



ANCILLA BEEF & GRAIN FARM 2023 IMPACT REPORT

Moving from conventional to regenerative farming practices has the potential to revolutionize our agricultural systems and profoundly impact and improve our environment, communities, and food security. This change represents a crucial step towards a sustainable future. Transitioning from conventional to regenerative farming practices holds the key to revitalizing our ecosystem, enhancing soil health, reducing climate impact, promoting biodiversity, improving water quality, making farms more profitable, and providing nutritious food now and for future generations. We can restore the balance between human activity and nature and pave the way for a more resilient and equitable agricultural system.

Ancilla Beef and Grain Farm is committed to building a more sustainable proactive of raising cattle and growing critical food sources.

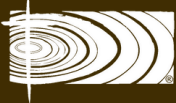
We are currently in the process of transitioning from a conventional Midwest corn and soybean system to growing these same foods using regenerative methods that reduce our dependence on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, build soil health, and integrate livestock on the land in a manner that mimics historic grazing habits of ruminant animal species such as buffalo.

In 2023, following a year of diverse cover crop on **21** acres, we planted a cash crop of field corn. We made expected yield goals without the need for any additional fertilizers or herbicides. Additionally, we planted **19** acres of cover crop on which we grazed cattle during the summer. This provided a nutritious food source during the hot, dry summer months and helped return vital nutrients to the field.

In 2024, we are expanding our cover crop program to more fields in anticipation of further reducing our reliance on chemical fertilizers and herbicides.



Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

Ancilla Beef & Grain Farm is a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

P.O. Box 1

Donaldson, IN 46513

574.935.1725

www.poorhandmaids.org





This year we expanded our in-field pollinator habitat program and brought an additional **1.5 acres** into service. These perennial habitats will provide flowering plants and grasses to encourage beneficial insects to not only pollinate our crops but predate on harmful, plant-destroying insects through a process known as integrated pest management (IPM). By managing for beneficial insects, we aim to reduce our reliance on the use of harmful pesticides.



Worldwide, we lose approximately one percent of our topsoil due to wind and water erosion. This is generally caused by excessive tilling and leaving soil bare between cash crop seasons. Ancilla Beef and Grain Farm is committed to reducing tillage and leaving soil covered between cash crops with crop residue from the previous year's harvest or by planting cover crops. At the end of the 2022 growing season, we eliminated all post-season tillage from our farming practices. In the 2024 growing season, we are bringing a new system of planting no-till soybeans after cover crops.

Regenerative agriculture has the potential to transform agricultural systems, mitigate climate change, conserve biodiversity, improve water resources, and promote social and economic wellbeing. Our farmers are contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future by adopting regenerative practices.

Why What We Do Matters

Seven people were killed and at least **37** others injured in motor vehicle crashes on May 1, 2023 along Interstate 55 in Illinois. A rare dust storm swept through nearby farm fields and onto the highway, causing "zero visibility" conditions. This situation was caused by high winds blowing topsoil from recently tilled fields.

