



## Agricultural Soils as a Climate Solution

Thursday, August 27, 2020

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### PANELISTS



#### **Wayne Honeycutt**

*President and CEO, Soil Health Institute*

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Dr. Wayne Honeycutt is President and CEO of the Soil Health Institute, a non-profit whose mission is to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soil through scientific research and advancement. He previously served for 5 years as the Deputy Chief for Science and Technology with USDA-NRCS in Washington, DC, where he led programs in technology acquisition, development, and transfer to ensure NRCS conservation practices reflect the latest scientific advances for conserving our nation's soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy resources. He served as a Research Soil Scientist for 14 years and a Research Leader for 10 years with the USDA-ARS New England Plant, Soil, and Water Laboratory. Dr. Honeycutt's commitment to agriculture is rooted in his experiences with raising tobacco, corn, and other crops on his family's 120-acre farm in Metcalfe County, Kentucky. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Forestry and Master's degree in Soil Science from the University of Kentucky, and a Ph.D. in Soil Genesis from Colorado State University. He was the 2018 recipient of the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award, the highest honor bestowed on an individual by the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

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#### **Laura Wood Peterson**

*Senior Director, Government Affairs, Indigo Agriculture*

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Laura Wood Peterson is the Senior Director, Government Affairs, Indigo Agriculture. Prior to this role, she served as the Head of Federal Government and Industry Relations for Syngenta where she staffed global sustainability issues for the Chief Sustainability Officer. Before joining Syngenta, she was the Director of Federal Affairs for the National Association of Conservation Districts and has experience in agriculture lobbying with The Russell Group as well as multiple internships in the Kansas Legislature, United States Congress and U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary. She is a member of the Kansas Bar and American Bar Associations and attended George Washington University Law School, where she also taught American Politics as adjunct faculty in the Undergraduate Political Science Department. Laura grew up on a family farm in Kansas and co-operates an angus cattle herd in Eastern Montana with her husband, Jess Peterson. She is on the board of Montana Conservation Voters.

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## **Fred Yoder**

*Ohio Farmer and Business Owner*

Fred Yoder has been farming for nearly 40 years in the Plain City, Ohio area. He has become a leading national and indeed international voice on climate smart agriculture. Fred farms with his family and raises corn, soybeans, and wheat on about 1500 acres in Madison and Union counties. Fred is also the owner and operator of a DeKalb seed dealership and has been selling seed now for over 33 years. Fred has served on the Ohio Corn Growers Association Board of Directors for many years, and also served as president of the National Corn Growers Association in 2003. He has visited in many different countries around the world promoting biotechnology and co-existence in cropping systems.

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## **MODERATOR**



## **Robert Bonnie**

*Director of the Farm and Forest Carbon Solutions Initiative, BPC*

[@overcreekfarm](#)

Robert Bonnie is the Farm and Forest Initiative Director at the Bipartisan Policy Center's Energy Project. He continues to work part time with the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University and Resources for the Future on natural climate solutions and rural attitudes on the environment and climate change. During the Obama Administration, Robert was Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA from 2013 to 2017, and a senior advisor to Secretary Tom Vilsack from 2009 to 2013. Prior to joining USDA, Robert was vice president for land conservation at Environmental Defense Fund where he focused on developing incentives to reward stewardship on private lands. Robert has master's degrees from Duke in forestry and environmental management. He lives with his wife, Julie, and daughter, Lilly, in Loudoun County, Virginia.