

# Why Alfalfa, Canola & Sunflowers?

Steve Turnow  
Turnow Ventures, Ltd.





# Why is life so hard?!







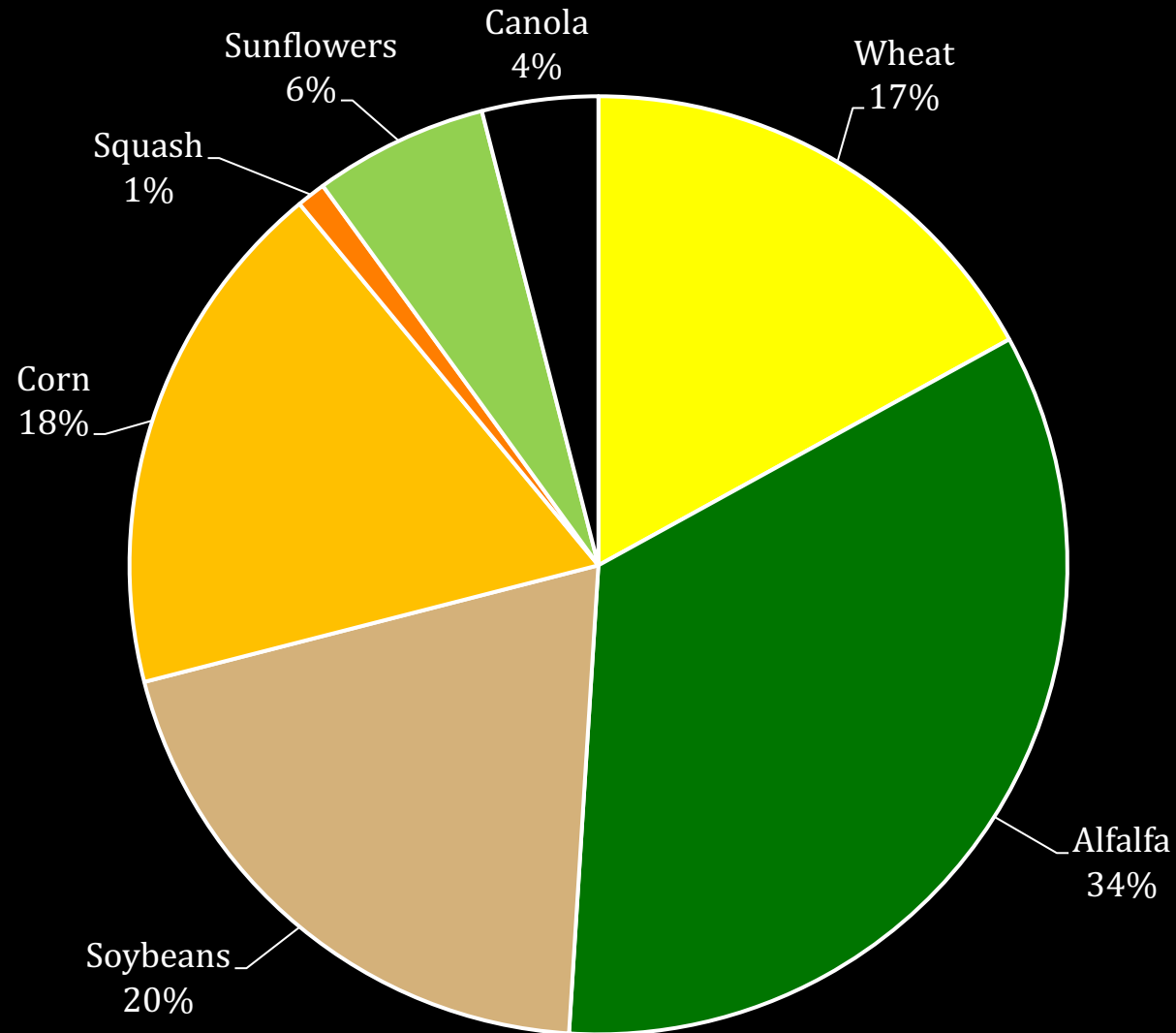








# Organic Farm Crop Mix



# Profits vs. Soil Health

## Economic

1. Soybeans
2. Corn
3. Squash
4. Sunflowers
5. Wheat
6. Canola
7. Alfalfa

## Soil Health Promoters

1. Alfalfa
2. Wheat
3. Canola
4. Sunflowers
5. Soybeans
6. Corn
7. Squash

































# Why Alfalfa?

- Easy Transition
- Nitrogen
- Organic Matter
- Hormones
- Carbon to Nitrogen
- Soil Erosion
- Insect & Disease Prevention
- Soil Aggregates
- Drainage
- Weed Control
- Crop Enhancer







# Why Canola?

- Diversity
- A cover crop that can be harvested
- Good for soil health
- Beneficial habitat
- Breaks weed and pest cycles
- Contracted with Perdue Agribusiness
- Breaks up workload

















# Why Sunflowers?

- Diversity to Corn/Beans
- Marketing diversity
- No additional equipment
- Wide range of planting dates
- Pollinator-friendly
- Oil premium
- Contracted with Perdue Agribusiness











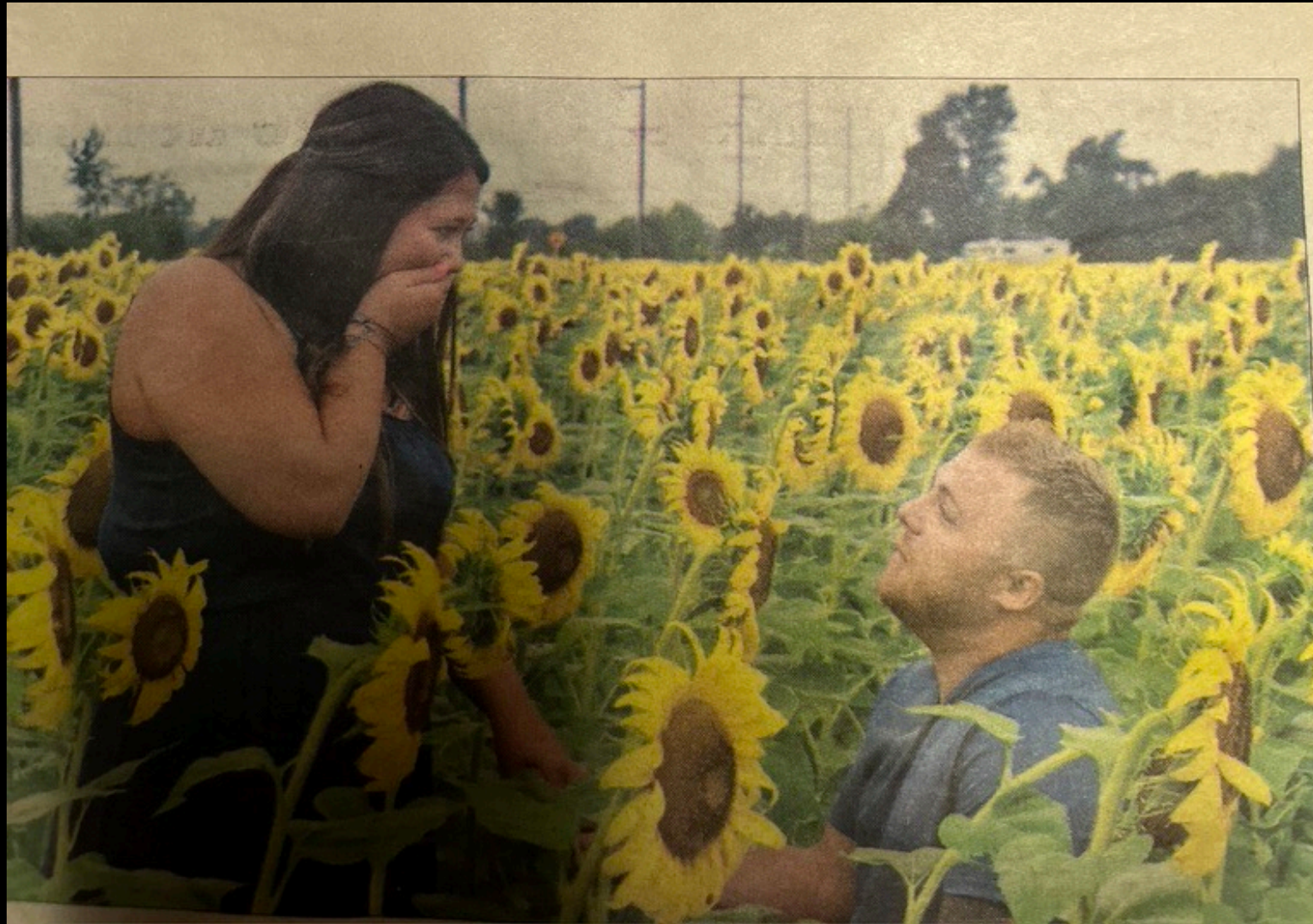


## ***Reach for the sun***

Each day, young sunflowers trace the path of the sun across the sky, turning their faces 180 degrees from east to west with their slow, graceful movements continuing at night. After the sun sets, the plants reorient themselves, slowly twisting their heads back to the east in anticipation of dawn. This field was spotted on Elliston Road near Graytown. (Photo by Maggi Dandar)





















# Agriculture

## Too much rain this spring? Grower plants sunflowers

By Larry Limpf  
News Editor  
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A decision two years ago by Steve Turnow to add sunflowers to his rotation of organic crops appears to be almost prescient.

"It worked out well. This spring was exceptionally wet but sunflowers are a shorter season crop," Turnow said. "I could plant later and still have a decent crop. Unlike corn, everybody quit planting corn around the first of June and quit planting soybeans around the first of July. I planted sunflowers up to July 15. Farmers have to adapt to the weather conditions."

Last year, he planted 20 acres of sunflowers; this year about 300 acres, including a field of 100 acres owned by Hirzel Farms, Northwood. So far, the crop looks good but Turnow says it's too early to estimate what the yield will be.

Turnow Ventures Ltd. became certified by the Global Organic Alliance, Inc. in 1998 and has fields in the Curtice, Elliston/Graytown and Lindsey areas. The GOA is accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a certifying agent.

"Our first exposure to organic came because we had an interest in organic alfalfa pellets. A chicken feeder on the East Coast called Country Hen was interested in buying organic alfalfa meal to feed to their organic chickens so there would be organic eggs with a nice yellow yolk. That's what the organic alfalfa does in the feed ration, it gives the nice yellow color to the yolk of the organic egg," Turnow said. "Once your fields are certified as organic you want a good rotation. So when the alfalfa field is no longer viable for alfalfa you have to rotate. It was a natural fit to go into other



Steve and Nancy Turnow (Submitted photo)

crops, Toledo Alfalfa Mills, Inc. which is also a certified organic company, processes the alfalfa into pellets."

Black beans, yellow corn, red winter wheat and soybeans have also been in the rotation. Squash and sunflowers are recent

additions to the mix and Turnow is already looking to add another.

"We're planning on planting some canola this year. The planting is similar to that of wheat – plant in September and harvest in July. That will also be for an oil seed. It's similar to sunflowers, it will go to canola oil," he said.

The processor for Turnow's sunflower crop is AgStrong, a Georgia company that uses a cold expeller press method for removing the oil from the sunflower seeds.

"They don't use heat and they don't use additives. It's a better product because you don't lose anything as you do during the heating process," Turnow said, adding consumers may be indirectly buying his product at the local grocery store. "AgStrong has a contract to sell to General Mills, which owns Annie's and makes organic food like macaroni and cheese, cookies and other products."

The fields of sunflowers have drawn compliments from passersby, many of whom have stopped to take photos.

"We were pleasantly surprised by the response of the communities to the beauty of the sunflowers," he said.

Turnow was a presenter at the annual conference of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association held in February in Dayton where he spoke at a workshop: "Crop Rotation for Resilient Organic Grain Management."

A family operation, Turnow Ventures is also staffed by Turnow's wife, Nancy, who is listed on the company website as chief advisor; Craig Turnow, equipment expert; Tiffany Hernandez, advertising and public relations; Analisa Turnow, organic inspector and data collector; Morgan Turnow, operations chemist; Jason Nissen, daily operations, and Steve Kramer, grounds crew.





**The other time**

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THE BLADE/JEREMY WADSWORTH

Nishanth Pasham and his wife Taylor Leonard of Toledo pose for selfies with their daughter Moksha Pasham, 8 months, in a sunflower field Saturday on Cedar Point Road in Oregon.

## Virus deaths in U.S. hover at 1,000 daily

Some states tighten limits;  
Texas bars hold 'festival'

BLADE NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — The United States reported more than 1,100 coronavirus-related deaths Friday, the fourth day in a row that the grim tally has been above 1,000.

The recent run is the first time since late May that the daily number of deaths has been above 1,000 across the United States.

More than 74,000 new infections were reported nationally on Friday, one of the highest single-day totals yet.

Globally, coronavirus-related deaths reached 640,000

Saturday morning, according to tracking by Johns Hopkins University.

More than one-fifth of those deaths were reported in the United States, where total confirmed cases surpassed 4 million last week.

More than 400,000 new cases had been added in the United States over seven days.

In states where cases have ballooned, officials are weighing additional public health measures to slow the spread of the virus in their communities.

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Turnow Ventures Ltd.  
**Organic**  
Farms



Thank You

