## SESSION FIVE: Sustainable Innovation and New Market Opportunities

Round Table Meeting January 2024
Please remember to follow Chatham House Rule.





## Moderator Urban Lehner

Vice President Editorial Emeritus DTN/Progressive Farmer





Alexia Akbay Chief Executive Officer Symbrosia



Ray Gaesser
Owner
Gaesser Farms



Dr. Michelle Starke
Director, Stewardship &
Regulatory Affairs
CoverCress, Inc.



Tamara Muruetagoiena Vice President, Sustainability International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA)



## **Alexia Akbay**

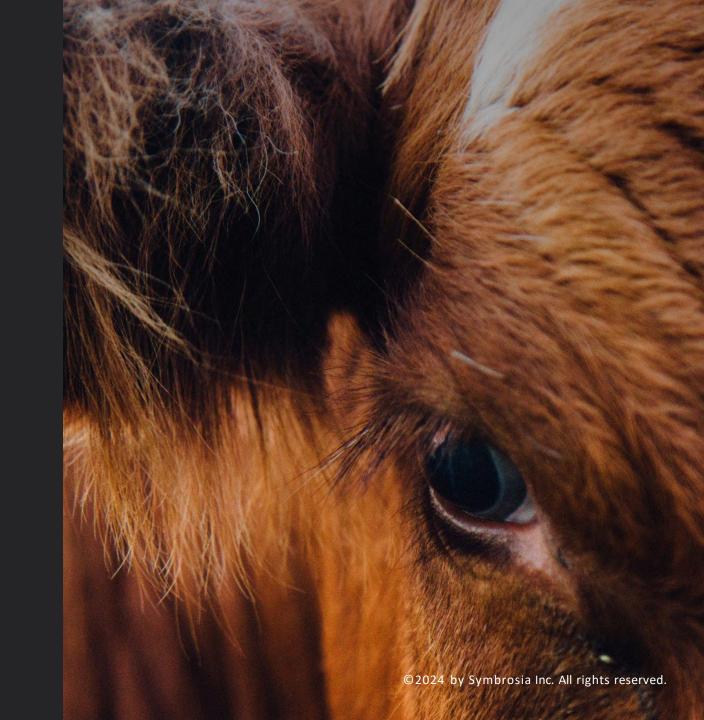
## **Chief Executive Officer Symbrosia**





#### Agenda

- •Symbrosia Intro
- •Aquaculture Market + Innovation
- •Carbon Crediting Process + Data
- •Regulatory Landscape





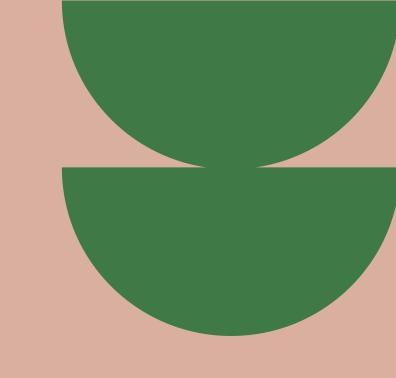
# 34% of companies have made a public commitment to become carbon neutral

Accenture, 2022.



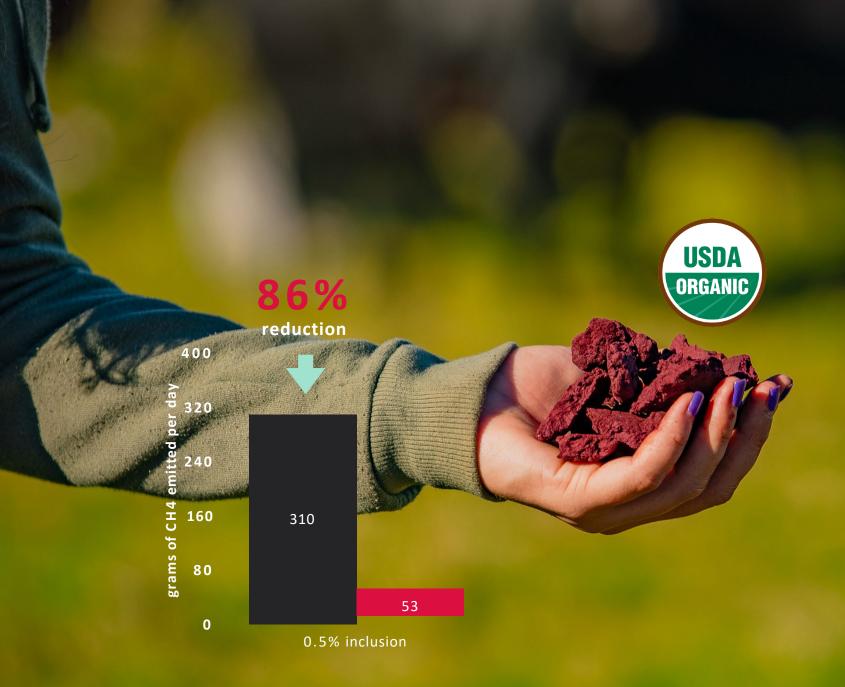
Enteric methane is not the problem. It's the farmer's golden opportunity.

21% of dietdeprived energy is lost to methane production. Enteric methane is not the problem. It's the farmer's golden opportunity.



21% of dietdeprived energy is
lost to methane
production.

# The solution is here and we call it...



THE OPPORTUNITY IS HERE

# SeaGraze<sup>TM</sup> reduces methane by 85%

While optimizing dietary energy use

# Early adopters leading the way •••



Largest Organic Co-op in US



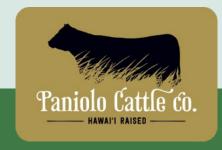
First Carbon Neutral Dairy



20% of Global Yogurt Market



70% of Brazil Cattle Market



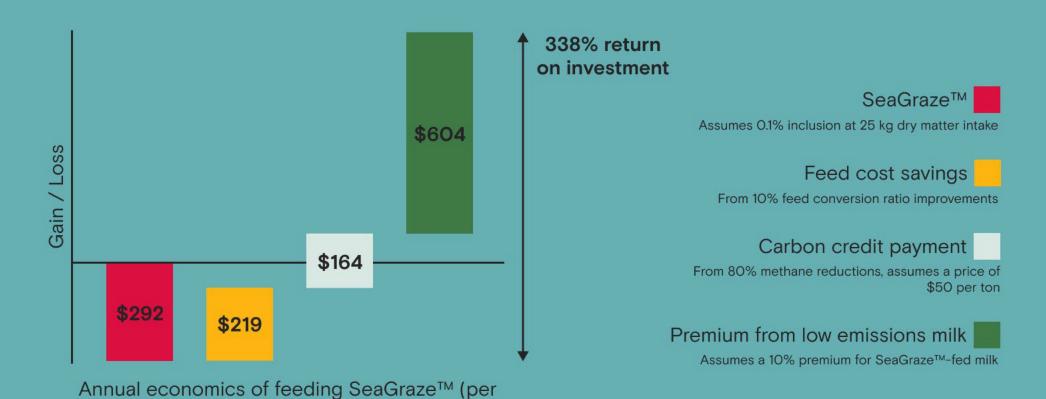
Top 10 Cow-Calf Operation in US

#### **Consumer Insights**

- Willingness to pay (WTP) for low emission products similar to that of organic products
- Knowledge of product increases WTP
- There is a preferred market for low emission products: 43.6% (primed) and 28.5% (unprimed)

Symbrosia WTP Survey 2023, 500 participants.

#### In target markets, SeaGraze™ will at least pay for itself



cow) on a California organic dairy

Symbrosia's
Mission
1 million cows on
SeaGraze<sup>TM</sup>



Develop world-leading seaweed tech in the process



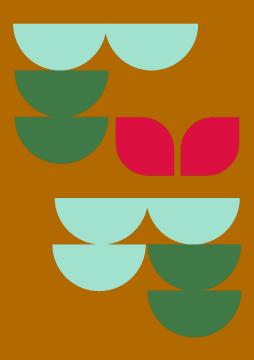
Aquaculture is the breeding, rearing, and harvesting of fish, shellfish, algae and other aquatic organisms.

#### <u>Seaweed</u>

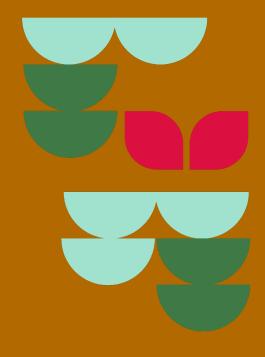
8% CAGR through 2030

Largest Market: Asia

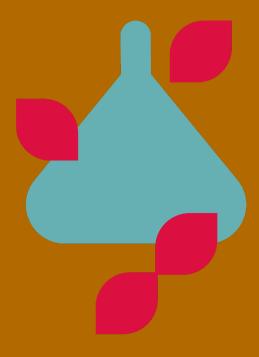
Fastest Growing Market: North America



# Lessons from terrestrial crops



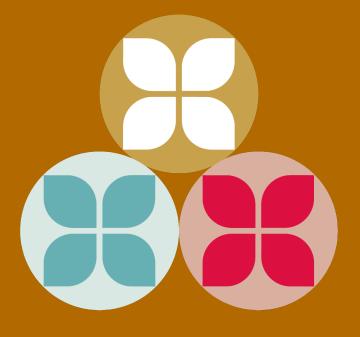
**500+ Strain Bank**Patented strain used for contract manufacturing
Granted: 17/300,781



Microbial fertilizer for seaweed

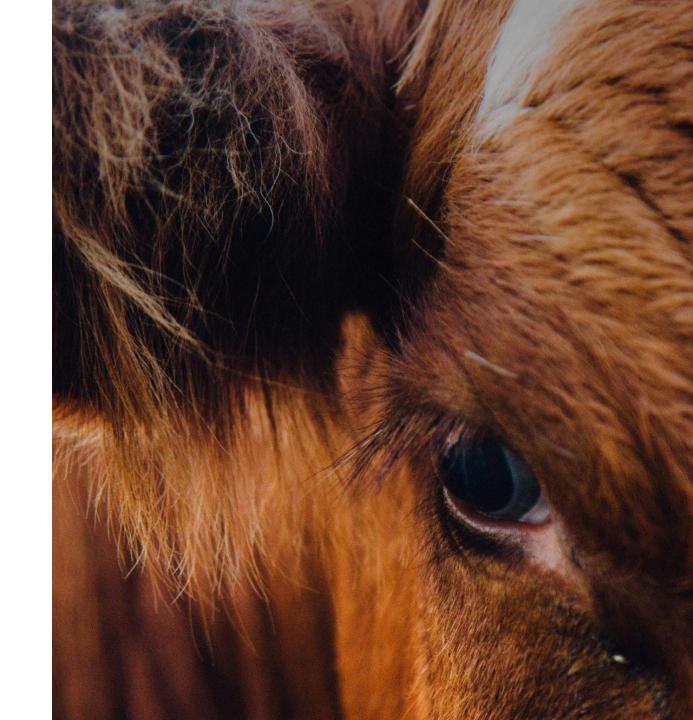
Boost yield and resilience

Provisional: 63/516,149



Biological sensor for seaweed estimation Enables farm automation Provisional in preparation

Agricultural carbon markets are developing rapidly, and companies are lining up to purchase carbon credits. This gives producers new avenues for profitability.



### What is a Carbon Credit?

Represents the removal or avoidance of 1 ton of CO<sub>2</sub> or equivalent greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

#### PROCESS FOR GENERATING AGRICULTURAL CARBON CREDITS

Producers enroll in carbon offset program



Producer shifts to carbon farming practices



Model processes data to quantify GHG abatement



Offsets are sold



























Baseline is established



Management data is gathered



Offsets are verified and validated

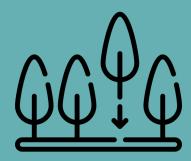


Producer receives payment

# Practices that generate carbon



Feeding additives to reduce enteric methane



Afforestation of pasture and creation of conservation buffers



Grazing management e.g. rotational grazing



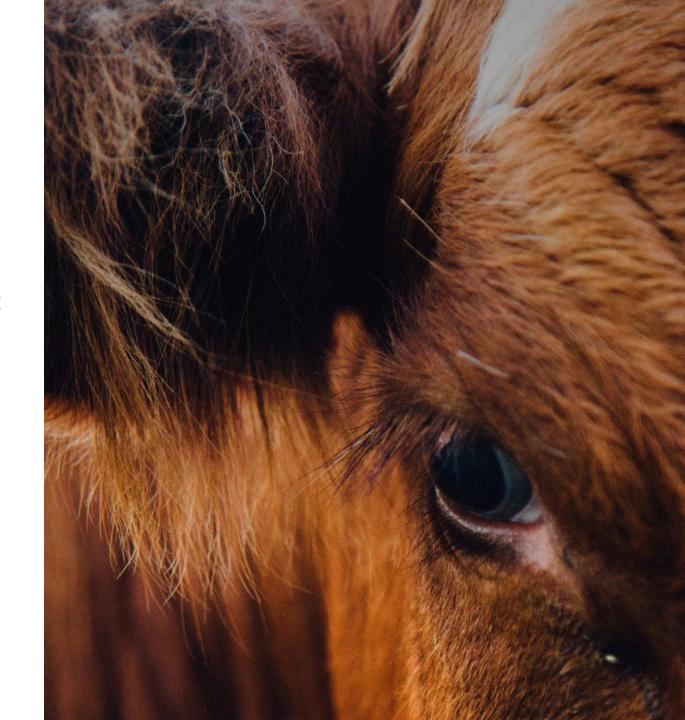
Planting of improved grass species

#### How much could I earn annually from selling carbon credits?



1,000 acres of rotational grazing

1,000 cattle on SeaGraze \$57,000

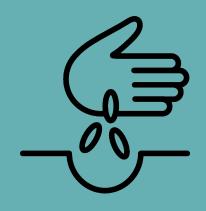


Carbon Credit demand will only continue to increase, driven largely by consumer and investor pressure on companies.

#### KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR PICKING A CARBON PROGRAM

- 1 Certified credits retain value over non-certified
- Clear understanding of data management requirements
- 3 Form and timing of the payment

## Carbon certifiers ensure that each project can claim



#### **ADDITIONALITY**

Prove that activities would not have occurred without carbon financing



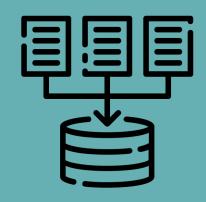
#### **PERMANENCE**

Changes to the carbon stock represent a permanent change



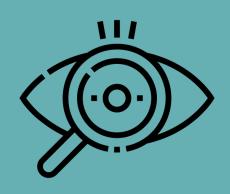
#### **CONSERVATIVE**

Use of conservative assumptions, values, and procedures



#### RELEVANCE

Data, methods, and criteria are appropriate for the project



#### **TRANSPARENCY**

Clear and consistent information for buyers

# Symbrosia walks partners through the certification process and ensures payment goes directly to the producer.

Under the Innovative FEED Act, the FDA will stop treating SeaGraze™ like a pill...





...and start treating it as a plant



Alexia
Akbay
CEO &
Founder

Symbrosia

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## Ray Gaesser

Owner Gaesser Farms









### **Dr. Michelle Starke**

Director, Stewardship & Regulatory Affairs CoverCress, Inc.





CoverCress®: A New Renewable Fuel Feedstock

Farm Foundation Round Table January 19, 2024



#### Why are Renewable Fuel Feedstocks Needed?

Global Climate Policy is About Driving Down Greenhouse Gas Emissions

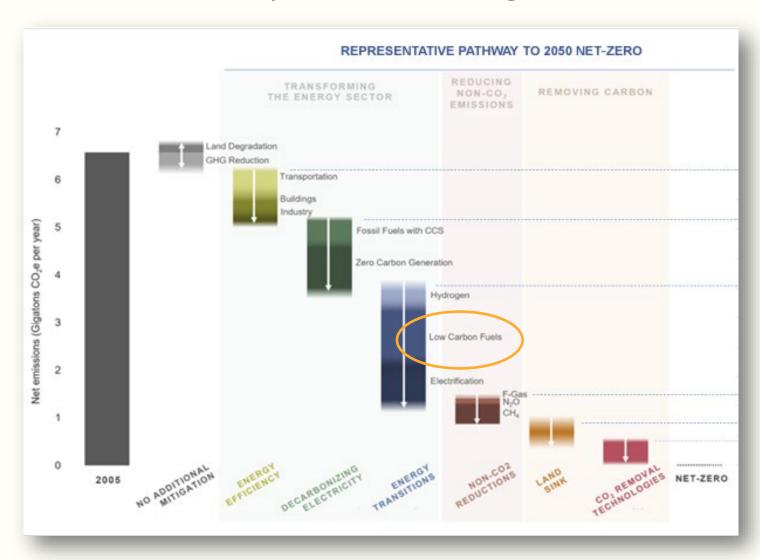
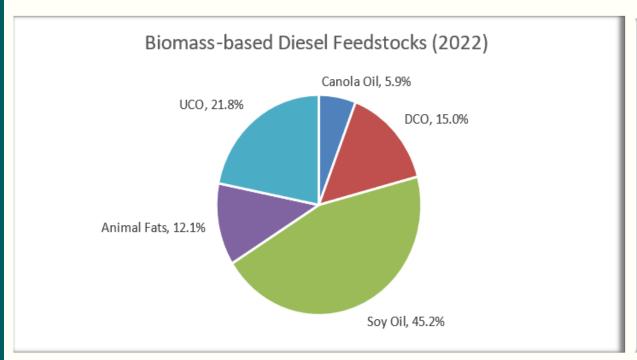


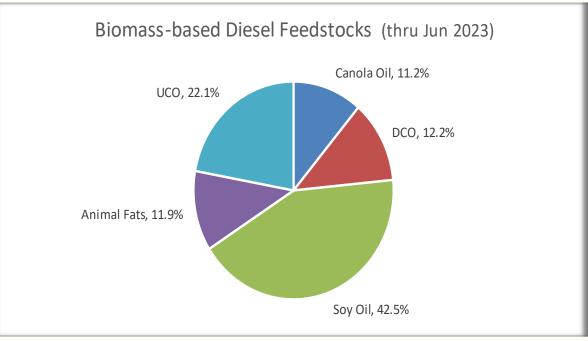
Figure ES-2: Emissions Reductions Pathways to Achieve 2050 Net-Zero Emissions in the United States.



## Vegetable Oil Feedstocks Represent More Than 50% of the Feedstock Use in the US

Feedstocks with lower carbon intensity values are increasing in use





23.27 billion lbs.

14.29 billion lbs. to date



## Renewable Fuel Standard Targets Are Increasing

- RFS's renewable volume obligations for advanced biofuels (D-5) are expanded from 5.6 billion gallons to 7.35 billion gallons by 2025
- EPA continues to note a limitation of available feedstocks
- Most of the feedstock inputs to produce renewable fuels in the U.S. come from soybean oil → If we are going to have a sustainable supply of feedstock inputs, we need new oilseed sources grown on existing acres
- By 2030, CoverCress commercial scale potential is ~300 million gallons, or about 5% of the current D-5 volume target
- CoverCress can become a significant contributor to the growing demand for renewable fuels while not reducing food production

#### Volume Targets (billion RINs)a

	2023	2024	2025
Cellulosic biofuel	0.84	1.09	1.38
Biomass-based diesel <sup>b</sup>	2.82	3.04	3.35
Advanced biofuel	5.94	6.54	7.33
Renewable fuel	20.94	21.54	22.33
Supplemental standard	0.25	n/a	n/a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> One RIN is equivalent to one ethanol-equivalent gallon of renewable fuel.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> BBD is given in billion gallons.

#### **CoverCress® Is A Novel Winter Oilseed Crop**





CoverCress acts as a functional cover crop with additional economic benefits



#### Pennycress domestication process is similar to canola

With use of gene editing technology, the domestication process has been faster



#### Native Species

#### **Product Development**

> Six decades of coordinated work by thousands of breeders

and crop scientists in Canada and Europe



Brassica family Tetraploid genome 19 chromosomes Rapeseed 925 Mb









**Domesticated Crop** 



Canola

#### **Key Traits/Attributes:**

#### Compositional

- Low erucic acid
- Low glucosinolates

#### Agronomic

- Reduced dormancy
- Reduced pod shatter
- Improved germination
- Optimized maturity
- Disease resistance
- Herbicide tolerance

> Nine years of joint effort by dozens of researchers at CCI and a few Midwestern universities supported by USDA



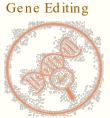
**Pennycress** 500 Mb

Brassica family Diploid genome 7 chromosomes

#### Breeding



Agronomy







**CoverCress™** 

#### **Key Traits/Attributes:**

#### Compositional

- Low erucic acid
- Low glucosinolates
- Low fiber  $\rightarrow$  golden seed color

#### Agronomic

- Minimal dormancy
- Improved germination
- Reduced pod shatter
- Optimized maturity
- Disease resistance
- Stem strength

# Production takes place during a fallow period and uses existing equipment

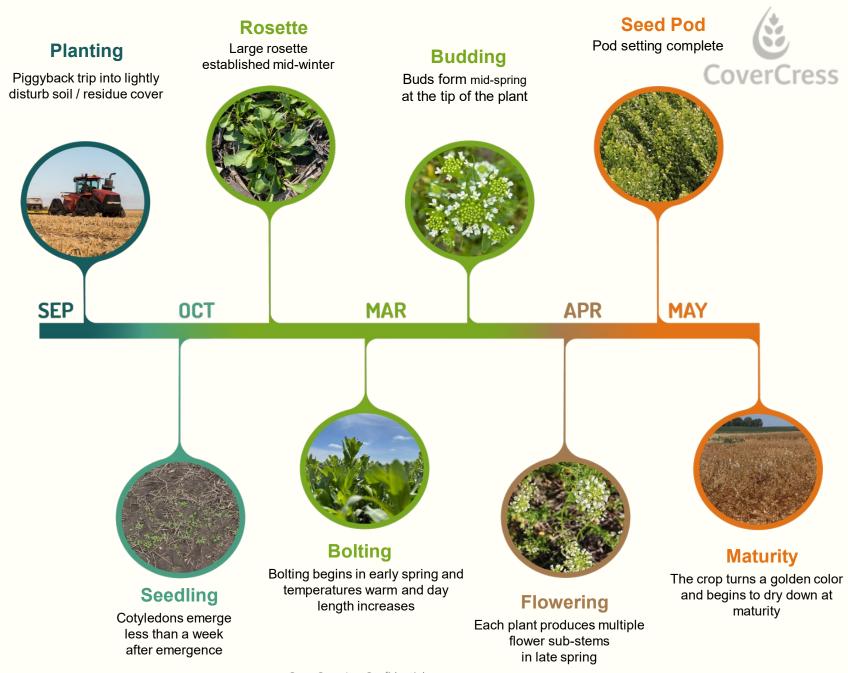
Valuable Sustainability
Benefits



Carbon Sequestration & Carbon Mitigation



Ecosystem Benefits of a Cover Crop



## Maximizing Sustainability Benefits: New Oil Feedstock for Renewable Fuels and High Protein Meal for Animal Feed

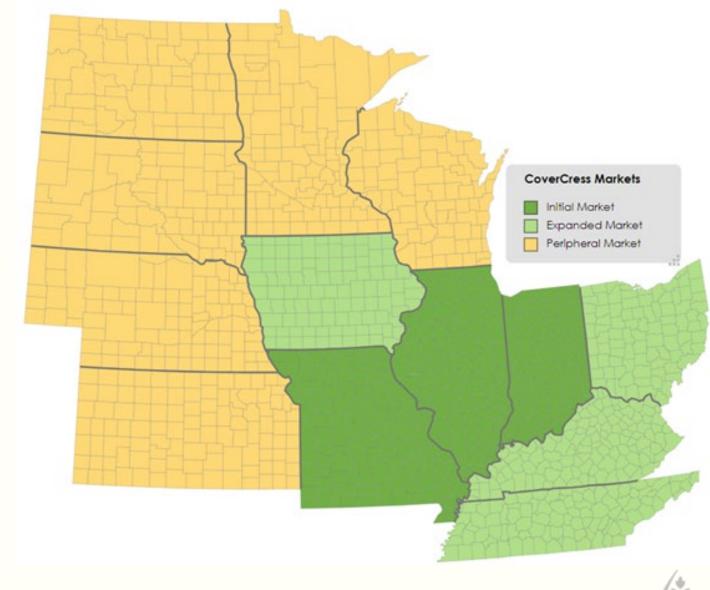


Oil used for renewable fuel production



Meal co-product has significant potential in animal feed and would be like canola meal in animal diets

Millions of acres in target geography that currently do not get a cover crop or other rotational crop planted on them





# CoverCress® is Produced & Delivered Via a Closed-Loop System

A dedicated farm-to-fuel supply chain for a low carbon intensity oil feedstock













#### Part of the Solution to a Low Carbon Future for Our Planet

New opportunity for farmers, fuel producers and livestock producers

#### Planting a CoverCress crop enhances farm income

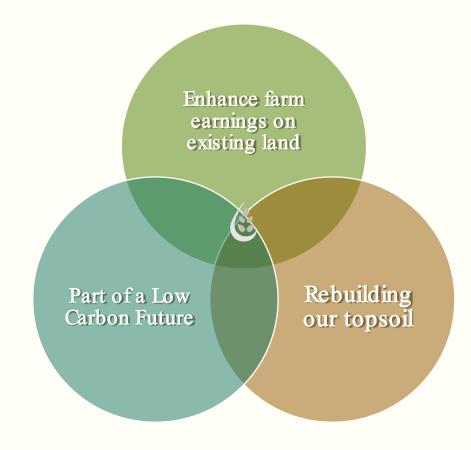
• This occurs on existing land utilizing existing equipment by adding a low input crop grown in the offseason. CoverCress is uniquely positioned to provide this solution to corn-soybean producers.

## As a functional cover crop as well as a cash crop, planting a CoverCress crop helps to rebuild our topsoil

- Henry Wallace once said, "nations endure only as long as their topsoil". The U.S. has lost over sixty percent of its organic topsoil → We need to hold on to what we have and rebuild it.
- Cover crops are a known solution to help, but they require investment without near term return. Farmers can now gain the benefits from cover cropping, including holding and building topsoil organic, revitalization of soil microbes and more while they earn income from planting CoverCress TM.

#### The CoverCress™ crop is a crucial part of a low carbon future

- Oil from CoverCress TM is an ultra-low carbon intensity feedstock to provide new options for greener diesel and jet fuel producers.
- Growing a new crop in the off-season is also new source of carbon sequestration in our soils. CoverCress both decarbonizes fuel and stores more in our soils.











## Tamara Muruetagoiena

Vice President, Sustainability International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA)







## Sustainable Packaging

- Global Packaging regulations
  - European Union
  - Canada
- Our goal: less packaging and better packaging
  - Recycling
    - Supporting innovation to increase recyclability and recycled content
  - Compostables
    - □ Packaging &PLU stickers
  - System Design & Reusable Packaging
    - Reduce packaging while maintaining food safety, quality & reducing waste



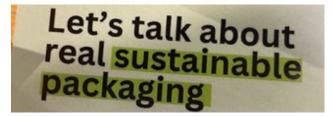














## Regenerative Agriculture & Climate-Smart Farming

- Regenerative Agriculture is driven by consumers and retailers
- Still an area with more questions than answers for produce and floral: Organics? Food safety? Indoor/soilless farming?
- Connecting Regenerative Agriculture with Climate Solutions
- Understanding our footprint:
  - $-CO_2 + N_2O + CH_4$
  - Energy + Transport + Farming + Waste



patagonia



















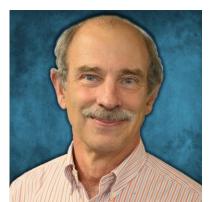


## **QUESTION AND ANSWER**

Please submit your questions on the meeting app or use one of the microphones.

- Go to app
- Go to Your Agenda
- Find The Session
- Q&A Tab





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CoverCress, Inc.



### **CLOSING KEYNOTE**

**Round Table Meeting January 2024** 





## Moderator Gregg Doud

President and CEO
National Milk Producers Federation
Farm Foundation
Round Table Fellow
Farm Foundation



## **Mark Schweitzer**

Consultant



## **QUESTION AND ANSWER**

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## **OPEN MIC SESSION**

**Round Table Meeting January 2024** 



# We look forward to seeing you at the next Round Table June 19-21, in Colorado.

