Perspectives from 25 years of Practicing Agroecology

John Hayden
The Farm Between
Jeffersonville, Vermont, USA
Divergent Evolution!

Agroecology
Based Organic

Biodiverse
Ecological Services
Triple Bottom Line
Regenerative

Industrial Organic

Monoculture
Input substitution
Shareholder profits
Extractive

The Farm Between
Organic Fruit & Fine Fruit Products
Jeffersonville • Vermont
Wholesale and Retail Markets
Our Guiding Philosophies

Increasing Biodiversity Can:
Reduce need for outside inputs (pesticides, fertilizers)
Provide ecological services (long term soil fertility, biological pest management, pollination)
Sequester carbon, improve water quality, conserve wildlife

Creating a Regenerative Agriculture model
Economic, Environmental, Social and Spiritual well being through food production
Inspiring ourselves and others

We love being immersed in nature
Recognizing our connections (Deep Ecology)
Observing and mimicking natural systems

Small is Beautiful:
Can’t have infinite growth on a finite planet
Allows us to enjoy all aspects of farm work (the little things)
A small scale farm is an economic engine
Dairy farm ca. 1970’s
18 acres were being used for reed canary grass hay in 1992 when we bought it

No nutrients being applied
Residues being burned off in spring
Laying hens following cattle

Rabbits grazing cover crops

Horse power

Pigs grazing cover crops
Next step: Learning to incorporate vegetables
Increasing Resilience Through Agroecological Practices

- More Biodiversity
- More Hoophouses
- Perennial Plantings/Tree Crops
- Pollinator Sanctuary
- Riparian Zone Management
- Ramial Wood Chips
- Increasing SOM
- No till
- No Pesticides
Pollinator C.A.R.E. 
(Conservation, Advocacy, Research, Education)
Lessons Learned

- **Organic does not always mean Agroecological**

- **Farming with Agroecological Principles can be prosperous and regenerative.**

- **Scalability? Probably. But we need to get away from the current corporate model. ‘Mass production or production by the masses?’**