



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AND THE TRUST PROTOCOL

Regenerative agriculture describes farming practices that can build soil organic matter and restore soil biodiversity – resulting in both increases in soil carbon and improving the water cycle. It looks at the combination of practices that support resilience as well as builds and nourishes the ecosystem in a holistic manner.

According to Field to Market, there are five major principles of regenerative agriculture land management that are adaptive to local and physical conditions and culture. These principles include:

- **Minimize soil disturbance**
- **Maintaining living roots in soil**
- **Continuously covering bare soil**
- **Maximizing diversity with emphasis on crops, soil microbes and pollinators**
- **Integrating livestock where feasible**

The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol's vision is to be the world's most trusted fiber program where full traceability is a reality and continuous, measurable improvement of our environmental footprint sets the standard for the global market.

Regenerative agriculture aims for net positives and calls for growers to be continually improving their practices and techniques. Protocol growers have already begun adopting many regenerative practices such as conservation tillage and cover crops to aid soil health and increase soil carbon levels.

The program's recommended practices for grower members reflect core principles of regenerative agriculture but do not cover integrating livestock or managing grazing practices as these are not measured by the program.

<https://regenerationinternational.org/>

2024/25 Trust Protocol

GROWER MEMBER DATA RESULTS



Commitment to responsible and precision-based nutrient management: **84% of the reported Fieldprint acres** adhered to the 4R principles (right source, time, place, and rate).



Integrated Pest-Management (IPM) strategies were implemented by **87% of Protocol growers**, reducing pesticide use while protecting yields and farm profitability.



No-tillage practices avoid any mechanical disturbance of the soil, aligning with one of the core principles of regenerative agriculture.

More Protocol growers are minimizing soil disturbance, with 57% of acres now under no-till or conservation tillage (up from 51% in 2020/21).



77% of Protocol growers are maximizing diversity through crop rotation, which increases soil organic matter, decreases greenhouse gas emissions, and produces healthier soil, reducing erosion by an average of 21% and disrupting pest cycles.



Acres planted with cover crops encourage food security and reduce atmospheric carbon: **63% of Protocol growers are planting cover crops to maintain living roots in the soil, resulting in a 300% higher Soil Conditioning Index.**



Over 63% of Protocol growers achieve habitat scores above national benchmarks for biodiversity, integrating pollinator strips, corridors, wetlands, and native plantings.

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