

2023 Sustainability Report

Our Commitment to Supporting Sustainable & Regenerative Practices

Consumers are savvy: they go to product nutrition labels not only for their own health and well-being, but for that of the planet. They demand solid sustainability practices and expect the companies they choose to be accountable for those practices. This means that corporate social responsibility has never been more relevant, as brands seek to engage consumers and align with their values. At Tribeca Oven, we've been supporting agriculture that advances sustainable practices since 2018, focusing on our core ingredient - wheat. The results of this partnership show that it is possible to reduce agriculture's environmental impact while crafting artisan bread on a commercial scale.



Background & Objective

Tribeca Oven supports farmers who are on the cutting edge of regenerative and sustainability practices through the North Dakota Wheat Program. This commitment includes evaluating the project's performance against benchmarks to continue to improve their metrics:

- Productivity
- Agrochemical Use
- Carbon Reductions
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Nitrogen Use Efficiency
- Soil Conservation
- Tillage
- Water Quality
- Biodiversity

Methodology & Program Details

Regenerative agriculture describes farming and grazing practices that, among other benefits, reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity(1). Regenerative agriculture is more than just being sustainable. It is about reversing degradation and building up the soil to make it healthier than its current state(2).

Farmers in the North Dakota Wheat Project committed to adopting regenerative agriculture practices, to achieve the five core principles of regenerative agriculture: maintain living roots in soil, maximize diversity, minimize soil disturbance, continuously cover bare soil and responsibly manage inputs.

Additional Program Details

- The program offers financial incentives to farmers for adopting regenerative agriculture practices such as no-till, cover crops, double crops, and fertilizer efficiency.
- The program enrolled 6,567 wheat acres in North Dakota for the 2022-2023 growing season, with the objective of enrolling 6,500 cover crop acres within C.H. Guenther' & Son's supply chain.

Overview of Farms Scored in Program

- 9 farms
- 55 fields
- 100% use no-till
- 11% use cover crops or living roots
- 60% in N-balance safe zone
 - By having 60% of the program's acres in the N-balance safe zone, it suggests that the farmers are effectively managing nitrogen inputs and optimizing nutrient use efficiency, which is beneficial for both crop productivity and environmental sustainability.

(Percentage results are representative of farms not acres)



Results for the 2023 Crop

The results gained against the regenerative agriculture principle's benchmarks for Productivity, Carbon Reductions, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Soil Conservation, Tillage and Water Quality met or exceeded national benchmarks. The following principles were considered as having opportunities for improvement - Agrochemical Use, Nitrogen Use Efficiency and Water Quality.

State and national benchmarks were met or exceeded for the following principles:

- Productivity was 66. Farmers had strong yields compared to the state average of 47. Yield, while being one of the most important drivers of economic outcomes for growers, is also one of the most environmentally impactful. The more productive an acre is, the fewer acres required to meet demand.
- Farmers reduced carbon emissions compared to the state benchmark through high yields and normal nitrogen use. The total of MT CO₂e reduced was 1,356.
- GHG Emissions was 29.2. The biggest opportunity to reduce GHG emissions for wheat is through nutrition efficiency (reducing fertilizer use while maintaining yields). Farmers in this program had below average GHG scores because of high yields. Agrifootprint Benchmark 36.1.
- Soil Conservation was 0.2. The closer to zero, the better. Tons of soil lost were low because farmers in the program are 100% no till.
- Tillage, or the % of the program's acres that are no-till, was 100%. The USDA's Weighted State Benchmark is 35%.
- Biodiversity was 80%. Due to use of no-till, this group of farmers has almost maximized the opportunity for biodiversity. The range of this metric is 0 - 100%, with a higher percentage being better.

Farmers underperformed in these three principle's benchmarks:

- Agrochemical use was 70. Farmers had higher impact on their surroundings from pesticide use compared to the average farmers in their area. Benchmark is 35.
- Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) was 1.8. Adding the right amount of nutrients at the right time is a key climate smart practice. Given high yields, growers in the program can optimize nitrogen use. The recommended range is 1 - 1.2.
- Water quality is a measure of how effective management practices are at mitigating nutrient loss. Since the Water Quality score is 1.8 on a 0 - 4 scale, and we rarely see scores above 3, farmers performed normally, but could improve by optimizing their nitrogen usage.



Conclusion

Farmers participating in the North Dakota Wheat Project have successfully incorporated key regenerative agriculture principles culled from solid sustainability practices - and the metrics show it. They're maintaining living roots in soil, maximizing diversity, minimizing soil disturbance, continuously covering bare soil and responsibly manage inputs. We've continued to see improved metrics as the project has evolved.

Tribeca Oven will continue to support these farmers as they grow and improve their sustainable farming practices. It's our corporate social responsibility to do so, and to seek production methods to achieve our environmental stewardship goals. We believe that the food industry is a key vehicle in addressing environmental sustainability, and we intend to be an influencer through programs like the North Dakota Wheat Project.

Tribeca Oven's Carbon Impact

Currently, the amount of wheat produced in this program is equivalent to 25%* of the wheat used to produce Tribeca Oven's bread. This carbon insetting - implementing nature-based programs - directly impacts our supply chain as we craft artisan breads that reach the discerning consumer through retail, distributor and operator partners. In collaboration with our vendor, the flour Tribeca Oven uses comes from flour mills that are net carbon neutral, making a direct impact in the supply chain by supporting sustainable practices.

*This corresponds to the 2023 crop year