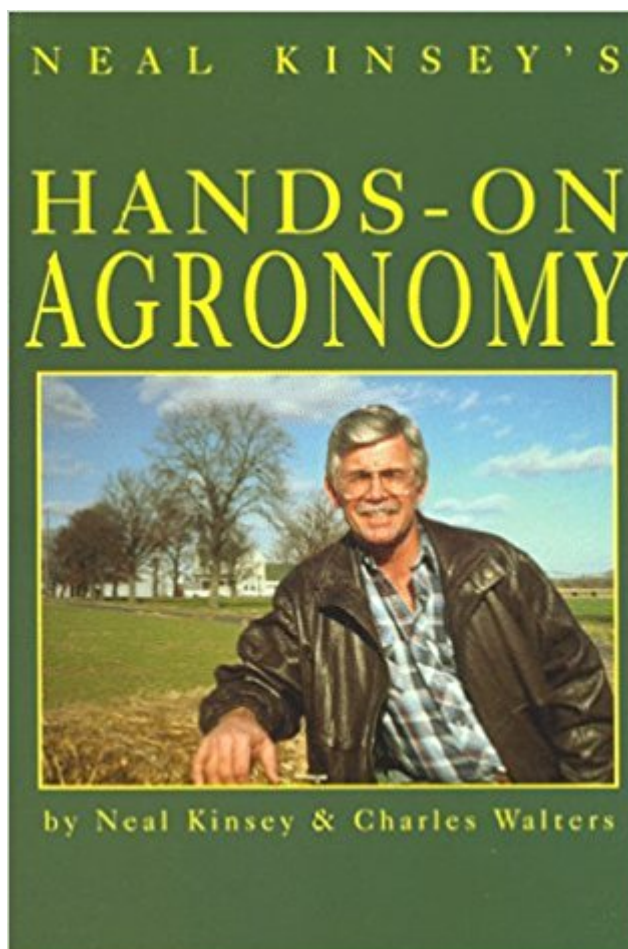


The book was found

Neal Kinsey's Hands-On Agronomy



Synopsis

The soil is more than just a substrate that anchors crops in place. An ecologically balanced soil system is essential for maintaining healthy crops. This is a comprehensive manual on soil management. The "whats and whys" of micronutrients, earthworms, soil drainage, tilth, soil structure and organic matter are explained in detail. Kinsey shows how working with the soil produces healthier crops with a higher yield drawing on his wide range of experience as a master consultant. Learn how to balance soil nutrients for maximum yield. Discover why simple N-P-K fertilization isn't enough. Understand the proper use of manures, compost, tillage, micronutrients and more. Kinsey gives first-rate science that brings organiculture and conventional farming together on speaking terms and indicts toxic rescue chemistry at the same time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Neal Kinsey grew up in southeast Missouri and worked on the farm for his father until he graduated from high school. To make his way through college, he worked part-time and summers as a crop reporter for the USDA's ASCS in Missouri and Illinois. He obtained his B.S. degree in marketing from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. In the fall of 1966, Kinsey enrolled in a master's degree program in Food Industry Logistics in Agricultural Economics at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Here is where he first met Dr. William A. Albrecht, who later provided the technical training in soil fertility required by his present profession. In 1968 Kinsey moved to Texas and took a job with a large environmental research project conducted by Ambassador College at Big Sandy. He eventually became assistant to the Director. Later, he became business manager followed by

agricultural operations manager for the Ambassador College Agriculture Department. While serving in this capacity, he became a certified consultant for Brookside Farms Laboratory of New Knoxville, Ohio. In 1977 he established Kinsey Agricultural Services. His workshops and seminars take him all around the world to train hundreds of growers in soil balancing utilizing cation exchange specializing in building and maintaining soil for quality crop production.

Great information not readily available from other sources. Only problem is the guy repeats himself so much (perhaps unavoidable), that it gets confusing, particularly regarding calcium and magnesium and their interfaces.

Item arrived on time and as advertised. The book is geared to a commercial farmer, but I got some good out for my little garden plot..

A little chatty, but the information is there.

Quick delivery and as described

At a guess the reviewer "A reader from New York" has never had anything to do with soils and farming. He/she just eats the end products. I am a farmer in Australia dealing with some of the hardest yet some of the most potentially productive soils as any in the USA. This book was recommended to me by a fellow farmer. After reading it I was stunned as to how much sense it made. I can now relate soil test data to what I see in the field and understand why some areas always produce more than others. It's not "quackery" when you can understand how mother nature and basic chemistry allow some areas of a field to outperform others by sometimes 3-1. Readers of this book should be farmers who are willing to take a close look at their soils, work the numbers, think about it and then be prepared to accept what they WILL see in it all. I am by no means an organic farmer, I still use some commercial fertilizers and spray about as much as anyone. After reading this book I have started working on balancing the soil because I see from experience the most balanced soils producing the best crops. I don't really care if Neal Kinsey has a consulting practice on soils. And as far as the book being a bit "light on" for detail is concerned, well it's not. It is a great first step to understanding the soil we grow things in. Fertilizer brochures are light on for detail. Happy reading and I hope the little light bulb gets turned on in your head like it did in mine.

Attending one of Mr. Kinsey's seminars and visiting with the farmers who have implemented his programs will convince the most staunch skeptic. His concept of "Feeding the soil and let the soil feed the plant" makes perfect sense. All elements in the soil must be within specific parameters for any plant to grow and produce to its full potential. Too much of the research results and recommendations that are available are tied to some corporate sponsorship that is ultimately tied to a product they wish to sell whether it is needed or not. Mr. Kinsey's success in 50 states and 50 countries speaks for itself. If you are a serious steward of the land and intend to stay in business in agriculture this book will help you get the not only more yield but higher quality products from your operation.

This book seems ideally suited for the land grant university student or farmer with a biology or chemistry degree perusing a livelihood in large scale or industrial agriculture. I am a small farmer without a degree but a very solid understanding of bio and chem and I found this book to be a bit daunting. The book starts out with a series of case studies in which the author always emerges as the hero. After the advertisements for his service and all the high-horsemanship you begin to smell the meat and potatoes. What follows is a complicated mess of NPK, pounds per acre and yield. Small attempts are made at including holistic management techniques but they are weakly explained and sparse. This book is advertised to farmers but the chem and bio concepts are difficult and without prior knowledge you will need to do significant outside the book research to follow along. If you are a medium to large scale farmer growing conventional commodity crops, and have prior knowledge to or a significant interest in learning these tough concepts this book may be useful. I would not recommend this book to Multi-croppers, pasture based, organic or small farmers in general. This book made me question the role of leading agronomists in a future SUSTAINABLE food production system.

The author has a soil consultation service, and one does not have to read too many pages before one realizes that all that has been read so far is self-aggrandizement, and this continues throughout the book. The author makes the same claims that are heard or read in advertisements for quack products: State and/or university soil testing facilities produce inaccurate results because they cut corners in testing or return stock answers to stock analyses; but; the lab the author uses is 100% accurate. Growers who use the author's recommendations have increased crop yields by X%, with X depending upon the crop in question. All claimed increases are substantial. The author includes just enough factual material on soils to give the book an air of authority, but is very short on any

explanation or reason for the importance of these soil factors (other than humus). The whole book seems to be a many-paged advertisement for people to use his service. Those interested in the subject might better spend their money on a good soils textbook.

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