Innovative Small Farmers Outreach Program

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LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

Un-Learn
Learn
Re-Learn

In other words:
Lower Your Small Farm Inputs by using Holistic Farm Planning

Definition:
Holistic Management is a whole farm planning system that helps farmers, ranchers and land stewards better manage agricultural resources in order to reap sustainable environmental, economic , and social benefits.

4 Principles of Holistic Farming

1.Nature is itself holistic.
It gives us a mutualistic relationship between people, animals and the land.

Example: the circle of life, each depending upon the other

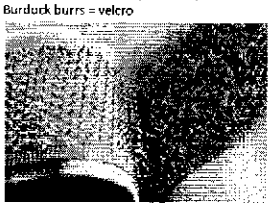
2.Our agricultural planning must be flexible enough to adapt to nature's complexity.

Geese know when to migrate

Example: hibernation-birth of young coordinates with times of plentiful food

3.We must manage the land in a way that mimics nature.

Humans use biomimicry to solve problems. Burdock burrs = velcro



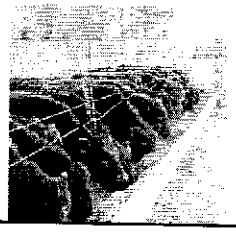
4.Time & timing are important in the use of land and the resting of the land, as nature would.

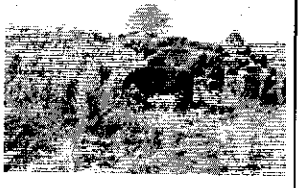
Seeds sprout only when certain conditions happen. We know now that seeds can detect or "see" light even if they are two inches deep in the soil.

"We should move from efficiency , where there is no room left, to redundancy, where we are ready for anything and can bounce back!"
Laura Lengnick,
Resilient Agriculture

How can we use the holistic principles to make our farms and ranches better?

What are we doing now? We buy expensive feed to make our cattle grow, while they stand in their own manure at a bunk, pushing and shoving to get the feed.





How could we change? We could learn about adaptive grazing and allow the cattle to harvest their own food, have fewer flies and better manure distribution.

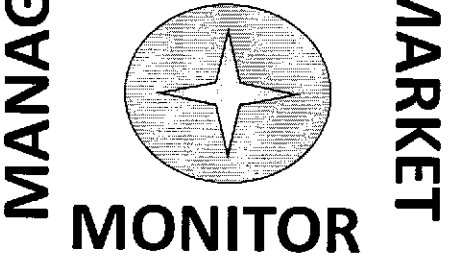
ARE YOU USING:
Adaptive Management
Diversity
Robust Solutions
Place-based resources

How mentally **FLEXIBLE** are you in your management practices?

UnLearn, Learn, ReLearn

Are you spending at least **4 hours per week,** in your office, thinking about your business?
Dave Pratt-Ranching for Profit

It is worth $100/hour to your business if you improve your **business plan, marketing plan** and **production plan.**



SELECTING VARIETIES

- **Performance Based**
  - **Native or Landrace**-adapted to the region
  - **Robust**-tolerate wide range of extremes
  - **Require low to no inputs to thrive and grow**
  - **USE IPM, reduce pesticides**-for every "bad bug" there are 17 good bugs: predators and pollinators
  - **Diversity cultivates resilience**-farmscaping gives good bugs a place to live, use cover crop cocktails for continuous living covers
  - **Place-based resources**

Place-based Resources

***improve water management with healthy soil**

***native pastures are naturally heat tolerant**

***Use plants with disease resistance, climate tolerance**

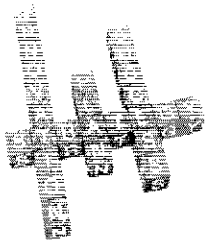
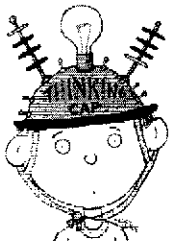
***planned/adaptive grazing on high quality soil creates robust grassland, animals are healthy**

Example : blueberries need a soil pH of 4.5 to 5.5, if your soil averages 7.2 pH....many inputs will be required for the survival of the plants EVERY YEAR!! Couldn't you find another small fruit which will thrive in your soil? Lower input costs = more profit!

If what you are doing is good for:

You have: Sustainability!
Holistic planning
creates sustainability!

Holistic Planning

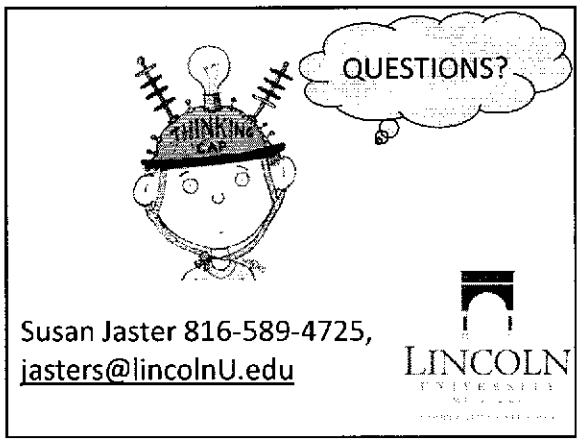
Will lower input costs on your farm!

Its time to set goals!

Where are the bottlenecks on your farm?
Where are costs of inputs highest?
Do you have a business plan, production plan, marketing plan?
Who is on your executive team?
Do you know how to build resilience?
Are you sustainable?

RESOURCES

- Savory Institute www.savory.global
- How to fight desertification and reverse climate change-Allan Savory
- Laura Lengneck-Resilient Agriculture
- Biomimicry in Action-Janine Benyus on Ted Talks
- Managing Cover Crops Profitably- SARE handbook #9
- Ray Archuletta-NRCS
- https://extension.usu.edu/behave/htm/learning-tools
- Ranching for Profit, Dave Pratt, Ranch Management Consultants



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