

NOVEMBER 3,
2021
1-3 pm Central
VIRTUAL



LEADERSHIP FOR MIDWESTERN WATERSHEDS

*A network for knowledge exchange
among agricultural watershed
management professionals.*

Water & Climate Co-benefits

This two-hour "LMW lite" session will focus on communicating climate risk and resilience with farmers, and making sense of ecosystem service markets. Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds is presented by Sand County Foundation and the partners listed at the bottom of the page.

Communicating Climate Risk and Resilience with Jerry Hatfield, USDA-ARS (retired)

One of the largest challenges to agriculture over the next two decades will be how we manage water. Since we rely on precipitation as our water source, being able to convert water into crop production is critical. Enhancing the soil pays dividends in building climate resilience and weather-proofing cropping systems and protecting water quality.



Jerry Hatfield received his PhD from Iowa State University in 1975 in the area of agricultural climatology and is the retired director of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, Iowa. His research focuses on the interactions among the components of the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum and their linkage to air, water, and soil quality. His focus has been on the evaluation of farming systems and their response to water and nitrogen interactions across soils and remote sensing methods to quantify field variation. He utilizes the genetics/environment/management concept to show producers how they can increase their production efficiency, increase soil health, and develop resilience to weather and climate variation. He is the recipient of numerous awards including being inducted into the USDA ARS Hall of Fame for his research impact and the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award. He is the author of 504 refereed publications and 18 monographs.

Farmer panel discussion:



Tony Peirick is the President of the Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water group. He is a partner in T&R Dairy Farm near Watertown with his brother Ralph and their two sons. They milk 200 dairy cows and grow 1,100 acres of corn for grain and silage, soybeans, and forages. Tony has been experimenting with cover crops for 10 years and has been planting green for the past five years. His farm does custom spraying, harvesting, and cover crop planting for neighbors.



Loran Steinlage is owner and operator of FLOLO Farm near West Union, Iowa. Loran is a lifelong farmer/fabricator and an equipment and no-till expert. He is on the engineering team for DAWN Equipment Company with an emphasis on equipment designed for regenerative practices. Loran was awarded No-Till Farmer magazine's No-Till Innovator of the Year in 2020, and is a past recipient of the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award.



Seth Watkins is a fourth-generation steward of his family's Pinhook Farm near Clarinda, Iowa. He is passionate about stewardship of land and natural resources (especially water quality and the restoration of prairie, woodlands, and riparian corridors) and producing an equitable food system. He serves on the boards of Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Golden Hills RC&D, and the Iowa Learning Farms (operated by Iowa State University) in Ames. Seth and his wife Christy have two children, Spencer and Tatum.



www.sandcountyfoundation.org/lmw

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Making Sense of Ecosystem Markets

with Jean Brokish and Dr. Emily Bruner of American Farmland Trust

This presentation will provide an overview of current and future opportunities in carbon markets at multiple scales including:

- Defining key terms, players and motivations.
- Summarizing current approaches to program design.
- Highlighting considerations for producers and conservation professionals as they continue to navigate this rapidly evolving space.



Jean Brokish is the Midwest Program Manager for American Farmland Trust where she provides coordination and management support for the Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Partnership, Vermilion Headwaters Watershed Group, and Upper Macoupin Watershed Group. Before joining AFT, Jean spent 11 years leading conservation and outreach programs for Oahu RC&D, including oversight for multiple watershed implementation projects, on-farm cover crop research, and the building of Hawaii's Women Farmer Network. Jean grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm, has a Bachelor of Science in agronomy from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls and a Master of Science in soil science from Purdue University.



Dr. Emily Bruner is the Midwest Science Director for American Farmland Trust. Dr. Bruner's work focuses on identifying ways to accelerate adoption of soil health practices while simultaneously increasing the resiliency and productivity of Midwest farms. She previously served as the Director for the Vigo County Soil and Water Conservation District, as a hydrologist with the United States Forest Service, an adjunct faculty member at Saint Mary of the Woods College, and as an Extension Associate for Natural Resources. She earned her PhD in Soil Science from Washington State University and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Conservation and Natural Resource Management from the University of Kentucky.



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