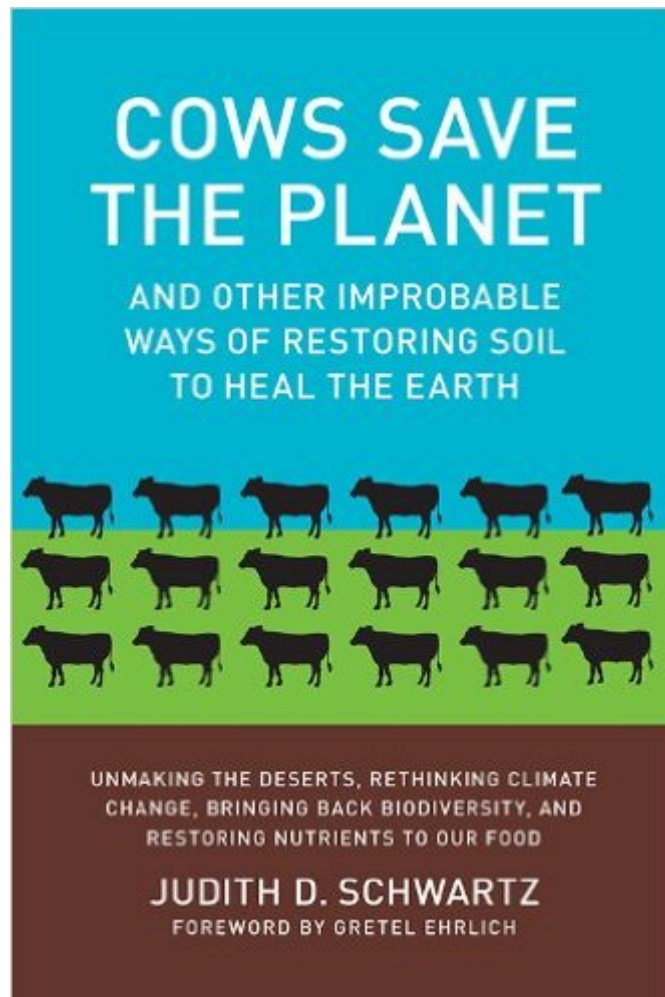


The book was found

Cows Save The Planet: And Other Improbable Ways Of Restoring Soil To Heal The Earth



Synopsis

In *Cows Save the Planet*, journalist Judith D. Schwartz looks at soil as a crucible for our many overlapping environmental, economic, and social crises. Schwartz reveals that for many of these problems—climate change, desertification, biodiversity loss, droughts, floods, wildfires, rural poverty, malnutrition, and obesity—there are positive, alternative scenarios to the degradation and devastation we face. In each case, our ability to turn these crises into opportunities depends on how we treat the soil. Drawing on the work of thinkers and doers, renegade scientists and institutional whistleblowers from around the world, Schwartz challenges much of the conventional thinking about global warming and other problems. For example, land can suffer from undergrazing as well as overgrazing, since certain landscapes, such as grasslands, require the disturbance from livestock to thrive. Regarding climate, when we focus on carbon dioxide, we neglect the central role of water in soil—“green water”—in temperature regulation. And much of the carbon dioxide that burdens the atmosphere is not the result of fuel emissions, but from agriculture; returning carbon to the soil not only reduces carbon dioxide levels but also enhances soil fertility. *Cows Save the Planet* is at once a primer on soil’s pivotal role in our ecology and economy, a call to action, and an antidote to the despair that environmental news so often leaves us with.

Book Information

File Size: 3187 KB

Print Length: 243 pages

Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing (May 20, 2013)

Publication Date: June 26, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00CMR0N2E

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #422,928 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Agricultural Sciences > Soil Science

#79 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Agricultural Sciences > Sustainable

Customer Reviews

I ran across this book and, given the bad rap cowsâ "meat animals in generalâ "have been getting lately, I picked it up and read it. Itâ "s an interesting little book and I recommend that anyone interested in the environment or good nutrition or global climate change should read it.Itâ "s really about restoring the earthâ "s soilsâ "with a little help from grazing animals. In a chapter entitled â "Ground Zero for Carbon Dioxide Reduction Is the Ground,â " she cites some startling studies describing the relationship between soils and global climate change. According to Rattan Lal of Ohio State University, â " . . . the soil could offset about one-third of the human-generated emissions annually absorbed in the atmosphere.â " She goes on to say that â "Weâ "ve lost an estimated 50 to 80 percent carbon in our soils over the last 150 years.â "In a chapter called â "Beyond Eat Your Vegetables,â " Schwartz reveal the lack of nutrition in our soils and how that translates into less nourishing food. She quotes nutrition and agriculture educator, â "Some nutritionists estimate that the food we eat today has just 30 percent of the nourishment of what our grandparents ate as children. The major reason,â " says Sait, â "is declining soil qualityâ " . . . the major portion of farm income is now expended on the inputs required to maintain production as soil function fails. An enormous industry . . . depends on us not finding solutions to the problems in agriculture,â " Schwartz writes. These problems generate enormous income for manufacture of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, toxins that sterilize the soil, she continues.And how do cows get into this discussion?

The idea that animals such as cows might actually be good for not just the soil but for the grasses they feed on may seem a bit strange at first. But because grasses and grasslands (and pastures) have experienced millions of years of grazing animals they have not only learned to live with them but to thrive. Schwartz explains how this works and why healthy grasslands, farms and pastures can serve as carbon sinks while feeding the seven million plus people on the planet. There is a crisis in food production and in fresh water availability that is upon us today. Soils are being depleted many times faster than they are being built, and water tables are falling precipitously. Schwartz interviewed people who demonstrate on their own farms that this doesn't have to continue. It was long thought (and before reading this book I believed it) that it typically took hundreds of years to build an inch or two of topsoil. However by using methods explained in this book farmers all over the world are building inches of topsoil in a year or less!One technique is "pasture cropping." Essentially

what you do is plant your seeds into an unplowed field that already has native grasses growing in it. The idea is that by keeping the field cover you retain the soil, the carbon in the soil, and the moisture while promoting and maintain a healthy soil ecology. Crops yields may fall a bit at first but over the long run you gain by keeping your fields covered all year round. So what this book is about is soil rehabilitation. The stakes are huge. Healthy soil serves to sequester carbon and keep it out of the atmosphere. Healthy soil retains moisture and very significantly contains nutrients for not only healthy plant growth but for healthy foods for us.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Cows Save the Planet: And Other Improbable Ways of Restoring Soil to Heal the Earth The Waste Not, Want Not Cookbook: Save Food, Save Money and Save the Planet This is Improbable Too: Synchronized Cows, Speedy Brain Extractors and More WTF Research Methods of Soil Analysis. Part 2. Microbiological and Biochemical Properties (Soil Science Society of America Book, No 5) (Soil Science Society of America Book Series) Secrets of the Soil: New Age Solutions for Restoring Our Planet Restoring a Dream: My Journey Restoring a Vintage Airstream The Soul of Soil: A Soil-Building Guide for Master Gardeners and Farmers, 4th Edition Start With the Soil: The Organic Gardener's Guide to Improving Soil for Higher Yields, More Beautiful Flowers, and a Healthy, Easy-Care Garden Taylor's Weekend Gardening Guide to Soil and Composting: The Complete Guide to Building Healthy, Fertile Soil (Taylor's Weekend Gardening Guides (Houghton Mifflin)) Defining Soil Quality for a Sustainable Environment: Proceedings of a Symposium Sponsored by Divisions S-3, S-6, and S-2 of the Soil Science Society (S S S a Special Publication) Tomography of Soil-Water-Root Processes: Proceedings of a Symposium Sponsored by Division S-1 and S-6 of the Soil Science Society of America in Minn (S S S a Special Publication) Soil Mechanics in Highway Engineering (Series on Rock and Soil Mechanics) Twelfth Planet: Book I of the Earth Chronicles (The Earth Chronicles) This Is Improbable: Cheese String Theory, Magnetic Chickens, and Other WTF Research Marriage: How To Save And Rebuild Your Connection, Trust, Communication And Intimacy (FREE Bonus Included) (Marriage Help, Save Your Marriage, Communication Skills, Marriage Advice) "Kick Ass" Home Security! Veteran Police Officer Reveals Simple Ways to Protect Yourself from Burglars, Thieves, and Other Scum-of-the-Earth! Search & Save: State Quarters - Including the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories (Whitman Search & Save) Solar Power: How to Save A LOT of Money the Easy Way (Solar Power, Save Money, Solar Energy, Solar, Sustainable Energy, Sustainable Homes, Sustainability) The Untold Story of Milk, Revised and Updated: The History, Politics and Science of Nature's Perfect Food: Raw Milk from Pasture-Fed Cows Rise of the Planet of the Apes and Dawn of Planet of the Apes: The Art of the Films

