



Interested Party Testimony-
House Agriculture, Development, and Natural Resources Subcommittee
HB 33- State Operating Budget
March 21, 2023

Chair Jones and Ranking Member Troy - Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 33, the State Operating Budget, in support of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association's funding request which would appropriate \$250,000 in each fiscal year through the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Soil and Water Conservation District Support line to administer a Soil Health Pilot Project.

My name is Jim Linne. My farm is located in Highland County, and I serve as a soil ambassador for OEFFA.

My farm is 300 acres located in Hillsboro, Ohio. I produce 100% grass-fed beef that is direct marketed to customers in the greater Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton metropolitan areas. I follow the 5 principles of regenerative agriculture. In short, I work with Nature, not against her.

I have slides attached to my testimony that I would like to review with you now on the principles of regenerative agriculture and what we have accomplished at White Clover Farm since 2005.

I have increased my soil organic matter from 1% to 4%. I can now infiltrate 4 inches of rain per hour and hold onto an additional 81,000 gallons of water per acre. The improved soil health has allowed me to double my biomass production and cattle carrying capacity. Healthy soil will improve a farmer's profitability while protecting the watershed through better water infiltration with less erosion, runoff, and leaching. White Clover Farm was the recipient of the 2021 Conservation Farm Family Award for Area 5 from the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

I am a first-generation farmer. Prior to farming, I practiced Gastroenterology for 35 years. As a physician, I understand the importance of the human gut microbiome. As a farmer, I understand the importance of the soil's living, breathing microbiome.

This pilot project will not just serve the state in mitigating water quality issues but also seeks to improve the viability and profitability of farmers.

I respectfully ask you to support our amendment of \$250,000 in each fiscal year from the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Soil and Water Conservation District Support line to support the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association for the Soil Health Pilot Project.

I can take any questions you may have at this time.

Thank you.

James H. Linne M.D.
Owner
White Clover Farm
Highland County

Principles of Regenerative Agriculture

1. Minimize soil disturbance
2. Keep the soil covered
3. Maintain living roots in the ground for as long as possible
4. Increase/encourage biodiversity
5. Integrate livestock

Things we have accomplished since 2005...

1. Increased soil organic matter from 1% to 4%.
2. Sequestered 55 tons of CO₂ per acre.
3. Increased rain infiltration to 4 inches rain per hour.
4. Improved water holding capacity by an additional 3 inches of rain (81 thousand gallons per acre.)



Soil aggregation present in radish root that was planted as a cover crop.

Average Length of Green Season 2014-2017
(number of days per year)

Highland County (cropland)	224.1
Highland County (pasture/hay)	264.6
White Clover Farm	316.0

Data compiled from Landsat, via Google Earth Engine

