

EPISODE
CLOSED CAPTION
SCRIPT



SEARCHING FOR SUSTAINABILITY
FARMING PRACTICES
AND SUSTAINABILITY

Michael Finney- It took us three years in Green Bay working with scientists and people who had studied water to actually answer the question: could we clean it up? And then we had to figure out, well, how do we get people to do that and that's the challenge we're into now. A couple decades of effort to try to see if people can make the changes that are required. We know what those changes are. The challenge will be can we get everybody to collaborate again to do those changes.

Margaret Krome - The interesting thing about sustainable agriculture was that all over the country communities of farmers began responding to the same set of concerns and wanting to accomplish the same things. Environmentally sound, profitable, socially responsible agriculture because they were losing ground economically and they were concerned about their impact on water quality and soil erosion. So, farmers wanted to do the right thing.

Andy Jaworski - Farmers genuinely have a passion for caring for the land. Otherwise we wanted to be doing what we're doing. You know being a farmer is a lot of work no matter which way you look at it. Our survival depends on the land being able to produce. So, if we don't take care of it and it degrades in one way or another that land will not be able to produce, and the farm will no longer be profitable and then in a sense, you lose the farm.

James Syburg - All farmers want to be good environmental stewards. Many of them are living on land that their father's grandfather's great-grandfather's lived. So, the understanding and the paradigm shift it's not to disparage organic versus conventional, but the paradigm shift needs to be that this is about going forward. Using some of the best that we have, that we've ever learned, that we've ever invented, that we've ever utilized, and applying it along with the best farmers that we have, this country has the best farmers in the world. So, applying technology won't go away just because you're going from conventional to organic or applying these more sustainable farming practices. They'll only expand, you'll only find new ways to use them. That should be the excitement and the challenge and if that's all done on the foundational principle that you take a benchmark of where your farm is now and your soils health on your farm right now, and you look to improve that as well as improve yields and gain and everything else. Then you'll know the difference between wanting to be more sustainable and being more sustainable.