for leading me to my purpose..."

Tori Dean, Harrisonville, MO

SHA's students share their experience in testimonial graphics

To help promote attendance at its various schools throughout the year, we developed a series of graphics and ads featuring quotes and photos from its graduates describing the impact of their SHA school experience in their operations and their personal lives. The ads have appeared in selected agricultural print publications and the graphics have been amplified through SHA's social media platforms. These heartfelt testimonials affirm SHA's remarkable impact and provide credible peer-to-peer endorsements regarding the practical value of SHA's schools within the farming and ranching community.











Hosting a Soil Health Academy is so heartwarming for us. Watching the eyes of the attendees light up when they get their 'aahha' and then witnessing their excitement to go home and get to work on their journey is very special. Our journey in soil health has been a challenge at times, but the human network we have developed along with the biological networks we are growing helps us to stay on the path and keep learning and growing."

-Grant and Dawn Breitkreutz, Redwood Falls, MN

Growing visual learning resources

In addition to making curriculum additions and improvements throughout the year, SHA's instructors also developed teaching aids and graphics to help students better understand and apply important soil health and regenerative agriculture principles, both in the classroom and in their farming and ranching operations. These graphics, along with all of the instructors' presentations, are available on-line to all SHA school attendees.







В	rix Sample 🛛 🔊 💦
1.	Only take readings on sunny days
2	and preferably early afternoon.
	one-half of desired vegetation
3	that livestock are consuming.
4	Enough plant material to make a ping-pong size ball
5.	Then roll in your palm till the plant material feels moist.
6.	Insert plant material into your vise-grip or garlic press.
7.	Pulsate vise-grip or garlic press several times.
8.	After pulsating squeeze the material. When you see the sap place a couple of drops on the prism plate of refractometer. Then close the plate cover on the price drometer.
9.	Look into eve piece towards the sun.
10.	Where the blue and white line meet will be your brix reading.
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Thanks to the scholarship I was able to attend the school and because of that I am confident about ranching without harming the environment and being more profitable. Recently, I leased a ranch where I am going to practice everything I learned. I hope that my neighbors can copy what I've learned so many people can do the same regenerating soils."

Teaching, growing, learning: Q&As with SHA

At the start of each SHA school, we ask our students to introduce themselves and to share their reasons for attending. While their farming operations vary greatly, both in terms of production and geography, their reasons and goals consistently fall into several broad categories including...

- Reducing costly and destructive synthetic fertilizer and pesticide use
- Improving the profitability of their operations
- Improving the nutrition of the food they produce
- Building climate-change resilience into their operations
- Improving their quality of life
- Leaving their farms and ranches to the next generations with healthier soil
- Learning how to successfully apply soil health-improving principles in their operations

In short, all are seeking a better way of doing what they love: Growing healthy, nutritious food regeneratively. Their sincere and heartfelt stories are a source of inspiration to those who have the privilege of working with these remarkable stewards. And while teaching farmers and ranchers the principles and practices of successful regenerative agriculture has many rewards, one of the most important is our own learning and growing through the interactions with these farmers and ranchers.

We asked some members of our world-renowned teaching cadre to share some of what they learned this past year from those interactions, and what inspires them as they look to the future. Here's what they said...

What did you learn most from your interactions with SHA's students?

Allen Williams: That they are genuinely interested in transitioning to regenerative farming and ranching practices and truly care about the environment, climate, water quality, food nutrition, soil health, and quality of life. Many are desperately seeking help that they are not getting from other sources. They significantly value being able to learn from people who are actually applying the very principles and practices they are teaching.

Gabe Brown: That they are very frustrated with the way that they are farming and ranching. They feel "trapped" and many are desperately looking for another way. They know that what they are doing is not working but they do not know how to change. Soil Health Academy offers the template that they are looking for.

Ray Archuleta: That all the students have experienced a similar journey that I also experienced in my life. They knew something was not right on their farm or ranch. The more they followed what was taught to them by their family, friends, and schools—the more diminished the ecology and economics became on their farming/ranching operation-the more they start to question and look outside themselves. When this occurs, a humbling paradigm shift happens which will provide a new way on how they see and relate to a farm or ranch. With the correct understanding, their lives will change.

What inspires you, keeps you going?

Allen Williams: The fact that we are truly making a difference in people's lives and in the land they are stewards of. When you hear and experience their personal stories and see the sincerity in their eyes, you know that all the time away from home has been worth it.



Gabe Brown: On a weekly basis, we hear from past attendees thanking us for giving them the hope and direction they needed to change. The success stories we are hearing are almost too good to believe. Many report that they have not only increased profitability substantially, but they, and their family, are under much less stress, thus improving family dynamics as well.

Ray Archuleta: What SHA teaches is a message of hope and freedom. Once the students understand their true relationship to the creation. That creation was designed to work for us-not against us. No longer do we have to be mental slaves to fear-based ecology or "Bambi-Ecology."

What has gone well this past year and what do you see as the biggest challenge moving forward?

Allen Williams: A full slate of soil health academies with more requests for schools than we can fulfill. Our biggest challenge is growing our team of highly qualified instructors so we can impact a much greater number of people and far more acres.

Gabe Brown: The largest success is the overwhelming demand for academies. This has also led to our biggest challenge, which is growing our team of highly qualified instructors. We see the need to hold multiple academies in various locations each month. We are also seeing a marked increase in demand from businesses, non-profits and municipalities to hold academies for them as well.

Ray Archuleta: Training the next generation of instructors. The ability to size up which would impact a large audience.

What are the biggest questions and concerns your students have in implementing regenerative ag principles?

Allen Williams: One of the first issues is simply a lack of confidence and education. Not knowing what steps to take to properly implement regenerative practices without risking their farm financial future.

Gabe Brown: The most often asked question is, "Where and how do I start?" They lack the confidence needed to start down the path to regeneration. We overcome this by having farmers and ranchers who once had those questions and are now practicing regenerative agriculture, address the attendees. We also give them plenty of "real life" examples by holding our monthly "question and answer forum." This allows them to talk to "our family" of past attendees. We believe that we are all in this together and together we can, and will, change.

Ray Archuleta: How to transition without making too many mistakes. Family dynamics can also be an issue.

Are farmers struggling with extreme weather and have any reported back to you how regenerative ag practices are helping them?

Allen Williams: Yes. We hear this practically every day, especially in 2019 with all the spring and summer flooding. This has been a huge issue with farmers and ranchers and they are desperately wanting to learn how to create resiliency. We have numerous examples of farmers who have been able to overcome these weather challenges because of the biology and soil resiliency built through regenerative practices. A number of regenerative farmers were able to get their crops planted when many others in their area had to take advantage of the USDA Prevent Plant Program.

Gabe Brown: Allen summed it up perfectly.



Are your students reporting back to you that they're reducing synthetic fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide use? Are weeds a problem, or part of nature's solution?

Allen Williams: We have numerous SHA students who have been very successful at significantly reducing their synthetic and chemical use while improving soil health and productivity. All farmers deal with weeds, but regenerative farmers have come to understand the role of "weeds" in their ecosystem. These "weeds" are nature's First Responders. They are the first plants to grow anywhere that we have scarred soil. They are nature's healers.

Gabe Brown: Past attendees of Soil Health Academy have been able to significantly reduce their input costs. From fertilizer, to fuel, to pesticides, to fungicides, to debt, to equipment costs, to feed, and the list goes on. By learning that the only way they can make major changes is by changing the way they SEE things, they realize that they need to look at the whole ecosystem and the role that everything plays in it. Weeds are not the problem, they are nature's solution to a problem.

Ray Archuleta: Once the students start implementing these principles, they see immediate results. This a common narrative.

Are the students from the bigger farming operations reporting increased cropping diversity and is this approach paying off for them?

Allen Williams: We have a number of large farms and ranches who have noted significant benefits from increasing cash crop diversity and cover crop species diversity. The improvements in their soil water infiltration rates due to enhanced soil aggregation, the ability to farm in challenging situations due to weather volatility, and their subsequent reduction in input costs and increase in net profits per acre are manifesting themselves in these same farmers becoming vocal advocates for regenerative agriculture and increasing their own regenerative efforts. A number of these farmers have also become a part of the SHA teaching team.

Gabe Brown: For the past several decades farmers and ranchers were told to; "go big or go home." This led to decreased resiliency of their operations, putting many in financial risk. Soil Health Academy attendees learn the importance of diversity. Whether we are talking diversity of cash crops, livestock species or value-added enterprises, diversity is key to resilience. We have had a number of large dairy operations move down the regenerative path by diversifying their crop and forage rotations, significantly reduce input costs, including fossil fuel usage thus advancing ecosystem health.

Ray Archuleta: In my experience, in some cases the larger farmers have responded quicker to soil health. One SHA graduate converted 30,000 acres to no-till and covers because of his experience at one soil health workshop. He told me he would stop farming if wasn't for soil health. And there are countless more examples.





Adam Grady and his family farm about 1200 acres in eastern North Carolina, near Kenansville. They have been there since the late 1700's. Historically, they were tobacco and grain farmers and contract turkey growers. Very conventional in their practices. Adam and his family transitioned to regenerative practices starting in the spring of 2017, implementing no-till, cover crops, and livestock grazing of their cover cops.

In just their second year (2018) Adam was able to cut input costs by \$200,000. That was in spite of the farm being covered by 8-9 feet of water during Hurricane Florence in September 2018. The resiliency he had built into his soil in just two years of regenerative practices allowed him to have a quick recovery after the flood water receded. His continued progress in 2019 allowed him to pay off all personal debt by November and to purchase an additional farm by paying cash.

Adam said he was quite skeptical initially but has since become a huge advocate of regenerative ag, routinely talking to neighbors and other farmers in his region about the benefits he has realized. Additionally, he has been the farm host for portions of two Soil Health Academies and has hosted a number of other field days and workshops.

> -Allen Williams, Ph.D., Co-Founder Soil Health Academy



SHA's stories from the heartland...

Of hope and possibility

Gabe, Allen, David and I created the Soil Health Academy because we saw a need to help farmers and ranchers farm regeneratively. As regenerative farmers and ranchers ourselves, we know the positive impact the successful application of the six regenerative principles can have on the nation's farms and rural communities. But I don't think any of us fully anticipated the transformative (and often, immediate and spiritual) impact regenerative farming has had in the lives of those who attended our schools.

I'm especially heartened by a phone call I received this past summer from Macauley Kincaid, a 25-year-old farmer in Southwest Missouri who attended one of our 2019 schools. Like many students we hear back from, Macauley Kincaid told me that thanks to what he learned, he now has the knowledge, understanding and confidence to farm in nature's image—and that his outlook regarding his farming future has improved dramatically.

Specifically, he told me that he would normally apply fungicides at two different times during his wheat crop's growing season. This year, he said, he cut that to just one fungicide (applied later in the season), and that he used two passes of sugar with micronutrients instead of using any insecticides AND that he used no herbicides. In addition, Macauley significantly reduced his use synthetic fertilizer and had a profitable, bumper crop.

With near palpable excitement in his voice he said, "Gabe Brown taught me the principles and how to make them work. Russell Hedrick taught me important details about the practices. And you taught me how to look at and understand the soil ecosystem and indicators of soil health."

He later sent a photo of himself, his wife and his young son and daughter in one of his fields to me with a note that read, "This is a picture of my family in one of our soybean fields. This field has no fertilizers, fungicides, or pesticides on it. We let annual weeds grow very large, and then we planted our soybeans into a big biomass of annual ryegrass, foxtail, vetch, Johnson grass, and pigweeds on June 12th at 150,000 seeds per acres. With the Regenerative Mindset we actually encourage weeds during our rotation, in between our cash crops. The way I look at it, it's 'nature's free cover crop."

And that's just his first year. Imagine what this young farmer will be able to achieve as he continues his regenerative journey in the years ahead. Plus, he's excited and eager to share his experience and his knowledge with his peers in the local farming community.

The SHA challenge moving forward (as well as for society as a whole) is to scale up these successes—to give even more farmers and ranchers the tools, skills, knowledge and confidence to successfully apply soil health-building regenerative agricultural principles in their respective operations. In addition to hosting more schools in 2020, we're looking at some innovative ways of addressing that challenge by developing educational curricula for students, and by using social and traditional media platforms and videos and info-graphics to inform and educate wide swaths of farmers, consumers and policy makers throughout the world.

It's a big job and we can't do it alone. But with your help we will continue to make a regenerative difference—one heart and one mind at a time.

– Ray Archuleta, Co-Founder, Soil Health Academy



SHA's board of directors

David Brandt, President



David farms 1,150 acres in central Ohio's Fairfield County. He began notill farming in 1971 and has been using cover crops since 1978. He has participated in yield plots for corn, soybeans and wheat into various covers. This information has been used by seed growers as well as county agents and universities to encourage other farmers to adapt no-till practices in their farming operations. He has also been planting various blends of cover crops to find out what benefits they provide to improve soil. David has received numerous awards for conservation practices, including the Ohio Conservation Educator Award from the Ohio No-Till Council, Ohio State University South Center's Supporter of the Year, Ohio Agriculture's Man of the Year, the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, and Ohio NRCS Soil Conservationist Partnership and State Volunteer Awards. David is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.



Kim Barmann, Secretary

One of six siblings raised on the CS Ranch located in northeastern New Mexico, Kim is part of a family owned and operated ranch that spans five generations. The main business is beef cattle and the CS also raises quality Quarter Horses. In 1982 Kim began managing the south end of the ranch. A desire to improve the drought-prone prairie ecosystem led her to the study and implementation of Holistic Management and the fascinating promise of regenerative agriculture. To this day Kim is a long-time soil health champion who is dedicated to bringing pioneers/advocates of regenerative agriculture principles to New Mexico. After a decade away from the ranch, Kim returned to her roots in 2017. She is excited to continue her passion of regenerative agriculture practices, which she believes is a must to sustain the CS legacy and surrounding rural communities.



Dawn Breitkreutz, Treasurer

Dawn, along with her husband Grant, run Stoney Creek Farm along the bluff of the Minnesota River near Redwood Falls, MN. Over the past 21 years they have converted a conventional crop and cow/calf operation into a multi-enterprise regenerative family business. They run at least a three-crop rotation, with cover crops incorporated whenever and where ever possible in their 100% no-till cropping system. They use managed, intensive grazing throughout their pasture systems and their farm fields. Their overall goal is to heal the land, create a successful and enjoyable multi-generational family business, and ensure that future generations have a beautiful legacy to carry on. They strive to help educate others about regenerative agriculture through on-farm tours and classes. Dawn is a U.S. Air Force veteran.

For More Information Kathy Richburg, Director of Operations, (256) 996-3142 www.soilhealthacademy.org





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