



MSU Agriculture Innovation Day

Focus on Forages and the Future



College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Take Home Messages: Is Your Land Regenerating? The Land-to-Market Program Provides the Answer

Dr Jason Rowntree and Dr. Matt Raven, Michigan State University

- Land to Market responds to both Sustainability and Market Forces
 - Focus on food from farms documented as ecologically improving
 - Documents important land-based outcomes related to improving farm production, soil quality and water quality
 - Defines distinct market chains for farmers to pursue in marketing their production
- Farm Monitoring is Used to Assess Ecological Health
 - Documents ecosystem health by assessing
 - solar capture
 - mineral and water cycles
 - plant, animal and microbiological diversity
 - Provides leading indicators to assist in management decisions
- Soil Carbon Sequestration is an important component of Land to Market
 - Soil carbon is analyzed every 4-5 years to measure change in soil carbon stocks
 - Beginning point of long-term analysis
 - Designed to be simple and cost effective, MSU will be running the soil C
- Land to Market Enrollment (Involvement?)
 - Not in competition, but in collaboration with MAEAP
 - 50 farm pilot program is being planned; Lake City Research is currently soliciting volunteers
 - Currently designed for grazing operations, but plans for cropping systems are in the future