Instructions:

1 - Click on your room link below
2 - Assign a notetaker
3 - 1 minute Introductions
4 - Record here:
   - Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
   - Anything you need from IRAI?

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Room 1:
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Room 2:
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Room 3:
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Carl Rosier, research scientist, previously with Rodale. Been working with Basil’s Harvest on a few farms (new farms to organic transition, 20 year organic farm); cluster analysis to compare Traci Barkely, Sola Gratia Farm, Urbana, being in a university town near a public walking path, interested in educating about regenerative ag especially. 12 acre farm.
Laura Calvert, Elawa Farm Foundation, Lake Forest, interested in being a host site for regenerative ag demonstration.
Erin Gundy, Champaign County SWCD, Resource Conservationist. Working on a regenerative grazing project in Champaign County and operating STAR Initiative.
Shelly Associate Dean for Ag and Natural Resources Alyssa Hartman (notetaker), director of the Artisan Grain Collaborative. We're a regional network building community and supply chains for diverse food-grade grains and other staples in the Upper Midwest
Zepeng Wang, didn’t speak -- maybe no mic?

Q from Carl: is the RFP geared more toward research or conservation approaches? Can a series of metrics be developed to accelerate recovery to organic faster through management? Is this process more geared toward this kind of research, or more geared toward conservation practices?

Q from Traci: clarification re: time scale, A: two years (12 - 24 months; project kick-off September 1, 2020); liked the concept of having two growing seasons to actually work on the project

Q from Carl: is there more interest in projects already underway vs. just getting started?

Q from Laura: adjacent to 600 acres of native tallgrass savanna/forest preserve. Interested in regenerative agriculture as a productive barrier to conservation land being a sustainable farm directly next to conservation land. Act as a barrier between a large 80 home HOA that’s using lots of pesticides, etc. and the savanna.

Comments/Q from Traci: General sense of surprise that there were only 10 farmers on the call from the poll. Maybe there’s more that needs doing connected with farmers? Also, what’s the scale of the farms (acreage) interested in this project on this call?

Erin: comment about how the demographics of who tends to adopt RA is often not the large-scale farmers. Would also be curious to hear from these farmers,. Maybe there aren’t as many
here because they are intimidated about having to connect with a researcher? Maybe IRAI could be more proactive about connecting with farmers and offering support and connections?

Traci: if there were some kind of match-making service for farmers and researchers, that might really help expand possibilities and get the best partnerships in place, vs. just recreating/cementing relationships that are already in place or most convenient

Erin: farmers are always willing to get involved, and oftentimes the same couple farmers get asked to do a lot of things. How can we engage with a broader range of farmers, vs. the ones who always get tapped by researchers because their names are in that hat as being willing?
Room 4:
1 - Click on your room link
2 - Assign a notetaker
3 - 1 minute Introductions
   Cindy Shepherd - Faith in Place
   John Williams - farm manager, Sol Gratia
   Katie DeMuro - Greenleaf Communities, sustainability nonprofit
   Jennifer Jones - University of Illinois Extension, Watershed Outreach
   Mary Ann Anderson - landlords in LaSalle and Bureau County
   Kathryn Pereira, University of Illinois Extension, Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator
4 - Record here:
   • Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
     i. Not many questions... 
     ii. How might partnerships work - we recognize that the aim is to bridge between academic and stakeholders, but maybe some clarification on how that would work?
   • It would be helpful to get clarity around the definition of ‘Regenerative’ Is cover crops terminated by a herbicide considered within the scope of Regenerative?

Mary Ann - Farmdoc (the U of I resource) is a widely used resource for determining rents and could educate about practices. Is someone connected to FarmDoc. Connected with this Granting initiative. Does Extension connect with Landowners? Is there a united effort to do make those connections?

Soil and Water Conservation Districts have adopted the STAR program.

•

• Anything you need from IRAI?
  i. It would be helpful to have examples of the kind of things they are looking to fund.
  ii. What additional metrics are you trying to impact? Carbon sequestration might be one. Would individuals educated about regenerative ag be important to the project?

• Landowner’s understanding may limit farmer’s options for RA
• John mentioned short lease arrangements as an impediment to adoption of RA
• Exp: Cover crops take several years sometimes, to pay off or even break even. If landowner is willing to invest, it is more likely to happen. Most land owners don’t have enough information to help farmers choose soil health over year to year revenue.

• Farmdoc has a soil health addendum that landowners and farmers can look at as they make decisions.
• Measuring carbon - Comet-farm.com?
• Carbon markets - how do farmers who are leasing land participate in carbon markets when the carbon market agreement may be long-term?
Extension needs an up to date catalogue of current research happening at the UofI
Room 5:
1 - Click on your room link
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3 - 1 minute Introductions
4 - Record here:
   ● Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
   ● Anything you need from IRAI?
Room 6:
1 - Click on your room link
2 - Assign a notetaker
3 - 1 minute Introductions
Karen Lehman, Fresh Taste, notetaker
Gavi and Remi Weibel, Zumwalt Acres Farm, have apprentices who live and work on the farm, converting from conventional corn and soy to agroforestry and horticulture. First planting season. Field trials on crushed basalt rock, biochar. Want to be paired with researchers, looking for someone to work with on enhanced rock weathering or agroforestry, or biochar, or horticulture. Forest restoration.
Kaitie Adams - community agroforestry for Savanna Institute in Central Illinois, network of demonstration farms, one at UIUC, as well as agroforestry research plots. Deepen relationships with UIUC goals, keep agroforestry as a high impact practices for many ag contexts. Lots of questions.
Eric Miller - farmer in Pyatt County, between Champaign and Decatur, worked with Lowell Gentry on NREC projects. Have several projects on the farm. Have tried to extend rotation, wheat and double crop soybeans, cover crop trials, fertilizer and nitrogen trials, rates and timing. Have lots of information over the past 5 years. Want new ideas, share findings. Interested in getting information.
Zenith Tandukar - grad student at UMN, working on a paper on how diversity leads to resilience, cropping systems perspective, as well as diversity of people who make up the system. Finishing PhD this year, but will let others know at UMN, see if there is a way to collaborate. Working on pennycress with Forever Green.
Nic Podoll - organic crop specialist with Rodale Institute, working in Minnesota, come on and work with the program. Not sure what RI will do, but here to learn.
Talon Becker, Extension in southern Illinois, both do outreach and research and demo farm, Ewing. Work with reduced tillage and no-till, cover cropping. Farm is 120 years old, expanded from 22 to 80 acres. Want to install long-term cover crops system trial on the farm, looking at deep soil in corn/soybean rotation. Working on water quality.
4 - Record here:
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   ● Anything you need from IRAI?

Kaitie Adams: Not many researchers left at the university focused on agroforestry. So can we work with other faculty and staff?

Possible that Sarah Taylor Lovell could be co-PI with someone at UIUC?

As horticulture and other departments shrink will be hard to find people with aligned focus areas for proposals. Thoughts on how to address that?

Kacie Athey - mixed horticulture systems, relatively new to UIUC. entomologist.

Zach Grant - plugged in with IRAI? Could he be a resource for proposals? Has done high tunnel work.

Gavi - how do we connect with relevant researchers? How is the work done? Do people come out and take samples? Do farmers send samples to the lab? Can multiple farmers collaborate with one researcher?

Google Scholar - people from extension might be able to help. Who collects the samples depends on budget and project.

Kaitie - as someone who works in long-term systems, data over 2 years has little impact. If we’re looking at high impact, will high impact projects with short-term data options take priority?
Room 7: Mallory Krieger, Dave Zentner, Dave Bishop, Jean Brokish, Patrick Gavin, Eve Abrams, Walter Lynn
1 - Click on your room link
2 - Assign a notetaker
3 - 1 minute Introductions
4 - Record here:

- Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
  i. Jean - Does it matter from IRAI whether the UIUC researcher or stakeholder takes the lead?
  ii. Mallory - Emphasis / balance between research and education activities and outcomes?
  iii. Mallory - Do they have objectives for the program to help inform metrics and assessment of proposals?
  iv. Mallory - How do we find a partner? (researcher (in / out of IRAI) vs extension vs other UIUC personnel)
  v. Dave Zentner - A pilot with a cohort with producers and landowners over a 3 year period of time involving technical support, equipment sharing, and market development with a large group of partners - does this fit?
  vi. Mallory - Any constraints on geography of the project? Outside of Illinois? Regional?
  vii. Walter - Are there target areas that are more priority - like a specific watershed
  viii. Jean - Will there be another RFP next year? Patrick answered yes, it's a 3-year funding pool

- Anything you need from IRAI?
  i. IRAI program objectives and/or priority metrics
  ii. IRAI Core priorities will help applicants discern whether to apply to ensure time resources are well spent - applicants want more info to help discern their own fit

General Notes:
Baby steps! seems like the needed effort in many places is moving from 0 to 1 (NOT from 9 to 10)
Need to integrate with the social sciences to enhance/increase adoption
Room 8:
1 - Click on your room link
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3 - 1 minute Introductions
4 - Record here:
   ● Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
   ● Anything you need from IRAI?
Room 9:
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   - Anything you need from IRAI?

Jay - broadly interested in renewable agriculture, drawing down carbon, very interested in composting
James - employee of Whole Foods market, networking opportunity
Nancy - retired from Illinois Sustainable Technology, part of Greenleaf Communities in Chicago, interested in workshop proposal on microbiome in soil, very interested in carbon storage
Jacquelyn - director of Land Connection non-profit, Regen Ag training and food access, working on USDA research project on identity based barriers, want to disseminate research, working to help farmers transition to organic farming/farming in general, state host for midwest grazing exchange
Mark - Western Illinois University, teaches crop science, pest management, no-till farming classes, recently initiated long-term (planned) regenerative Ag grazing/water quality project
Gemini - hort educator with U of I Extension in Cook County. Recently started a composting program, to learn if grant program fits in IRAI, Did a pumpkin smash composting drive in 2020 to divert from waste stream
Jenny - director of ISEE,

Questions:
1. Details on UIUC personnel requirement. Does staff member include Extension personnel? Personnel at different Institutes?
2. What is the scope? Does it have to have crops and animals? Can it be just a segment?
3. Will it fund a workshop? Education activities?
4. How much outreach is required as part of a research project?
5. How will IRAI connect people to teams? Will there be an interest survey for people looking for teams?
6. What will happen after the first round of funding? Will it be a program that continues in future years? How frequently will the RFP be issued?
7. Are you learning more towards research projects? Towards education projects?
8. Can you provide some additional examples of metrics that the RFP writers have imagined?
Room 10:
1 - Click on your room link
2 - Assign a notetaker
3 - 1 minute Introductions

Daniel Doyle - Lumpkin Fdn, Mattoon
Josh Nelson - Campton Township, Kane Co
Barb Horsch & family - Gibson City area farm family
Kim Erndt-Pitcher - Prairie Rivers Network (also ReGenerate IL and the IDEA Farm Network),
Lynn Clarkson - CEO Clarkson Grain Co, Interested in marketing aspect, economic aspects vs. productivity
Vivian Okakpu - Advocates for Urban Agriculture, Chicago area, interested in ag in an urban setting; policy advocate
Chris Leffelman - ag researcher currently @ Cornell, concern for family farm in Lee Co, IL

4 - Record here:
   ● Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
     i. Can we submit a proposal that measures economic factors rather than productive factors?
     ii. Does Extension count as UIUC partner?
     iii. Do proposals need to come from non profits or can they come from businesses, producers, etc
     iv. Is there a preference for proposals to come from University partner as opposed to from community partner?
        1. Do all proposals need to come from and awarded to 501c3 orgs or can businesses/farms apply?
     v. How individuals looking for UIUC partners begin to identify and reach out to or connect with possible candidates/research partners (is there a list)?
     vi. Can these funds cover staff, travel, events, food, equipment purchase and/or lease, land purchase/lease, technology (or rather, what can it NOT cover - beyond overhead)?
     vii. Is there expectations that this would be available next year at same or increased amount of awards (may influence whether projects ask for 1 or 2 years now)?
        1. Would you consider longer-term award (ie 10 years) with the understanding that you would still reapply every 1-2 years for continued funding?
     viii. Who will be reviewing/deciding upon these awards?
   ● Anything you need from IRAI?
     i. Accountability to stakeholder community
     ii. Opportunity for on-farm research/pilots, finding practical ecologically sound solutions for common challenges
     iii. Opportunity for **match-making** between interested stakeholders/community partners and appropriate/possible University partners (and vice versa). For this RFP process but also ongoing/in general.
1. Possibly IDEA Farm Network include this as a service/role (PFI model connecting research projects to field days?)
   a. How do other states do this? ie PFI/Iowa State, Cornell, Michigan, etc
Room 11:
1 - Click on your room link
2 - Assign a notetaker
3 - 1 minute Introductions
   - Duane Hovorka: IWL
   - Bruce Karmazin: LFF
   - Ben Gramig: UIUC
   - Lea Vereecke: Rodale Institute
   - Lisa Martin: CCA Program, Illinois
   - Jesse Faber: Pontiac, IL High School Teacher (Ag Production)
   - Pete Huff: Wallace Center
4 - Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
   i. Good to see the emerging work of IRAI, especially in bringing together outreach and research together. Will help to make that we have a good sense of what will work best in different soil, systems, etc.
   ii. How can we focus efforts around the common known barriers that farmers face? A common one is market development and access to go with diversified operations associated with regenerative agriculture?
   iii. How can we use the RFP to access or leverage broader funds and/or accelerate what's already in place?
   iv. What are the dimensions of research that are prioritized? Biophysical, economic, social, etc?
   v. How can we move farmers and landowners to long-range planning for increasing the productivity and resiliency of land?
   vi. How can we connect this to younger generations (4H, FFA, etc.)?
   vii. Anything you need from IRAI?
      i. Knowing what's already happening around regenerative ag in UIUC and with other groups working around the state of Illinois.
Room 12:
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   ● Anything you need from IRAI?
Room 13:
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3 - 1 minute Introductions
4 - Record here:
   ● Any questions do you have for us regarding the RFP?
     i. Can a small grant this year be used to plan a larger future grant?
   ● Anything you need from IRAI?
     Spreadsheet to track/display ideas to bring people together
Room 14:
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3 - 1 minute Introductions
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   ● Anything you need from IRAI?

Questions regarding RFP:
- Does this RFP cover costs for forming a broader collaborative (ie, researchers, farmers, investors, NGOs, etc) for bigger grant funding mechanisms?

Need from IRAI:
- Is it possible to compile a list of the participants and general topic area of interest for this RFP? This may help to form new partnerships and may help to decrease the number of competing grants in the same area.

Participants and ideas:
Erin Harper - Extension
- Interested in training and educational programming (beginning farmer training; development of regenerative ag class for high schools)

Megan Dailey - Dir. Metropolitan Food & Environmental Systems
- Metrics for regenerative ag and development of digital platforms

Bob Montgomery - Land owner/Farmer
- Information seeking about regenerative ag

Steve John - Ag Watershed Institute
- Perennial biomasses and ecosystem services & goods
- Working with NGOs and farmers to overcome early challenges for market development (eg. Green Lands Blue Waters with NGO initiative for perennial crops
- Discussed early and small scale markets for prairie biomass as examples of early and small scale markets
  - Warm season hay
  - Absorbent properties of biomasses for bedding, fracking, erosion control

Todd Price - Farm Foundation
- Goal of sharing information to a broader group to employ RA and gain accessibility

Joel Gruver - Wester U. Organic Research Program
- Increase education in understanding biomass initiatives in counties

Bill Davison - Savannah Institute
- Agroforestry efforts; collaboration with University partners including EarthSense
- Discussed recent breeding work of new clones for hazelnuts and nurseries that can propagate them as promising approaches for reducing natural resource needs
Room 15:
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Group Members: Julie Zilles, Carl Bernacchi, Rama Paudel, Ting Lu (UIUC)
Melissa Banerjee (Puerto Rican Cultural Center https://prcc-chgo.org/),
Lenore Beyer,
Black Oaks Center https://www.blackoakscenter.org/
   - History of regenerative practices, working to restore those
   - looking into new crops and products that suit their environment, acid soils and high
   water table, such as berries, cranberries, rice & that they can find markets for
   - varieties of sumac that can be used as spices and dyes, interested in research to scale
   that up and increase yields

Questions: Does the work need to be conducted in Illinois?
Room 17:
1 - Click on your room link
2 - Assign a notetaker
3 - 1 minute Introductions
--Tony Yannarell, note taker (U of I) soil microbial ecologist: plant-microbe interactions (cover crops, weeds, rotational agricultural systems)
--Fred Iuzi (Kansas) - agronomist & agroeconomist; Land Institute, working on perennial agriculture
--Martin Bohn (U of I) - corn genetics, breeding program for organic systems -- especially looking to accelerate breeding programs using technology
--Guillermo Marccillo (U of I) - computational agronomist; interested in cover cropping systems: impact of cover crops on corn productivity using modeling techniques
--Narendra Ahuja (U of I) - electrical engineering; artificial intelligence, machine learning, image processing; pattern recognition in data (visual, temporal); diagnose & predict; interested in
--Jean McGuire (Wetlands Initiative) - constructed wetlands to treat tile-drainage water for nitrate; background in social sciences and farmer decision making; quantifying ecosystem services from wetlands and assign value to these so that farmers can make informed decisions about adoption
--Amy DeLorenzon (U of I Extension and DPI) - create a culture of composting in Illinois; organic waste composting events; also has background in food waste and food scrapping; there is no end market for compost/food waste

4 - Record here:
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   ● Anything you need from IRAI? : is there a database/"dating service" that we could use to help find partners
   ● Is there a place where we could describe ongoing projects that have specific needs (expertise, resources, etc). And conversely, if people have potential contributions that they would like to offer -- this could facilitate connections

We haven’t been talking so much about questions or needs, but we have been having a great conversation about potential project ideas

--What is the barrier to be overcome? What knowledge is needed?
--discussion about perennial corn: it may be less about the technologica/biological side of things, but more about how to get farmers on board; there is definitely some expertise in our breakout room, and folks with experience
Room 18:
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