



Scaling Regenerative Agriculture in the Northeast

October 12, 2021

Co-sponsored by The Martha and Hunter Grubb Foundation

Agenda

Welcome

- Adam Liebowitz, [Community Food Funders](#)

Framing

- Laura Lengnick, [Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming](#)

Approaches

- Ned Sullivan, [Scenic Hudson](#) & [Northeast Carbon Alliance](#)
- Ben Dobson, [Hudson Carbon](#)
- D Rooney, [Rock Steady Farm](#)
- Anthony Myint, [Zero Foodprint](#)

Open Q&A

Note: While no legal or regulatory definition for the ‘regenerative agriculture’ exists, today’s speakers are using the term as described by the [Regenerative Agriculture Alliance](#) (2020), which reads in part:

*A **regenerative agriculture** system delivers soil health, carbon sequestration, improved water cycles and an endless list of other ecological regeneration benefits. It also incorporates a vast array of practices, such as cover crops, no-till, reduced tillage, agroforestry, etc. When implemented and adapted to the needs of the ecosystem, these practices lead to outcomes that support ecological, social, economic, and spiritual regeneration. Fundamentally, regenerative agriculture starts by evaluating the original ecological blueprint of a region and then designing a process by which food, fiber, and other outputs can be generated while restoring the original ecology of a region.*

Speaker Bios



Laura Lengnick is an award-winning soil scientist with 30 years of experience working as a researcher, policymaker, educator, activist and farmer to put sustainability values into action in food and farming. Her research in soil health and sustainable farming systems was nationally recognized with a USDA Secretary's Honor Award in 2002 and she served as a lead author of the 2012 USDA report, *Climate Change and Agriculture in the United States: Effects and Adaptation*. Laura's 2015 book, *Resilient Agriculture*, explores climate change, resilience and the future of food through the adaptation stories of sustainable, organic and regenerative farmers and ranchers growing food throughout the U.S. She is founder and owner of Cultivating Resilience, LLC, a private firm that works with organizations of all kinds to integrate resilience thinking into operations and strategic planning. In 2021, Laura joined the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming as the Director of Agriculture. She resides in Asheville, NC.



Ned Sullivan has led Scenic Hudson for two decades in ever-evolving strategies to magnify its positive impacts on the natural resources and people of the Hudson Valley, inspiring the organization to strengthen its record of connecting all the diverse residents and visitors with the power of the Hudson River and Valley through land preservation, parks and advocacy. Under his leadership, Scenic Hudson has become a pioneering force in natural climate solutions, building on a track record of protecting almost 50,000 acres of land, including nearly 20,000 acres on over 130 productive farms. It now is developing regenerative agriculture demonstration areas — sub-regions where the organization will inject capital by purchasing development rights on farms transitioning to regenerative practices, and providing resources to help farms develop climate-smart plans and adopt carbon/methane sequestration methods. Sullivan founded the Northeast Carbon Alliance, a consortium of research farms, forest managers, wetland stewards, climate scientists, and public policy experts committed to accelerating the adoption of regenerative practices. Scenic Hudson is laying the groundwork for a major new initiative it is calling the Climate-Justice Surge, enhancing its capital and operating investments for greater impacts in stemming climate change and ensuring environmental justice for all Hudson Valley residents in the River Cities and beyond.



Ben Dobson was born on a small Organic farm in Hillsdale, New York and has worked in organic agriculture for twenty years. From 2014 through 2020 Ben managed the implementation of an organic regenerative rotation at Stone House Farm in Hudson, NY. In 2015 Ben and Abby Rockefeller founded Hudson Carbon to study the carbon cycle of these organic farming practices and assess other ecosystem services and ecological improvements. As the Executive Director of Hudson Carbon, Ben is focused on best strategies for researching the ecological outcomes of regenerative agricultural systems, how to get farmers and land managers paid for good ecological outcomes.



D Rooney is a mixed Latinx, gender non-binary farmer. D got connected to farming after working as a carpenter, in addition to the music/audio industry and in the NYC restaurant industry at [Blue Smoke](#), when D's passion for food cultivated a desire to understand why there are inequities in our food system. In 2012, D then became a certificate student of [Farm School NYC](#), which D states was a life transforming experience that helped identify D's path and callings in life. During D's tenure with Farm School

NYC, D also worked with [EcoStationNY](#), a nonprofit that focuses on social, environmental and food justice. D used their farming and carpentry skills as vehicles to talk about larger social and societal issues around race, class, gender and sexuality. Working with youth at the Bushwick Campus Farm (a project of EcoStationNY) the Farm School community, other nonprofits focusing on food, social and environmental justice, enabled D to dive into many of these topics. In the off season D enjoys being a nerd and scheming about building and organizational projects for the farm, learning about tractors and motorcycles, connecting with friends, focusing on organizing and advocacy projects, as well as listening, dj-ing and dancing to music, a forever passion of theirs.



Anthony Myint is the co-founder of [Mission Chinese Food](#), [The Perennial](#) and Zero Foodprint, named [2020 Humanitarian of the Year by The James Beard Foundation](#) and winner of the [2019 Basque Culinary World Prize](#). ZFP leads a public private collaboration with regional governments in California and Colorado to scale regenerative agriculture. Restaurants and businesses that participate in Zero Foodprint are directly funding climate beneficial farming projects that transform bad atmospheric carbon into healthy soil carbon.

Articles for further reading:

- [What is Regenerative Agriculture](#) (*FoodPrint*, 2021)
- [What is Regenerative Agriculture: A Review of Scholar and Practitioner Definitions Based on Process and Outcomes](#) (*Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 2020)
- [Native Growers Decolonize Regenerative Agriculture](#) (*Green America*, 2020)
- [Does Regenerative Agriculture Have a Race Problem?](#) (*Civil Eats*, 2021)
- [How Returning Lands to Native Tribes Is Helping Protect Nature](#) (*Yale Environment 360*, 2021)
- [Regenerative Agriculture Needs a Reckoning](#) (*The Counter*, 2021)