



April 27, 2021

Sustainable Land Management Committee

Adam Davis, ACES, Head of Crop Sciences, Committee Chair
Allen Parrish, South Farms Management
Jonathan Mosley, South Farms Management
Ben Gramig, ACE
Emily Heaton, Crop Sciences
Andrew Margenot, Crop Sciences
Martin Williams, Crop Sciences
Megan Matthews, CEE
Eliana Brown, Illinois Extension
Anita Million, UI System, Ag Property Management
Morgan White, F&S, ex-officio
Ximing Cai, iSEE, ex-officio
Meredith Moore, iSEE, ex-officio

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to invite you to serve on the ISEE-ACES-F&S Sustainable Land Management Committee. This committee is charged to evaluate and make recommendations to incorporate sustainable land management practices at the University of Illinois South Farms on non-research land and on the University-owned land outside the campus boundaries. This follows the recommendation made by the Agriculture, Land Use, Food, and Sequestration Sustainability Working Advisory Team and Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) Working Group.

Committee responsibilities include:

1. Develop a plan for evaluating/inventorying existing sustainable land management practices on South Farms on non-research land and for increasing the sustainability of the South Farms land management practices. The plan should:
 - a. account for crop rotations, soil management, nutrient application, and pest management.
 - b. consider the needs and wishes of the departments that rely on the productivity of this land for financial return.
 - c. offer detailed recommendations, benefits/costs of implementation, and estimated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from adopted practices.



2. Update Agronomy Handbook with relevant and recommended sustainable land management practices
3. Work with interested tenants on University-owned land to showcase the recommended sustainable land management practices in the updated Agronomy Handbook

While some best management practices are already utilized on South Farms, there exist many opportunities to improve and expand beyond this area. In addition to our research land, ACES and the University of Illinois lease out over 17,000 acres of farmland, the majority of which is under row crop agriculture. Sustainable management and implementation of best management practices on South Farms, with the goal of expansion across University of Illinois owned land across the State of Illinois, will also provide student living lab opportunities.

I have asked Dr. Adam Davis, the Crop Sciences Department Head, to Chair this committee, and I invite you to join this committee to explore opportunities to evaluate and enhance sustainability practices on South Farms and beyond. We would appreciate receiving recommendations for a plan to address these issues before December 1, 2021. Following that, we would welcome your continued engagement in an advisory capacity as those recommendations are implemented under the leadership of Dr. Adam Davis.

iSEE will provide staff support for this committee through the Sustainability Programs Coordinator, Meredith Moore. Please contact me if you have any questions about this committee.

Thank you for your consideration and participation in these important efforts.

Sincerely,

Madhu Khanna
iSEE Interim Director
ACES Distinguished Professor of Environmental Economics

Cc: Kim Kidwell, Dean, College of ACES
German Bollero, Associate Dean for Research, College of ACES