

Guillermou

Agriculture and industrial livestock, promoted by large industrial corporations and government pressure groups, is associated with the extension of monocultures and linked to deforestation of the ecosystem. The monocultures and exploitation on farms cause an ecological imbalance, impoverish soils and promote diseases and pests. We must encourage regenerative poultry farms, which provide the hens with a natural space, which replicates their original habitat in the forest and at the same time provides crops rich in nutrients to improve the land. In some European countries, ecological farms are promoted in a habitat of fruit trees and vegetables to provide fodder for chickens, improve soil quality and have more products for harvesting. Trees also improve the soil and the environment, by carbon sequestration. It is the defense of animal welfare and quality eggs, away from the exploitation in industrial cages, of stressed hens subjected to diseases, fed with transgenic grains and treated with antibiotics

We must optimize the poultry and livestock production and maintain the productivity of the grasslands, improvement of the forage production and a greater diversity of flora and fauna. The environmental concern and the need to produce quality food in a sustainable and respectful way with the environment should be the objective. Free hens activate the microbiology of the soil and provide nutrients to the system of regenerative agriculture, avoiding the negative impacts that industrial agriculture has done to the soil, environment and climate. Regenerative practices increase the carbon fixation in the pasture, reduce the carbon footprint per unit of product that causes climate change, improve soil fertility and finally increase the botanical diversity of the grasslands, increase of perennial species in the pasture, improvement of grass diversity and biomass production. **THIS MUST BE THE DESTINATION FOR A HEALTHY DIET, PRESERVING THE ECOSYSTEM AND ANIMAL WELFARE.**

Posted On 05/01/2018

juststeve

Absolutely Gui, this could be the cornerstone for a Foundation Economy for which can begin the important process of cleaning up the messes made from Corporate Welfare Farming. The article is right, the Corporate Machine has done a stellar job of hiding their food chain of money, power & control, Without a solid proper Foundation Economy the Financial Economy can not stand, and, a Foundation Economy potentially raises all the standards of a healthy Agri-Cultural with our lives potentially having more meaning and satisfaction as opposed to Agri-Business and a life in pursuit of continuous & more extreme distractions or the need to numb ourselves to life.

Posted On 05/01/2018

Guillermou

Indeed, juststeve, environmental policy must meet the needs of present generations without compromising the possibilities of the future, to meet their own needs. For this, we have the need to achieve "green development", that is, to give priority to environmental sustainability. The sustainable economy must develop activities that take into account the environment and the permanence of resources in the future. The financial activities carried out by any country can be based on a search for a social and environmental improvement, both now and in the future.

An example against a sustainable economy is the Amazon rainforest. During the dry season, the soil is not very productive, and farmers solve this problem by cutting and burning the trees, to achieve a more fertile soil with biomass, providing nitrogen and other nutrients for the soil, but this is a short-term solution, because the soil rich in nutrients is only maintained for a limited time. When this happens, farmers move on to the next section of the forest, leaving their farmland behind to be used for livestock breeding, but animal habitat is lost by diminishing biodiversity. Fast food companies have contributed to deforestation in places like the Amazon rainforest for quite some time, in order to raise cattle for their burgers. Companies have made promises to be more aware of the environment, a different question is that they fulfill these promises.

Posted On 05/01/2018

Almond

I was going to comment and say that most farms used to be vertically integrated. I suppose that was true for settlers who had to provide for themselves. -But, now that I think about it, there were also some large cattle ranches that mainly ran cattle. -And fruit farms such as cranberry bogs. So, I suppose, that, except for very isolated areas with subsistence farming, there has always been some of both.

I think I am becoming an accidental farmer. That is, in addition to managing a forest that provides us with meat and wood. It seems some rare and incredible species of "orphaned" fruit trees/bushes/vines, etc., have found their way to me--things no one else wants. I bring the green-babies home. I have also liberated some wild species. Poultry will be underway before next spring, but prob not chickens. A person who has eggs can live very healthfully from a garden. -And bees.

Friends used to walk through my backyard garden and call it "the farm". However, I now have several gardens and they are much larger. I think I am expanding beyond the hobby stage and home subsistence garden. I wouldn't know how to cook, eat and live if I was dependent on supermarkets for my food. Even though it is early spring, I can still get a few fresh foods from the garden. Much grows wild, too. I go to the pantry for canned goods or cold storage. My freezers are still full and friends keep bringing me game meat and begging me to cook something for them. I guess cooking has become a lost art, too.

We follow the seasons. Concerns about food security never trouble me. My only thoughts are what to eat up next. It is time to turn surplus berries into wine before new crops come on. Often when I go out with friends, I tell them to bring a cooler and ice to take food home. I am thinking of holding some nontraditional parties--maybe a berry picking picnic, or a harvest dinner. There are enough people celebrating the big holidays. Maybe, I can do the changing cycles of nature.

Posted On 05/01/2018

bowgirl

The article pretty much describes my back yard operation. I got a few hens a few years ago to raise clean healthy eggs for the protein I needed to regain my health. I understood that hens eating green things was crucial to better nutritional content of the eggs. I was pleasantly surprised with the nearly total elimination of pesky bugs, fleas, ticks and mosquitoes. Stink bugs were a favorite. I haven't seen one in several years... I have not used flea control on my hunting cats in several years. I expect the cat's lives to extend without the previously needed drops to control fleas. The "girls" work the veggie garden in the off season, greatly reducing weeds and turning and supplementing the soil just the right amount.

Posted On 05/01/2018

Try try again

bowgirl: My husband and I got 10 baby chicks when we lived in the country. They not only provided marvelous eggs, but we discovered chickens also have individual personalities and are very smart. We had to move eventually and the new owner of our house took over. I hope they just died of old age and not from being eaten.

Posted On 05/01/2018

Sue12Cross

These are great ideas for large scale farming but don't lose sight of the fact that you can do this in your own backyard. By creating a forest garden you can recreate a 'jungle fowl' flock of your own. There is an important didactic side to keeping forest garden poultry. In 2000 we started to create a forest garden from an abandoned field and although our 1000m² is bounded by hedges and partly walled the poultry could technically leave. However, they have set up their own family groups, with their own designated territories and social mores and despite the few internecine squabbles over the years, our small flocks live in harmony and well-being. We can learn an awful lot about our own society and health from watching birds. I also have a smaller more secure mini forest garden for our quail. www.youtube.com/watch

Posted On 05/01/2018

otis101

Sue, very nice presentation in the film by you and Andy. The hens look happy and content in their small families. I always enjoy watching and listening to your creations. Well done!

Posted On 05/01/2018

Sue12Cross

Thank you Otis101 for your lovely comment, it is very much appreciated. We've just been out gardening with our Coturnix quail and now have an answer to the slug problem - keep quail. All the very best from Normandie, Sue

Posted On 05/01/2018

stardustonthesage

My city does not allow backyard chickens. They allow killer dogs but not chickens because they "might disturb the neighbors". My neighbors share their garden produce with us and we share ours with them, as well as herbs and berries. But chickens? The city thinks everyone is an ignorant fool. I grew up on a cattle ranch and there were also turkey, guinea hens and hundreds of chickens so it's not like I've never been around them or like I don't know what to do but just try convincing a closed-minded City Council of anything reasonable. They're too busy voting on how to waste our tax money on useless projects. The citizens of my town have voted down #1 a hockey rink and #2 a brand new Civic Center (ours is still perfectly functional and was just fully remodeled 4 years ago for a staggering amount of money) but the City Council is going ahead with both projects anyway. So why did we bother to vote? I'll bet if someone on the Council wanted to raise chickens in town, it would be a done deal. BTW, I have the perfect backyard for a wonderful chicken set-up but will never get to put it into motion because we live in a society of idiots who think if they don't know something, neither do you. It's just plain crazy.

Posted On 05/01/2018

Sue12Cross

Hi Stardustonthesage, it's all about \$\$, in reality the city couldn't care less about the potential noise a chicken makes but they do care about you taking control of your food supply. When we first moved here I noticed how little food shopping people did basically because they grew or raised everything themselves. Our food bill is tiny, in fact I only buy a few things at our local organic store because they give me so much free food for my chickens. The great thing about eggs too is that they are so versatile you can make so many things out of them, including their medicinal value, particularly those of quail. How about quail? Can your City Council stop you from keeping them? You could make a great safe mini quail forest garden in your backyard and they are also great at pest control in a greenhouse too. In the UK my cousin has a 'no poultry' clause written into her mortgage agreement, which is draconian and totally ludicrous. I'm waiting for the day when having a functioning organic food plot including chicken coops and composting bins will be an advantage in selling a property. Certainly in the UK they have built new housing developments on old factory sites, where the garden soil is chock full of heavy metals as well as debris and rubble. The reality is most Councils are way behind the times, stuck in some post-war trance where they believe the state can control everything, whereas in reality humans can and will shape their own destiny, including what they chose to grow, raise and eat. Try quail, or try canvassing all your neighbours and see how they feel about chickens and raising their own eggs, if you can get enough people who want them then this will give the lie to a City pretending to act on your behalf. You already seem to have a good community there with the will to fend off the developers and building contractors! Good Luck, Sue

Posted On 05/01/2018

Krofter

Sadly, the system described in the article would not be applicable in the desert Southwest - nor, I would assume, in any other brittle environment. The tree and grain crops described in the article will not grow here without large amounts of irrigation, and the pumping of ground water is a huge issue in most of the worlds dry regions.

Also, what happens in those northern states - mentioned in the article as the core of the project - that for around half the year have trees, landscapes, insects (etc) that are winter dormant? What are the chickens foraging on then? Here in Southern Arizona my flock is out foraging - rotated through - 4 different parcels of native habitat and several of my gardens, year 'round. That habitat includes several native leguminous trees that generate nutrient dense seed pods that the chickens forage on through out the year. I also grow flats of oats, sunflowers and legumes (micorgreens) in my greenhouse which I take out to the birds to provide green fodder for them during the dry seasons.

Instead of the 2 square feet per bird provided for in the article, my system allows 750 to 1,500 sq ft per bird, depending on which paddock they're in - they stay longer in the larger paddocks and shorter in the smaller ones. The advantage of using native habitat over the man made environments (described in the article) is that native ecosystems also provide habitat for native wildlife, much of which is edible.

Additionally, many native landscapes are capable of providing more native food per acre - with less input - than man made environments. The trick is to dovetail domestic livestock and crops into these native environments while keeping everything happy.

Posted On 05/01/2018

mimulus

Our family kept free roaming backyard chickens for 16 years. They had almost a quarter acre fenced to roam. We had to remember to close the door to coop at night to keep out predators. And where there are chickens you will have predators...bobcat, fox, racoons, skunk, weasels and hawks. Sadly we lost many this way, or had to finish the job the next day if the chicken was left to suffer by a vicious racoon.

Chickens are tasty to more than us humans. So I ate delicious free range eggs every day all that time. Sometimes as many as 4 a day. Both my husband and I have egg allergy now. We get terrible cramps and diarrhea if consumed. I had developed hashimotos thyroiditis prior to this discovery and that is why my naturopath ordered a food allergy test. Since giving away our chickens and removing eggs from my diet my health much better and my antithyroid antibodies have dropped dramatically. So please, eat eggs rationally...early man never found foraged eggs every day...I overdid eggs.

Posted On 05/01/2018

Julianne

When I was a child this was called mixed farming!

Posted On 04/30/2018

Bryan001

Anything that grazes pasture is the go, how many people realise that growing grazed pasture is 30 times more efficient at storing carbon than trees. Trees are great but it takes 12 to 15 years after planting before there is a positive carbon storage, then 90% of the carbon a tree absorbs comes from the soil in which it is growing, it doesn't come from some far off polluter or far off country. Trees create trash around their base which breaks down and evaporates providing free CO2 for the leaves to absorb. Growing grazed pasture is not creating trash to turn to CO2. Anything including cattle that grazes pasture keeping it fresh and growing is removing carbon from the air and always remember without available carbon all plants would die and we would quickly follow

Posted On 04/30/2018

Tionico

Go and relearn the carbon cycle... yes, the round trip carbon, the element, makes as a molecule moves from one place to another along th chain of plces where cargon is found. "Positive carbon storage" begins the instant a plant begins to grow or develop. Carbon is taken from air directly and from decomposing biomass. WHY do you maintain there is the long delay before "positive carbon storage?"

Posted On 05/01/2018

Guillermou

Forests affect climate in two main ways: by absorbing greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide) from the atmosphere, which helps keep the planet cool and promotes the evaporation of water into the atmosphere, which increases cloudiness with the consequent cooling effect on the surface.

According to a recent study published in the journal Nature, trees gain weight faster as they get older. The finding that the growth of most trees accelerates as they age suggests that large, mature trees can play an unexpectedly dynamic role in removing carbon from the atmosphere. Richard Condit, a permanent scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, devised the analysis to interpret the measurements of more than 600,000 trees belonging to 403 species. In one year, a large tree can gain weight the equivalent of a small complete tree. '

Rate of tree carbon accumulation increases continuously with tree size.

tfdn.ndhu.edu.tw/LabWeb/Publications/Stephenson.2014.increasing_carbon.. Trees grow faster and store more carbon as they age www.eurekalert.org/.../stri-tgf011514.php

Posted On 05/01/2018

Pet Rock

Geoengineering is the biggest issue for global warming/climate change. CO2 is an issue, but if it were just CO2, we would all be living in a greenhouse situation with lots of water. Instead, what is happening to the climate is what we would expect from Solar Radiation Management, etc., which is drought and deluge. Check out www.geoengineeringwatch.org.

Posted On 05/01/2018

Guillermou

The human factor has raised the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere in the last two centuries in an accelerated manner, but this increase may be partly absorbed efficiently by the vegetation. Along with colleagues from British and American institutions, the Catalan director Pep Canadell of the Global Carbon Project and researcher of the CSIRO of Australia, has investigated what was slowing down the increase in the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide. The vegetation cover and oceans remove from the circulation about 50% of the CO2 emitted by human activities. Although maritime sequestration has been stable for decades, vegetation is more active.

According to the research, an atmosphere with more CO2, causes photosynthesis and more active plant fertility, taking more CO2, releasing dioxygen, staying with carbon. The capacity of the plants to remove CO2 has doubled compared to the last century. However, some predict that the release of carbon will begin in the earth, becoming a source, not a sink, for multiple reasons, including the thawing of permafrost, which will affect large carbon deposits, the lack of nutrients can limit the expansion of the fertility of the earth, fires, intensive livestock, industrialization, etc., would increase greenhouse gas emissions. Recent pause in the growth rate of atmospheric CO2 due to enhanced terrestrial carbon uptake (2017) www.nature.com/.../ncomms13428

Posted On 05/01/2018

CaregiverG

@Bryan001: Trees do not create trash! They create compost that is recycled by detritivores such as fungi, millipedes and other arthropods, and beneficial bacteria into the soil so they can eventually be taken back up into the trees and other plants. Industrialized humans create trash, starve soil organisms and create imbalances by stripping nutrients from the natural nutrient cycling systems and replacing them with either nothing or with toxic chemicals. No naturally living organism creates trash. It is all nutrients that are taken up by other organisms to be broken down and reused by yet other organisms in a continuous cycle.

Posted On 05/01/2018

Islander

This article outlines one of the most comprehensive plans for regeneration agriculture that I have ever seen. Congratulations to Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin and Ronnie Cummins for its creation!

No, it won't work everywhere. In my Zone 4 band of Maine we might squeeze out two batches of 10-week birds. Barely. As Krofter says, it's not viable for the Southwest either. But where it is, how life-changing!

Sadly, I can see great hurdles ahead, especially when it comes to processing. You can be sure that the corporate world will do all in its power to prevent this undertaking from happening, and one major source of power is the federally-licensed processing plants. We have been through that end here in Maine and believe me, they do not make it easy!

Posted On 05/01/2018

dak3193

duck eggs have almost twice the nutrition than a chicken egg. ducks are more docile and easier to manage.

Posted On 05/01/2018

Ker9697

Here in southern California we have one of the pioneers of regenerative chicken farming. Primal Pastures in Murrieta has created a green paradise in the midst of semi-desert and has ingeniously combined the use of rolling pasture shields with the use of large intelligent herding dogs to protect the chickens from the abundant predators in the area. We are privileged to support their efforts with our pocketbooks.

Posted On 05/01/2018

ebbage

Dr. Mercola is improving all the time..this rich rewarding essay made me feel good to read, visualise and absorb. Real EFT...reaching all the senses, Wunderbar Dr. Joe ! Cheers...

Posted On 05/04/2018

roc5728

Absolutely genius, keep up the great work

Posted On 05/01/2018
