

# SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF THE RURAL LANDSCAPE:

## *Protecting Soil Health, Water Quality and Farm Profitability*

March 11, 2022, Seminar  
**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**Dr. Chad J. Penn**, Soil Scientist  
USDA Agricultural Research Service  
National Soil Erosion Research Lab  
275 South Russell Street  
West Lafayette, IN

Dr. Penn is a soil chemist at the USDA Agricultural Research Service in West Lafayette, IN and an adjunct professor in the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University. Before joining the USDA in 2016, he was a soil and environmental chemistry professor at Oklahoma State University since 2005. His current research focuses on nutrient transport mechanisms, improving plant nutrient recommendations, thermodynamics of surface reactions, design and construction of phosphorus removal structures, and animal waste management.

**Julie Crick**, Natural Resources Educator  
Roscommon County MSU Extension  
Roscommon, MI

Julie delivers forestry education, focusing on forest health, forest management, community science and youth natural resources education. She has been a natural resources educator with MSU Extension since 2013 and has been promoting silvopasture systems since 2019.

**Kable Thurow**, Beef & Grazing Educator  
Gladwin County MSU Extension  
Gladwin, MI

Kable is a statewide beef and grazing educator based in Gladwin County with expertise in grazing and forage-based beef production. He has been an Extension Educator with MSUE since 1998 and has been working to promote silvopasture systems since 2018.

**Monica Jean**, Field Crops Educator  
Clinton County Extension  
St. Johns, MI

Monica serves central lower Michigan with an emphasis on the Saginaw Bay watershed region. Her position covers a large variety of crop production including corn, soybean, edible dry beans, potato and integrated crop and livestock systems. Monica is involved in cover crop, soil health, nutrient management and cropping system research projects. She is currently the Michigan chair for the [Midwest Cover Crop Council](#) and [North Central Climate Collaborative](#). She enjoys conducting practical, on-farm research and working with farmers to improve the sustainability of their farms.

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**Dr. Stephan Gasteyer**, Associate Professor of Sociology  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI

Dr. Stephen P. Gasteyer is an Associate Professor of Sociology with an AgBio Research appointment at Michigan State University, focusing on community development and natural resources management. His work includes social aspects of the community, agriculture, water quality, the functioning of watershed management organizations, source water protection, soil and water conservation, groundwater management, the community aspects of inland lake water quality, and community water supply and sanitation. He has worked in the Great Lakes region, the Great Plains, Africa, and the Middle East. Recent research has addressed environmental equity in access to water and sanitation and soil and water conservation among underrepresented agricultural producers and service providers.

**Rebecca Power**, Director  
North Central Region Water Network  
University of Wisconsin-Extension  
Madison, WI

Rebecca Power is a water resource specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Extension. She is Director of the North Central Region Water Network and provides leadership for a national training program for conservation professionals. During her 13 years with Extension, she has developed and supported successful multi-state, multi-disciplinary teams to address water resource issues in the Upper Midwest and created stronger linkages between the environmental and social sciences in water resource management. She began her career with a private consulting firm restoring savannas, prairies, wetlands in the Upper Midwest, and spent eight years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service using adaptive management strategies in the restoration of savanna ecosystems.

**Jim Graham**, Clinton County Farmer

Jim Graham farms and operates a pheasant hunting preserve north of St. Johns and is involved in numerous community organizations. He has worked and lived on the farm since 1948. Jim serves on the Board of Directors for the Clinton Conservation District and currently serves as the Vice Chairperson.