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Inspirational case study: Ciasnocha Family Farms – our soil health journey

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Farmer, Ciasnocha Family Farms; CEO, European Carbon Farmers



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**EIP-AGRI Seminar 'Healthy soils for Europe:
sustainable management through knowledge and practice'**

Ciasnocha Family Farms – our soil health journey

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Ciasnocha Family Farms



Farming in the Vistula Delta since the 1970s

1

Conventional cereals production

- Heavy tillage (ploughing)
- Poor rotation: wheat and rapeseed
- Till 2004 (Poland enters the EU)

2

Regenerative Agriculture 1.0

- 2004-2008
- Spring cash crops with cover crops
- Min-tillage

3

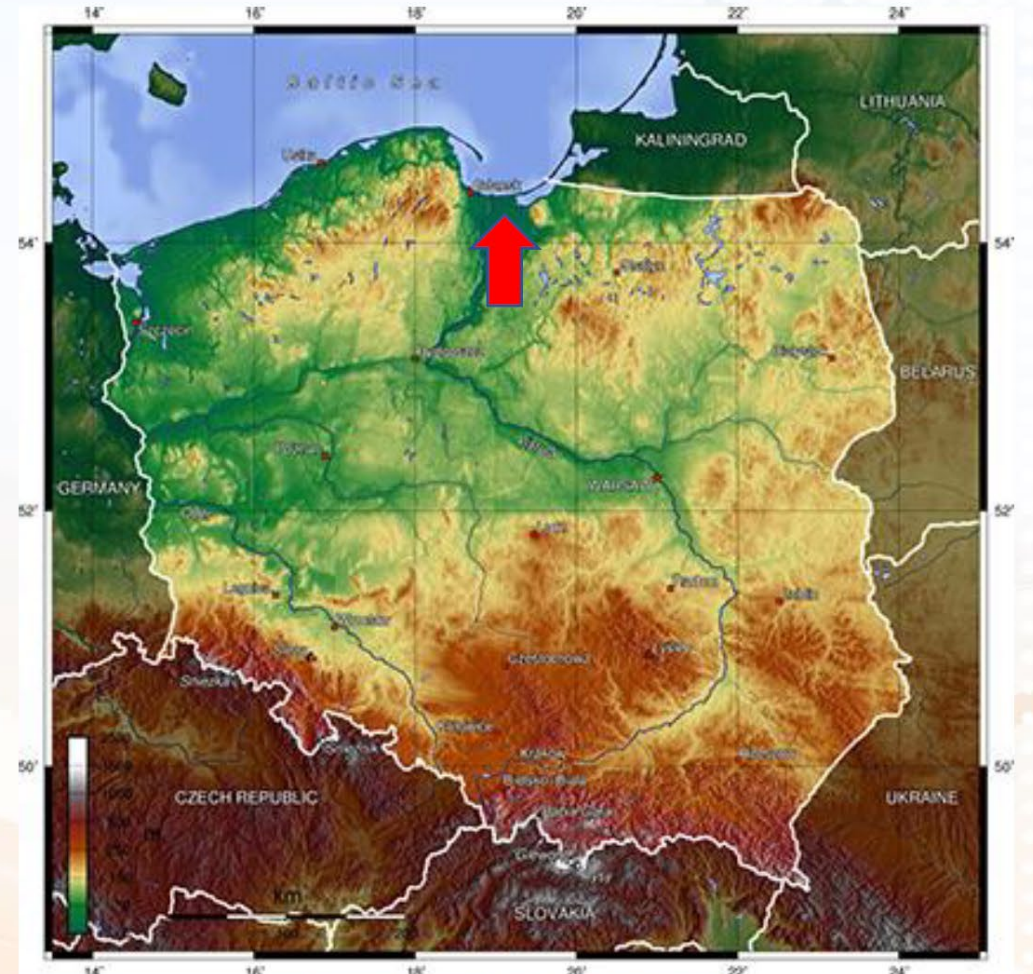
Regenerative Agriculture 2.0

- 2008-now
- Permanent grassland

4

Regenerative Agriculture 3.0

- Livestock integration?
- Pollinator strips?
- Agro-forestry?





Keeping the soil covered 365/year



Keeping the soil covered 365/year



Improving soil health through re-seeding



Our key soil challenge: compaction



Farming cannot be green when farmers are in the red

Ciasnocha Family Farms' climate mitigation perspective:

- From net emitter of GHG in 2004 to the net capturer of CO₂ since 2008 onwards.
- 6,5 tCO₂e/ha/year (Cool Farm Tool)
- 6,5 tCO₂e/ha x 700ha = 4 550 tCO₂e/year

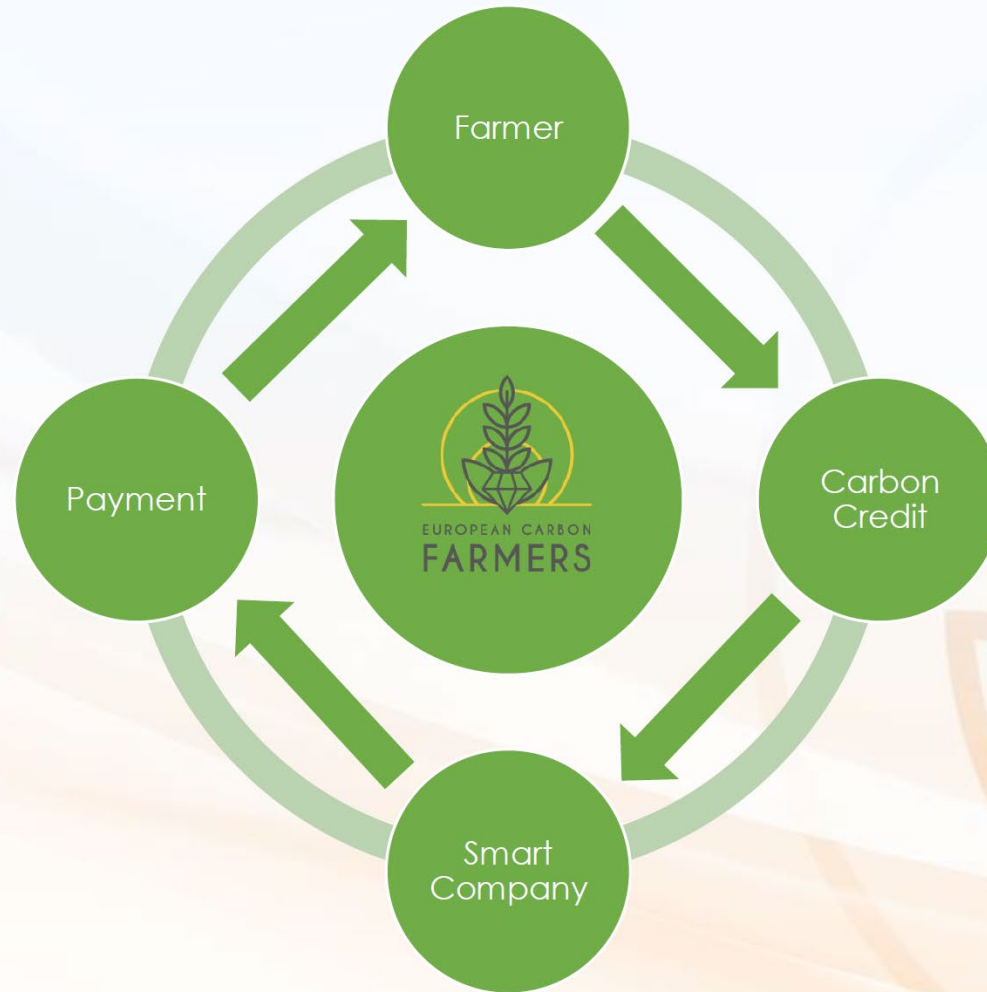
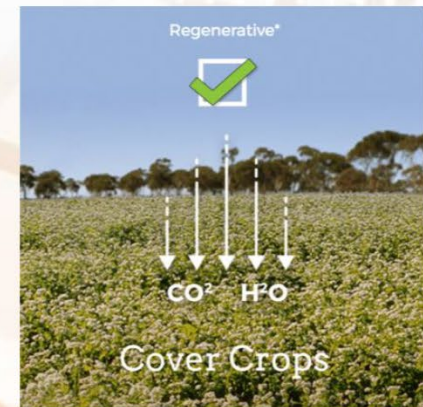
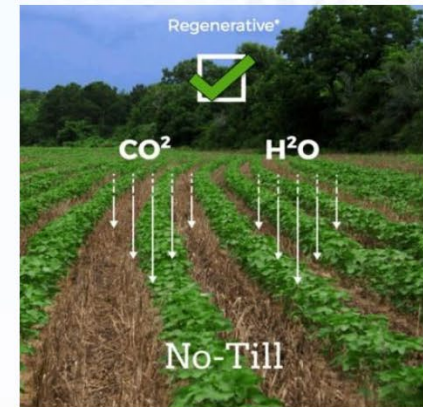
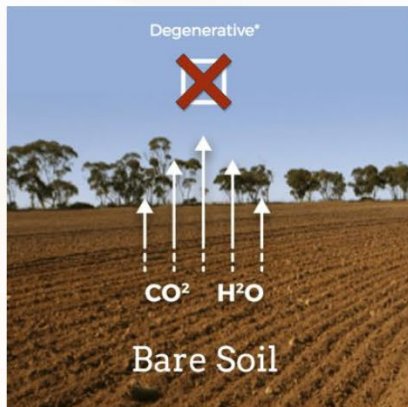
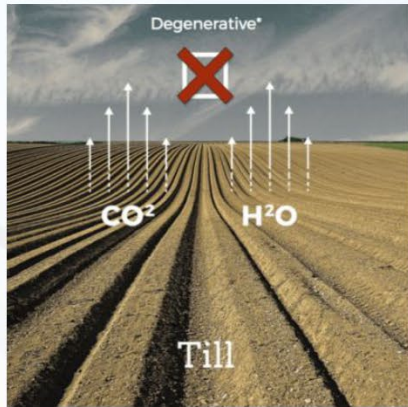
Ciasnocha Family Farms' financial perspective:

- 6,5 tCO₂e/ha/year (Cool Farm Tool) x €20/CO₂e = €130/ha
- €130/ha x 700ha = €91 000
- **€130/ha = 40% of the current farm profit**

The amount of CO₂ captured and stored on our farm is equal to CO₂ emissions from producing 2.400 tons of steel



The solution: agricultural carbon credit – paying farmers for additional carbon captured and stored in their soils



Ciasnocha Family Farms – reflections on soil:

- Soil is at the core of our business.
 - Part of a bigger Regenerative Agriculture work with the focus on cycles of nature.
- Currently taking soil samples to measure SOC.
- Key soil problems from the past:
 - Too wet/too dry due to tillage practices,
 - Erosion,
 - Compaction.
- Under consideration:
 - Cover crops in the permanent grass land,
 - Higher cutting heights of grass,
 - Integration of animals,
 - Pollination strips,
 - Buffer zones.

I am grateful for your attention and I am looking forward to the future!

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EIP-AGRI seminar

Healthy soils for Europe: sustainable management through knowledge and practice

Online – 13-14 April 2021

All information of the seminar is available on
www.eip-agri.eu

On the event webpage
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-seminar-healthy-soils-europe-sustainable>

