



LAND WATER & SKY

Mystic Artists

A large field of corn at sunset. A family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) are walking through the cornfield, away from the camera. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the landscape. Trees and hills are visible in the background.

Directed by
Pamela Tanner Boll

Produced by
**Mystic Artists
Film Productions**




A community of farmers, ranchers, and scientists have found a way to mitigate climate change while increasing agricultural production.



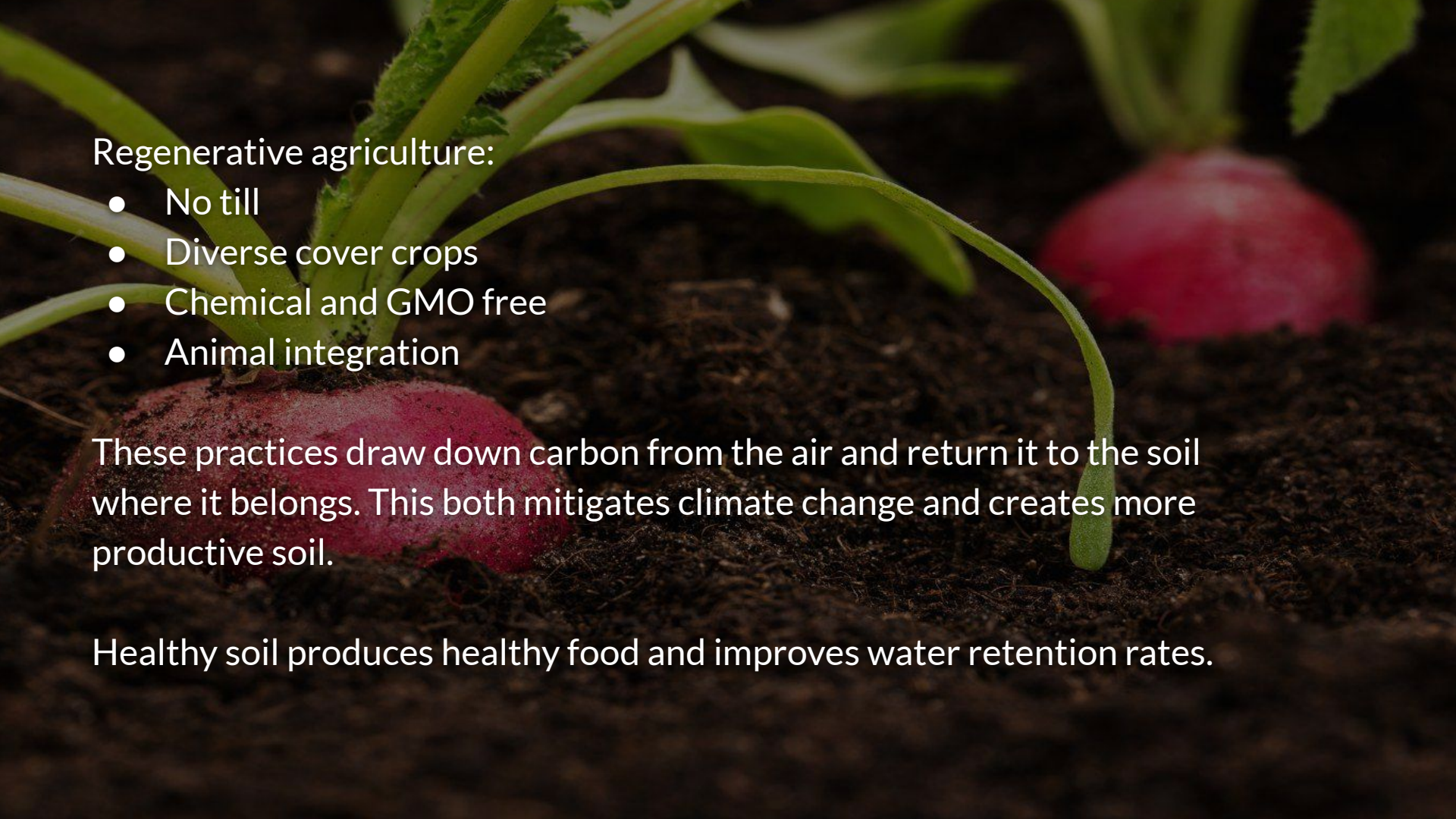


Soil is Capital



Regenerative farmers and ranchers who practice holistic management are the key not only to our food security, but also to the future of our planet.

We need a new breed of land managers to produce food in a way that works with nature instead of against it.




Regenerative agriculture:

- No till
- Diverse cover crops
- Chemical and GMO free
- Animal integration

These practices draw down carbon from the air and return it to the soil where it belongs. This both mitigates climate change and creates more productive soil.

Healthy soil produces healthy food and improves water retention rates.



Land, Water & Sky highlights farmers and ranchers leaving behind the conventional practices that are no longer profitable or sustainable. The film tells the story of land managers who are improving the health of their land and animals to save their family ranches — and help save our planet.

Their stories are amplified by experts **Allan Savory**, Founder and President of The Savory Institute; **David Perry**, President, CEO, and Director of Indigo Ag; **Michael Doane**, Global Managing Director for Sustainable Food and Water for The Nature Conservancy; and **Nicole Masters**, Director of Integrity Soils.

Rancho las Damas /// Chihuahua, Mexico

Alejandro Carrillo raises grass-fed cattle in the north Mexico desert on Rancho las Damas, named after the nearby Sierras las Damas. While many of his neighbors have reduced cattle herds due to very dry weather over the last years, Alejandro has been able to triple his. And he has done it while increasing the biodiversity of plants, animals, and birds on his ranch.

How? In 2006, Alejandro adapted the principles of Holistic Planned Grazing Management (developed by the Savory Institute), changing from continuous grazing to planned grazing. He has taken this knowledge and begun to pass it on to the next generation, mentoring young ranchers in Chihuahua and around the world.





Planned grazing is based on simple principles — keep livestock bunched together in a large herd and keep them moving across the grasslands, mimicking the behavior of wild grassland herds. By applying these methods to cattle, ranchers have found that their land becomes more fertile, able to both hold more water and to use the little rain that falls more effectively. The cattle manure and urine works in a concentration that gives the soil the food it needs to grow robust and diverse grasses. So even in the desert, the land can be productive. Even with a few inches of rain, the grasses grow. And the birds return.

pasticultoresdeldesierto.com

“40% of the earth’s land surface is grasslands, 26% is used for livestock and 20-70% is presently considered degraded.”

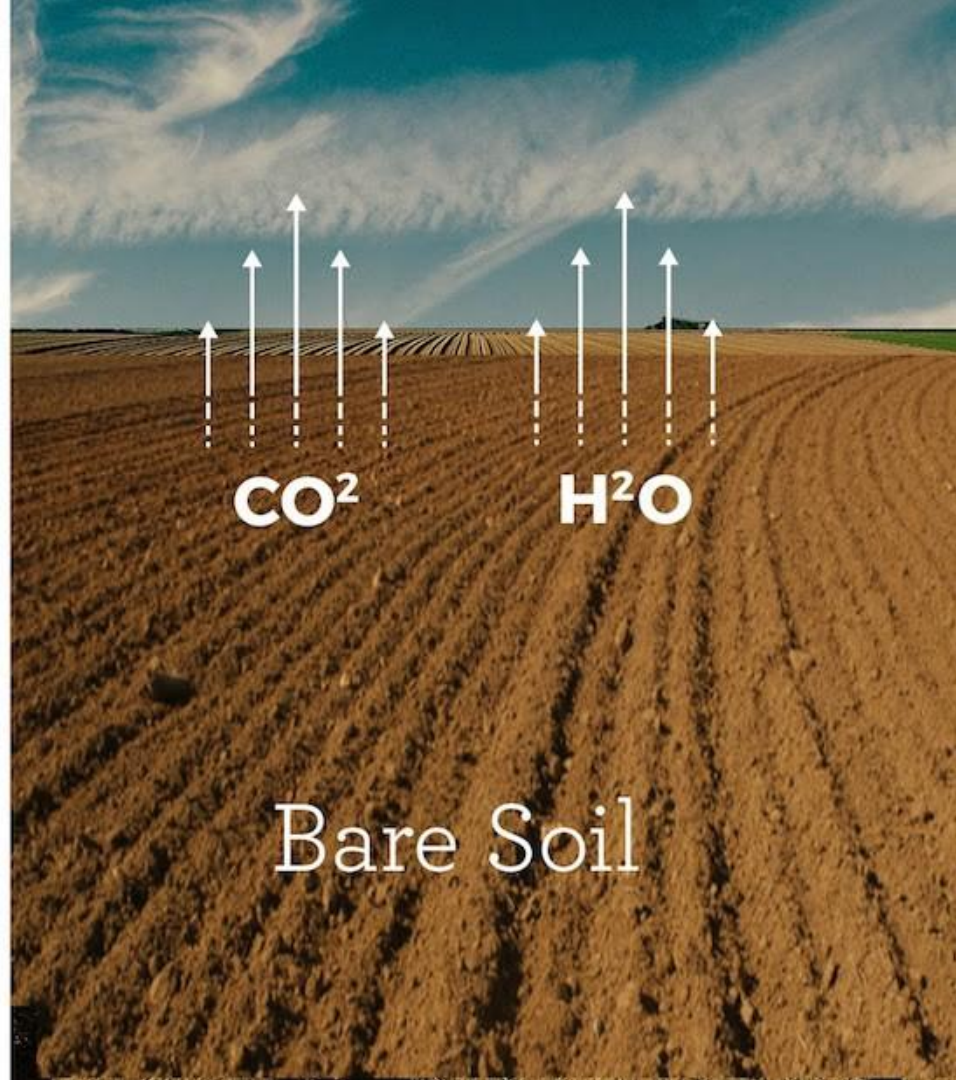
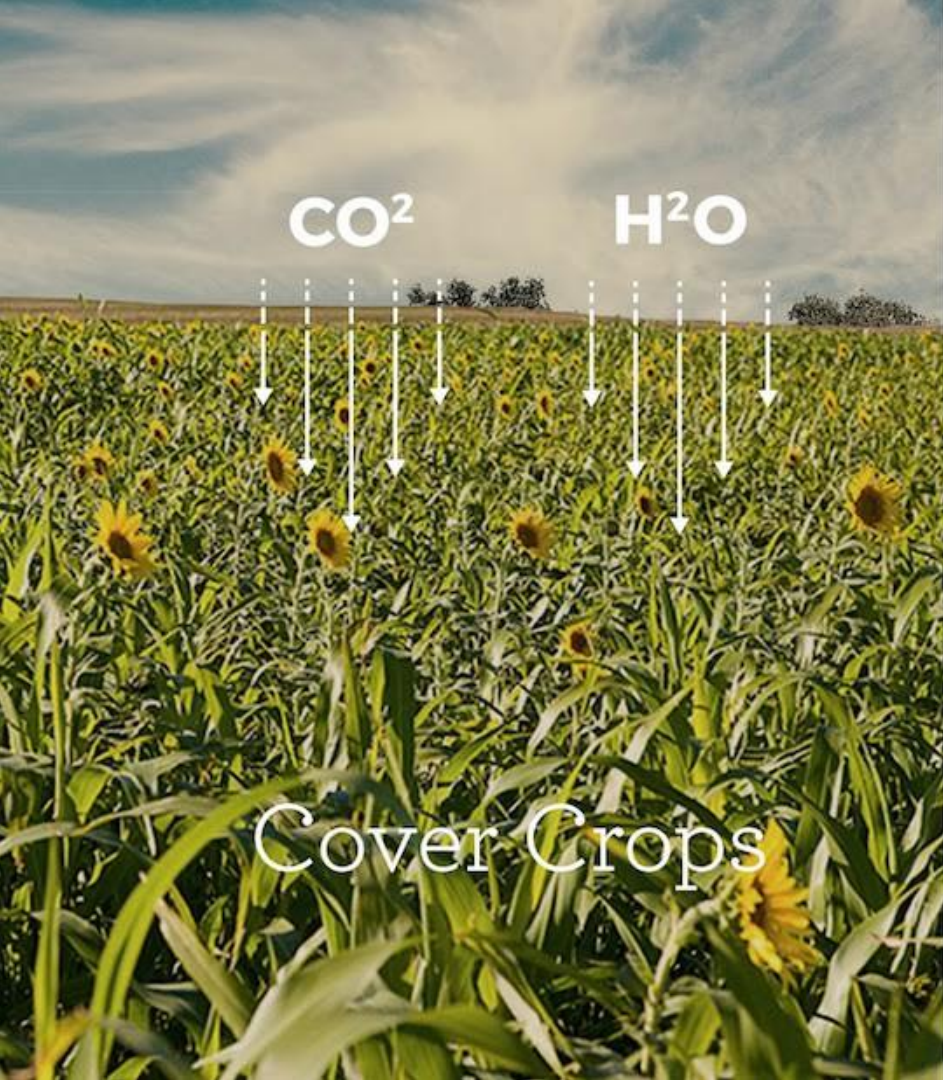
— Justin Adams
The Nature Conservancy


“And if we [practice regenerative ranching] on half the world’s grasslands, we can take us back to pre industrial levels [of greenhouse gases]—while feeding people.

I can think of almost nothing that offers more hope for our planet, for your children and their children and all of humanity.”

— Allan Savory
Savory Institute





A photograph of two men, Keith Berns and his brother Brian, crouching in a field of lush green cover crops. Keith, on the left, has grey hair and a goatee, wearing a green polo shirt and blue jeans. Brian, on the right, wears sunglasses, a brown t-shirt, and blue jeans. They are both smiling at the camera. The background is filled with dense green vegetation.

Keith Berns and his brother
Brian have farmed their
Nebraska family farm all
their lives (2500+ acres).
Raised as conventional
farmers, they started
no-tilling practices in
the late 1980s and
have been 100%
no-till since 1999.

Green Cover Seed /// Bladen, Nebraska



With a grant from SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education), Keith and Brian began to do cover crop research and really liked what they saw. They had always wanted to plant cover crops, but kept putting it off because of the time and energy needed to do it. But the grant forced them to plant and really observe the cover crops and how they were affecting the soil on their farm. They found that adding cover crops greatly improved their land's fertility as well as its ability to hold water.

They were excited about the positive potential of using cover crops but seed was really hard to find — but whenever they did, other farmers asked them to buy extra. So in 2009 they decided to start a cover crop seed business, Green Cover Seed, in addition to their farming. Green Cover Seed has over 8,000 customers and is now one of the major cover crop seed providers and educators in the US, with customized offerings for different climates.

greencoverseed.com


A world map showing the distribution of agricultural land. The land is colored in shades of green, indicating areas used for agriculture. The oceans are dark blue. The map shows that agriculture is widespread across all continents, with significant areas in North America, Europe, Asia, and South America. Africa and Australia show more arid, brownish regions, but still have green areas, particularly along the coasts and in some inland areas.

30% of the planet's land is used for agriculture — about 3.6 billion acres.

If we draw enough carbon down from the sky and back into the soil through regenerative agricultural practices, we can reverse climate change. We can bring carbon levels down to pre-industrial-revolution levels.

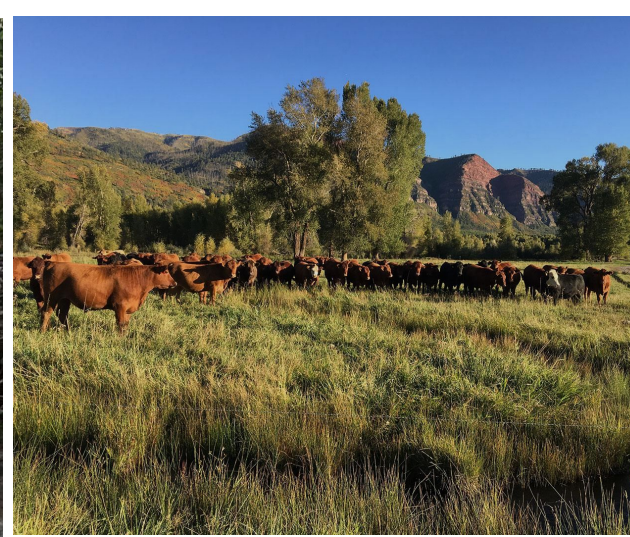
The James Ranch /// Durango, Colorado

The James Ranch in Durango, Colorado, is located in the Animas River Valley, nearly 6,600 ft above sea level. The 400-acre ranch has been in the James family since 1961 and is now home to the original owners, four of their five grown children, and many grandchildren — three generations work the ranch. But each family has its own business on the land and is responsible for its success. The James family raises pasture-fed and finished cattle; they grow flowers and vegetables; they have a tree operation, a dairy and cheese-making business, and a successful market and grill where they sell products from the ranch. While each farm operation is owned and operated separately, each enhances the other. Chickens follow cows to eat the larvae in the cow manure, cutting down on fly populations while getting the nutrition they need. Pigs forage in the tree farm lands and are fed whey, a by product from the dairy and cheese business. The success of the market and grill helps to bring in income for all of the products that are sold there.



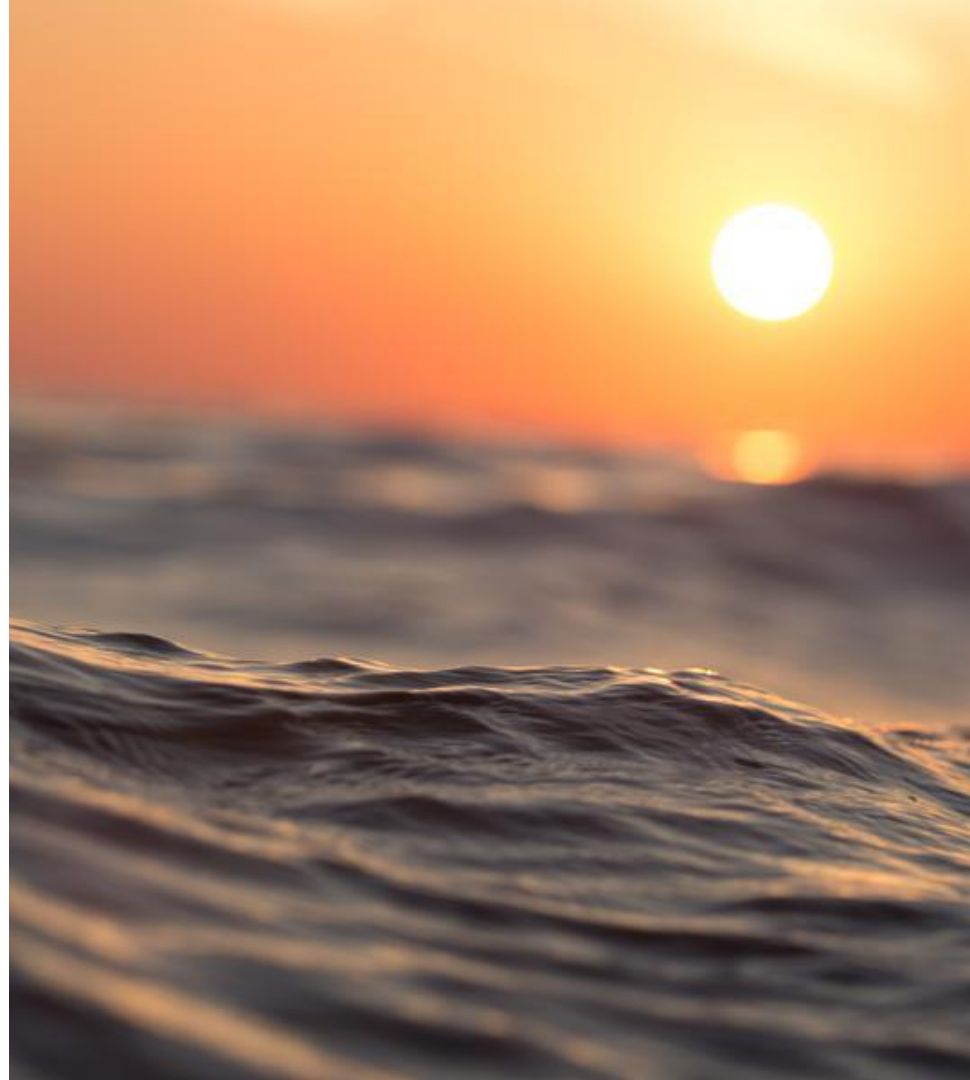
Today's ranches are hard pressed to keep young people on the land, but the James family has bucked this trend. And each year the James Ranch takes in an apprentice from the Quivera Coalition's New Agrarian training program to pass along the family's knowledge of regenerative farming.

jamesranch.net



If we can increase carbon levels in agricultural soil by 2%, we will solve our food problem while substantially mitigating climate change.

Land, Water & Sky explores the progress we are making towards this goal through the stories of the unsung heroes who are already practicing regenerative agriculture and the scientists, businesses, and non-profits creating systems and incentives to promote these practices on a **much, much bigger scale.**





PAMELA TANNER BOLL

Pamela Tanner Boll is an artist, filmmaker, writer and activist. She is the Founder and CEO of [Mystic Artists Film Productions](#). She is the Co-Executive Producer of the Academy Award-winning documentary, [Born into Brothels](#). Pamela has executive produced the following film projects: [Living in Emergency: True Stories of Doctors Without Borders](#); [In a Dream](#); [Connected: A Declaration of Interdependence](#); [Our Summer in Tehran](#); [Strange Powers: Stephin Merritt and the Magnetic Fields](#); [Close to the Fire](#); [She's Beautiful When She's Angry](#); [E-Team](#), [Teen Press](#) and [Obit](#).

Pamela directed and produced [Who Does She Think She Is?](#), a feature-length documentary film that follows five women who are mothers and artists. Pamela also directed [A Small Good Thing](#), a film that asks the question how can we live in a better way.

Pamela grew up in Parkersburg, WV. She received a BA in English from Middlebury College and a Masters in Interdisciplinary Studies from Lesley University. Pamela raised three sons in Winchester, Massachusetts and now lives in Boulder, Colorado.

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