

EPISODE
CLOSED CAPTION
SCRIPT



SEARCHING FOR SUSTAINABILITY
FARMING PRACTICES
AND SUSTAINABILITY

Prof. Steven Carpenter - People would be outraged if we dumped large amounts of human waste into Wisconsin lakes. We need to get to the same point with livestock where we realize it's not a great idea.

Joe Tomandl - We can't deny that our water quality is going down, that's a scientific fact.

Lee Luft - Farmers are now committing to be a part of it. They even indicated that they recognize that they're part of the problems and that is a huge step.

We have to start looking at other tools that revolve around permanent ground cover and soil loss.

Randy Ebert - We can't be status quo and say what we did before is good enough. We have to continue to get better. We used to be commodity based and now all the sudden we're talking about maybe these priorities need to be environmentally based.

Lee Luft - That sense is now shared by those in our DNR and debt cap and also the EPA.

Bill Hafs - We all have a part in this. It's just that agriculture offers this golden opportunity, but we need some really talented conservation staff, good agronomy staff, that can build a relationship with a farmer which could be beneficial to them and us and the water.

Randy Ebert - It isn't that we have a manure problem, I believe it is more we have a water problem. We need to take the water out of the manure and make two more concentrated manure products that we can apply when the crop is growing. To get this liquid out, we are going to need some form of ultra-filtration. We are going to need some sort of reverse osmosis.

Prof. Steven Carpenter - Some people do think science is a simple solution and a lot of people are working on better technology for controlling phosphorus but we're not there yet and the technology we have now is pretty expensive, it's like providing sewage treatment for cows.

Lynn Utesch - We don't need to be using water to flush down barns. You know nowhere in nature do any animals all stop in defecate in one big hole in the ground other than man and unfortunately now we've made it, so the cows do. These new technologies all they're doing is dealing with a symptom of a broken system. We need to go back to ground zero and start to look at how is it done in nature and how can we replicate that.

Prof. Doug Reinmann - There are technologies that have been proposed to concentrate nutrients in the manure in order that it can be moved off the farm. From an ecological standpoint that disrupts that whole nutrient balance. Now we've broken the cycle of the dairy ecosystem

Joe Tomandl - As a society and as industry we value a crop by how many bushels and what the value of that bushels are. Pounds of milk and what the value is. We never subtract the environmental impact. So, if we had an actual dollar figure that was associated with every pound of phosphorus and we really subtracted that off. Now we're truly going to figure out the economic impact of our different agricultural systems. And once we figure out the true economic impact our more sustainable agricultural management systems will rise to the top and it'll give the consumer, it'll give the agency people and our whole population in general what it wants.

Prof. Steven Carpenter - Get everybody together and say we're going to pay for a balanced phosphorus budget. We're going to figure out how to get our phosphorus budget in balance so we're not overloading the soils and therefore overloading the water. Then we're going to do whatever it takes we're going to treat manure, develop crops that are really good at drawing the phosphorus out of soils. So, work with farmers to make these technologies available across the landscape that don't pollute the environment that they use.

Joe Tomandl - The consumer is educated. We maybe need to listen to them and give them what they want not tell them what they want. Not only from a product standpoint, but actually from a production standpoint.