



Laura Bailey and Lawson Armstrong

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Lawson Armstrong and Laura Bailey have a simple philosophy towards regenerative agriculture - and it all starts in the soil.

Their business, Margaret River Organic Farmer, was established in 2015 on 120 acres of land. The impressive property is proof that small-scale, multi-enterprise farming as a model can help revitalise the landscape and restore resilient, abundant eco-systems.

“Restoring soil health is number one. Everything else will follow – plant health, livestock health and human health too,” Lawson said.

“Removing biocides, which literally translates to ‘killers of life’, enables soils and pastures to regenerate. It’s all about developing resilience.”



Lawson is a fourth-generation farmer from the Eastern States, who started out in viticulture and saw the benefits of organic and biodynamic growing methods. Laura, on the other hand, grew up in an English woodland with self-sufficient parents who ignited her passion for nature. Over the past 25 years, they’ve worked in farms across the globe, undertaken extensive training, and are now living their dream of producing clean healthy food for their family and community.

The farm produces open-range pastured eggs, grass-fed-and-finished beef and vegetables. The duo also share their knowledge with people through organic consulting services, farm tours and sustainability workshops.

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A lot of their practices centre on improving soil quality like allowing each paddock to recover for 100+ days between rotations; leaving residual pasture vegetation as mulch cover; sowing a mixture of grasses and legumes; and using organic compost, biodynamic preparations, rock dusts, compost teas and biological brews. In fact, Lawson said doubling the farm's organic soil carbon in the first four years was their biggest accomplishment to date.

"This is significant because it is an indicator of improving soil fertility, water retention and productivity," he said. "Increasing organic soil carbon is also a big deal to us because it means this carbon is being stabilised and stored in the earth. Knowing we're sequestering carbon and that our management methods are helping to balance the impact of atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions is a great motivator."

But more than just farming, Lawson and Laura treat their property as an interconnected eco-system and work hard to protect the creek line, riparian zone, and remnant bushland as well. Through their perseverance, they're also providing habitat for insects, birds, micro-bats, reptiles and mammals.

While traditional farming practices would speed up the process in the short-term, Lawson and Laura prefer to focus on long-term sustainability. "We believe that managing land in an environmentally responsible way is key to a sustainable future," Laura said. "It's crucial to acknowledge the importance of natural ecosystems as part of the whole."