

Restoring soil, profits, farms and futures

Understanding Ag's team of world-class consultants help our clients successfully implement practices that restore soil health and ecosystem function, which reduces dependency on expensive inputs and leads to sustained profitability.



Meet Derek Schmitz

Derek Schmitz farms with his wife Taylor and three children in Central Minnesota, near Cold Spring. Growing up on the family dairy, Derek's passion for agriculture was born. A voracious reader, he discovered "grass-based dairying" and managed grazing in his teens, which set the stage for Derek's regenerative farming journey.

He created a vision of a farm that would be both economically and ecologically viable by relying on perennial forages. After high school and a two-year stint as a herdsman on a conventional dairy, Derek purchased his first set of dairy cattle and began his journey. Prior to starting dairying, and to this day, Derek developed a network of mentors to ask questions to and bounce ideas off of. He characterizes his farm as "a conglomeration of ideas from dozens of farms with the intention of creating a low-input, family-friendly farm and lifestyle."

Today, 10 years later, the dream is starting to take form. Derek and his family milk cows, develop heifers and bulls, and custom graze on their farm. The farm is dedicated to perennial forages to produce high-quality milk and meat while improving soil health and ecosystem functions.

Our mission

Understanding Ag is a regenerative agricultural consulting company that provides the support and confidence to help our clients reduce input costs, generate actual profits and ensure family farming futures. We accomplish this by educating and mentoring farmers, ranchers, landowners, businesses, and communities in the principles and practices needed to restore, repair, rebuild, regenerate their farming and ranching ecosystems.

Who we are

Understanding Ag's consultants are real farmers and ranchers who combine decades of experience to help our clients successfully implement regenerative agricultural and ecological principles that replace the input-intensive, agricultural model to enable sustained profitable farming and ranching operations. Understanding Ag, LLC also offers consulting and planning services for multi-enterprise systems, businesses, organizations and communities.

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The farm serves as a model that forage-based production is possible and profitable in a conventional agriculture world.

Your partner in regenerative agriculture

When I discovered regenerative agriculture, I wanted to share it with everybody that I met because I knew it was the change that would revolutionize agriculture. I can confidently say that regenerative farming is solely the reason that we are still dairying after a 10-year slog through difficult ag prices and weather challenges. Developing a regenerative farm has created a resiliency to our operation that can't be found in conventional farming.

As a consultant with Understanding Ag, I am excited to share what I have learned to help you build the same resiliency into your operations. The only thing I enjoy more than my family and regenerative dairying, is the opportunity to help others understand and successfully implement soil health and adaptive grazing principles and practices. Our regenerative journey has given our farm and family a brighter future, and I know it can do the same for yours.



Contact us today

Begin your journey to greater profitability by visiting [understandingag.com](https://www.understandingag.com), by calling (256) 996-3142, or by e-mailing kathy@UnderstandingAg.com.

Your first 30-minute phone consultation is free and without obligation.