



6-3-4<sup>TM</sup>  
VERIFICATION  
STANDARD

FOR REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

UPDATED: April 10, 2024

[www.regenified.com](http://www.regenified.com)

## Introduction

This 6-3-4™ Verification Standard from Regenified™ reflects decades of on-farm and in-lab research on regenerative agricultural practices. This document represents a way for an entire system (food/fiber/fuel companies, farmers, ranchers, and consumers) to make better decisions about what to grow and eat. Our Standard is designed to move entire supply chains toward regenerative agriculture, yielding improved climate effects for our planet and positive health benefits for the people on it.

Regenified's 6-3-4™ Verification Standard is based on six principles of soil health, three rules of adaptive stewardship, and four ecosystem processes. This standard helps farmers and ranchers understand where their practices and lands are on the regenerative path. Financial incentives are also essential to help align human behavior with the needs of the planet. These incentives and the contracts, licenses, and agreements that support such transformation are not addressed in this verification standard.

An online version of this document is at: [www.regenified.com](http://www.regenified.com)

## What's Inside

- 1.0 **Ranking Tiers** allow easy entry at multiple levels while requiring improvement over time.
- 2.0 **Farm/Ranch Plan Requirements** move producers logically along the regenerative path.
- 3.0 **Farm/Ranch Field Evaluation and Lab Testing** ensures regenerative practices are being used and positive outcomes are occurring on the land.
- 4.0 **Soil Testing Standard** explains testing location technical procedures.
- 5.0 **Quality Assurance:** Verification Review Board and Field Verifier Duties describe policies to ensure the integrity of Regenified's Verification Process
- 6.0 **Change Log:** Evolutions to this protocol will be recorded and maintained at the end of this document to enable full transparency.

## Questions

For questions or clarification, please contact Regenified's standards team at: [standards@regenified.com](mailto:standards@regenified.com)

# 1. Requirements for the Regenified™ Ranking Tiers

## 1.1. Five Tiers of Ranking

- 1.1.1. The verification standard begins with an initial evaluation and then requires an annual in-field evaluation. A farming or ranching operation could be qualified to be placed in any tier depending on their current application of regenerative practices.
- 1.1.2. An operation can move up the tiers as fast as they want as long as they meet the acreage criteria for the tier to which they are moving.
- 1.1.3. No more than three years are allowed in any single tier.
- 1.1.4. After three years a farm/ranch must have made enough regenerative changes on enough acres of their operation to be eligible for the next higher tier or they will be dropped from Regenified™ qualification status.

## 1.2. Tier 1

- 1.2.1. Baseline evaluation and testing must be completed on all tracts of land submitted for verification.
- 1.2.2. Completion of the full verification standard, including all soil testing, must be done as part of this initial evaluation.
- 1.2.3. If not already in place, producers must begin developing a written plan for the application of regenerative practices.
- 1.2.4. Producers must attend a multi-day regenerative agriculture educational workshop.

## 1.3. Tier 2

- 1.3.1. Regenerative practices that address the soil health principles and ecosystem processes must be applied to 20-40% of the ag land base.
- 1.3.2. The farm/ranch written regenerative plan following the criteria set forth in section 2.0 of this document must be in place and approved by the Regenified™ Review Board.
- 1.3.3. The farm/ranch written plan must include logical management steps and practices which address the six Principles of Soil Health and three Rules of Adaptive Stewardship.
- 1.3.4. (deleted item)
- 1.3.5. When they are qualified for Tier 2, they may begin using the Regenified™ seal on their products.

## 1.4. Tier 3

- 1.4.1. Regenerative practices that address the soil health principles and ecosystem processes must be fully applied to 40-60% of the ag land base.
- 1.4.2. The farm/ranch written regenerative plan following the criteria set forth in section 2.0 of this document must be in place and approved by the Regenified™ Verification Review Board.
- 1.4.3. Livestock operations must have 40-60% of annual feed inputs, including purchased, produced regeneratively.
- 1.4.4. Current years evaluation scores and soil tests should be higher than previous scores.

#### **1.5. Tier 4**

- 1.5.1. Regenerative practices that address the soil health principles and ecosystem processes must be fully applied to 60-80% of the ag land base.
- 1.5.2. The farm/ranch written regenerative plan following the criteria set forth in section 2.0 of this document must be in place and approved by the Regenified™ Verification Review Board.
- 1.5.3. Livestock operations must have 60-80% of annual feed inputs, including purchased, produced regeneratively.
- 1.5.4. Current years evaluation scores and soil tests must be higher than scores and test results from the previous tier.

#### **1.6. Tier 5**

- 1.6.1. Regenerative practices that address the soil health principles and ecosystem processes must be fully applied to 80-100% of the ag land base.
- 1.6.2. The farm/ranch written regenerative plan following the criteria set forth in section 2.0 of this document must be in place and approved by the Regenified™ Verification Review Board.
- 1.6.3. Livestock operations must have 80-100% of annual feed inputs, including those purchased, produced regeneratively.
- 1.6.4. Current years evaluation scores and soil tests must be maintained.

## **2. Regenified Farm/Ranch Plan Requirements**

### **2.1. Farm/Ranch Written Plan**

- 2.1.1. The plan will consist of a logical step by step process to implement practices which address each of the six Soil Health Principles and the three Rules of Adaptive Stewardship.
- 2.1.2. The layout and format of this plan is up to each individual operation. It can be electronic or printed, but must include corresponding aerial photography that accurately and clearly outlines all fields, lists land uses for those fields, and shows other areas or objects critical to the regenerative plan. At a minimum, for each of the principles and rules the plan should include the following:

### **2.2. Principle of Context**

- 2.2.1. List the primary resource concerns (erosion, water quality, wildlife etc.) for the operation.
- 2.2.2. List the ecological context of the operation including: forage types (cool, warm, introduced, native), growing season, frost dates, birthing season, strengths, and weaknesses.
- 2.2.3. List the long-term business goals and objectives of the operation.

### **2.3. Principle of Disturbance**

- 2.3.1. Develop a plan to reduce or mitigate the major physical disturbances: tillage, grazing, or haying.
- 2.3.2. Develop a plan, including cultural/biological practices, that will be used to reduce or mitigate possible disturbances to the soil chemistry such as pesticides, fertilizer, or manure.
- 2.3.3. List the long-term goal of the farm/ranch for this principle.

## **2.4. Principle of Armor**

- 2.4.1. List of practices that could potentially remove armor from the soil (grazing, haying, tillage, chemical burndowns, etc.).
- 2.4.2. List management strategies that will be employed to ensure the soil has adequate armor.
- 2.4.3. List the long-term goal of the farm/ranch for this principle.

## **2.5. Principle of Diversity**

- 2.5.1. Grassland – Provide an adaptive grazing plan that includes plans to maintain or increase plant diversity.
- 2.5.2. Cropland – Develop a cash crop planned rotation and cover crops needed to insure adequate plant diversity.
- 2.5.3. List other practices or activities that are used to increase biodiversity on the farm/ranch.
- 2.5.4. List the long-term goal of the farm/ranch for this principle.

## **2.6. Principle of Living Roots**

- 2.6.1. Grassland – Provide an adaptive grazing plan that includes management strategies to optimize plant height, leaf area, and volume.
- 2.6.2. Cropland – Provide cover crop planting times, mixtures, and strategies for integrating into the cash crop rotation.
- 2.6.3. List the long-term goal of the farm/ranch for this principle.

## **2.7. Principle of Livestock Integration**

- 2.7.1. Develop an adaptive grazing plan that incorporates the rest periods, grazing periods, and stock density on the grassland and how they will be integrated into the cropping operation, if applicable.
- 2.7.2. Provide the number and type of planned livestock and annual forage estimates for proper stocking rate determination.
- 2.7.3. List the long-term goals of the farm/ranch for this principle.

## **2.8. Rule of Compounding**

- 2.8.1. Outline potential positive compounding effects of the farm/ranch's regenerative plan.
- 2.8.2. Outline potential negative compounding effects of the farm/ranch's regenerative plan.

## **2.9. Rule of Diversity**

- 2.9.1. List practices that will be done to incorporate diversity in all phases of the operation including grassland and cropland.

## **2.10. Rule of Disruption**

- 2.10.1. As part of the adaptive grazing plan include planned disruptions.
- 2.10.2. As part of the cropping rotation include planned disruptions.

### 3. Regenified Farm/Ranch Field Evaluation & Lab Testing Standards

These Standards address the **Six Principles of Soil Health** including the **Three Rules of Adaptive Stewardship** and the **Four Ecosystem Processes**.

#### 3.1. Principle of Context

##### On Farm Evaluation for All Land Uses

- 3.1.1. Farm/ranch must have written goals and objectives as well as a regenerative farming plan.
- 3.1.2. Farm or ranch production yield goals should be correct for their environment.
- 3.1.3. Plant and animal species and practices being used should be correct for their environment.
- 3.1.4. Birthing periods must be correct for the context of the area and operation.
- 3.1.5. Farm/ranch should be evaluated for and addressing the root cause of problems/resource concerns on the land.
- 3.1.6. Farm/ranch must participate in regenerative ag educational groups.
- 3.1.7. Farm/ranch should have a succession plan in place.

#### 3.2. Principle of Disturbance

##### On Farm Evaluation for All Annually Planted Crops

- 3.2.1. For Tier 2 there must be a reduction in tillage passes from conventional production practices to current production practices. For Tier 3 there can be no more than one tillage pass per year. For Tier 4 there can be no more than one tillage pass every 2 years. For Tier 5 there can be no more than one tillage pass every 4 years. Tillage passes include all full width and row cultivation in addition to planting. For a multiple year rotation without tillage followed by an occasional tillage pass, divide tillage passes by the years in the rotation for a percentage listed in parenthesis in the table below.
- 3.2.2. Injected fertility should be applied with a low disturbance applicator. If a high disturbance applicator is used, it also counts as a tillage pass. For Tier 4-5 a low disturbance applicator must be used. If nothing is injected then it scores a N/A.
- 3.2.3. Over the entire cropping rotation there must be a reduction in pesticide (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, seed treatments, etc) pounds of active ingredient and number of applications to move from one tier to the next higher tier. Additionally, no chemical pesticides may be used on grains in the 21 days prior to harvest. This includes applications meant to be a harvest aid only.
- 3.2.4. Prior to the use of any pesticide (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides), a basic pest management plan must be developed and approved by the Regenified Verification Review Board. Threshold values and locations should be determined for all target pests. The plan should include: 1) expected target pests, 2) planned monitoring strategies and treatment thresholds, 3) planned chemical suppression techniques including rates and timing 4) alternatives considered such as cultural, biological, or mechanical suppression techniques.

##### Perennial Crops (Native rangeland, introduced pasture, vineyards, orchards, etc.)

- 3.2.5. The recovery period between disturbance events (grazing, trampling, whole plant biomass removal, burning, etc), should be long enough to ensure full recovery on most perennial plants in the management area.
- 3.2.6. The disturbance event (grazing, trampling, whole plant biomass removal,

burning, etc) should be short enough to prevent continued impact on plants after regrowth has started during the same disturbance event time period.

- 3.2.7. Deleted
- 3.2.8. Areas used for whole plant biomass removal (haying, silage, biofuel, etc.) should be rotated annually.
- 3.2.9. Whole plant biomass should be fed where it was harvested.
- 3.2.10. For Tier 2-3, whole plant biomass should not be sold or exported from the farm.
- 3.2.11. For Tier 4-5, whole plant biomass must not be sold or exported from the farm.
- 3.2.12. There should be a reduction in acres where whole plant biomass is removed from previous evaluations.
- 3.2.13. To move to the next higher tier there must be a reduction in rate or applications of pesticides used on grasslands from the previous tier.
- 3.2.14. Prior to the use of any pesticide (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides), a basic pest management plan must be developed and approved by the Regenified Verification Review Board. Threshold values and locations should be determined for all target pests. The plan should include: 1) expected target pests, 2) planned monitoring strategies and treatment thresholds, 3) planned chemical suppression techniques including rates and timing 4) alternatives considered such as cultural, biological, or mechanical suppression techniques.

### 3.3. Principle of Armor

#### On Farm Evaluation for Cropland and Grassland

- 3.3.1. Percent Ground Cover in Tiers 2-3 must score 50 or higher. Tier 4-5 must score 75. For long rotations or periods with cover followed by occasional low cover, divide the sum of cover for each year by the years in the rotation for a percentage to be used below.

**Less Brittle Areas:** 25 inches of precipitation or more

Score	% Cover
0	0 - 30
25	30 - 50
50	50 - 70
75	70 - 90
100	90 - 100

**More Brittle Areas:** 15 – 25 inches of precipitation

Score	% Cover
0	0 - 20
25	20 - 30
50	30 - 50
75	50 - 70
100	70 - 100

**Extremely Brittle Areas:** Less than 15 inches of precipitation

Score	% Cover
0	0 - 10
25	10 - 20
50	20 - 30
75	30 - 50
100	50 - 75

- 3.3.2. Bare soil conditions created by crop harvest that require digging (potatoes, beets, etc.) or land preparation/repair/leveling must be established to crop, cover crop, or mulch within 2 weeks.

**3.4. Principle of Diversity  
On Farm Evaluation**

- 3.4.1. Cropland - Three functional groups (warm, cool, grass, broadleaf, legume, shrub, tree) must be present in the entire rotation in the form of cash crops, cover crops and/or annual forages.
- 3.4.2. Cropland - A diverse, variable crop/cover crop rotation should be used in Tiers 2-3, but it must be used in Tiers 4-5.
- 3.4.3. Grassland – Three functional groups (warm, cool, grass, broadleaf, legume, shrub, tree) should be present in grassland.
- 3.4.4. Grassland - A variety of stock densities and rest periods should be used to create disruptions and increase diversity.

**3.5. Principle of Living Roots  
On Farm Evaluation**

- 3.5.1. Days of the year active living roots from cash crops, cover crops or pasture are present. Total days possible include 30 days prior to last spring frost to 30 days after first fall frost.  
Divide days with a living root by total possible days.  
Tiers 2-3 should score 50 and Tiers 4-5 must score a minimum of 75.

Score	Days of Year
0	0 – 30%
25	30 – 50%
50	50 – 70%
75	70 – 90%
100	90 – 100%

- 3.5.2. Rhizosheaths: roots should be covered in a soil film indicating the presence of beneficial soil biology colonization.
- 3.5.3. Healthy roots should be abundant, well branched, and not inhibited by restrictive layers.

**3.6. Principle of Livestock Integration and Livestock Husbandry  
On Farm Evaluation**

- 3.6.1. Livestock integration should be increasing as a percent of the total farm/ranch.



Producers are exempt from these criteria in years when vegetable crops are planted that have legally mandated livestock withdrawal periods.

- 3.6.2. All livestock must have access to adequate space to move about, express their natural habits, and have access to feed and water on a continual basis.

### **POULTRY**

The goal for poultry management in layers or broiler operations should be to train or entice the birds to utilize areas outside of their poultry house for their natural activities such as foraging, eating insects, and dusting.

Training a flock to go outside can be accomplished with herding techniques or with enticements such as water sources, shrubs, and trees that provide shade or vegetation that attracts insects. With proper training and enticements a significant amount of outside flock activity can be achieved.

- 3.6.3. Poultry in stationary houses must have adequate shade for a significant portion of the flock. Generally this area should be at least 25% of the house size. Shade should be spaced appropriately across the available area. For Tiers 2 and 3 shade can be artificial. For Tiers 4 and 5 at least 25% of required shade must be natural from trees or shrubs.
- 3.6.4. Stationary poultry houses must have doors with adequate locations and size to allow the majority of the flock both visual and physical access outside.
- 3.6.5. Stationary poultry houses should achieve daily outside activity on a minimum of 40% of the flock.
- 3.6.6. Poultry in portable structures with a covered roof that are moved frequently across a pasture or other vegetated area are not subject to the secondary shade requirements.

### **GRAZING LIVESTOCK**

- 3.6.7. Grazing animals such as cattle, sheep, swine and goats cannot be in concrete or bare dirt confinement more than 60 days total over their life for any activities.
- 3.6.8. All livestock must be grazed according to an adaptive management grazing plan.
- 3.6.9. Body condition scores of the livestock must be appropriate for the time of year.
- 3.6.10. Antibiotics and/or hormone treatments must not be used in any livestock prophylactically for pathogens or as growth stimulants.
- 3.6.11. Tiers 1 and 2 do not have any regenerative feed requirements for livestock.
- 3.6.12. For Tier 3, livestock operations must have 40-60% of annual feed inputs including grazing, on-farm produced, or purchased feed produced regeneratively meeting Regenified's standard.  
For Tier 4, livestock operations must have 60-80% of annual feed inputs including grazing, on-farm produced, or purchased feed produced regeneratively meeting Regenified's standard.  
For Tier 5, livestock operations must have 80-100% of annual feed inputs including grazing, on-farm produced, or purchased feed produced regeneratively meeting Regenified's standard.

## Four Ecosystem Processes

### 3.7. Water Cycle On Farm Evaluation

3.7.1. Dry Aggregate Stability - Jornada Soil Stability Test. Score should be 50.

Score	Stability Class
0	1-2
25	2-3
50	3-4
75	4-5
100	5-6

3.7.2. Infiltration assessment - unsaturated hydraulic conductivity. Single Ring Infiltrometer will be used annually. Infiltration rate should be on an upward trend.

Score	Infiltration Rate
0	1 inch in 30 minutes or more
25	1 inch in 10-30 minutes
50	1 inch in 5-10 minutes
75	1 inch in 1-5 minutes
100	1 inch in less than 1 minute

3.7.3. Infiltration assessment - saturated hydraulic conductivity. The Dual Head Infiltrometer will be used annually. Infiltration rate should be on an upward trend.

3.7.4. Compaction layers - penetrometer or shovel. Soil should be free of tillage compaction layers and/or management-induced platy structure restricting roots.

3.7.5. There must not be visible erosion or sedimentation in the field.

3.7.6. There should be no visible evidence of runoff or ponding.

#### Lab Testing

3.7.7. Water Holding Capacity

Test results should be higher than previous evaluations.

3.7.8. Wet Aggregate Test

Test results should be higher than previous evaluations.

### 3.8. Mineral Cycle On Farm Evaluation

3.8.1. Purchased or farm-produced N, P & K fertilizers (commercial, manure) can be applied but they must be applied at crop removal rates or less.

3.8.2. There should be a reduction in nutrient application rates from previous evaluations.

3.8.3. Nitrogen loss is minimized - Nitrate test strips used in edge of field water (tile, ditches, streams local to the operation). Nitrate should be below 10 ppm.

- 3.8.4. Odor of the soil - Score should be improving for tier 2-3. Score should be 75 or higher for tier 4-5.

Score	Smell
0	No odor at all or sour, metallic, rotten egg, stagnant
25	Little odor at all
75	Earthy/Sweet odor, noticeable when close to the nose
100	Earthy/Sweet odor noticeable > 6 inches from nose.

- 3.8.5. Deleted item

#### Lab Testing

- 3.8.6. Carbon - Loss on Ignition (LOI) included with Haney. Carbon must be on an upward trend.
- 3.8.7. Water Extractable Organic Nitrogen (WEON) - included with Haney test. WEON should be on an upward trend.

### 3.9. Energy Flow

#### On Farm Evaluation

- 3.9.1. Solar capture through plant canopy measurement. Percent living plant cover in Tiers 2-3 must score 50 or higher. Tier 4-5 must score 75.

**Less Brittle Areas:** 25 inches of precipitation or more

Score	Living Plant Cover
0	0 – 30%
25	30 – 50%
50	50 – 70%
75	70 – 90%
100	90 – 100%

**More Brittle Areas:** 15 – 25 inches of precipitation

Score	Living Plant Cover
0	0 – 20%
25	20 – 30%
50	30 – 50%
75	50 – 70%
100	70 – 100%

**Extremely Brittle Areas:** Less than 15 inches of precipitation

Score	Living Plant Cover
0	0 – 10%
25	10 – 20%
50	20 – 30%

75	30 – 50%
100	50 – 75%

- 3.9.2. Fuel usage should have decreased since the last evaluation.
- 3.9.3. Electricity usage should have decreased since the last evaluation.

**Lab Testing**

- 3.9.4. Soil Organic Carbon with bulk density to 12 inches. SOC must be on an upward trend.
- 3.9.5. Water Extractable Organic Carbon (WEOC) from the Haney test - WEOC scores should be increasing from previous tests.
- 3.9.6. % Microbially Active Carbon (MAC) from Haney test. MAC should be 50-80.

**3.10. Community Dynamics  
On Farm Evaluation**

- 3.10.1. On grasslands, native plant communities should be increasing.
- 3.10.2. On croplands, plant biodiversity must be increasing from the initial verification to the most recent verification.
- 3.10.3. Insects/arthropods – Should be evidence of three to five different types of beneficial organisms.
- 3.10.4. Wildlife – Should be evidence of three to five different types of animals including but not limited to: grazing or browsing ruminants, small mammals, reptiles, etc.
- 3.10.5. Birds – Should be evidence of three to five different types (song, game, raptor) of local and migratory species.
- 3.10.6. Beneficial invertebrates – Should be evidence of more than three to five anecic (deep burrowing), endogeic (topsoil dwelling) earthworms, and/or other beneficial invertebrates per cubic foot of soil.

**Lab Testing**

- 3.10.7. CO<sub>2</sub> Respiration from Haney – Respiration should be increasing.
- 3.10.8. Haney Soil Health Score – Score should be increasing.
- 3.10.9. Phospholipid Fatty Acid (PLFA) – Total living microbial biomass should be increasing.
- 3.10.10. PLFA – Arbuscular Mycorrhizal colonization should be apparent and improving as a % of total fungal population.
- 3.10.11. PLFA – Fungal to Bacterial ratio should be improving.

**4. Soil Testing Standard**

**4.1. Sampling Locations**

- 4.1.1. Fields will be grouped by management strategies (cropland with similar rotations in one group, cropland with different rotations in another group, hayland, rangeland, pastureland, forest, etc.).
- 4.1.2. Using the Soil Web app or a soil map the primary and secondary soil textures will be determined for each of those management groups. Sampling sites will be located across the largest soil texture area.

- 4.1.3. Sampling for SOC, Haney, PLFA, ag stability and water holding capacity will follow the RegenAg Lab recommended [sampling instructions](#).
- 4.1.4. In most intensive cropland or pastureland situations, a sample should be taken for every 50-100 acres.
- 4.1.5. In the case of extremely large operations with very similar management strategies and soil textures, exceptions can be made to expand the acreage per sample requirement.
- 4.1.6. Site locations for the SOC sample(s) will be georeferenced so it can be relocated for future sampling.
- 4.1.7. All sampling will be required initially and then every three years.
- 4.1.8. Testing must be done at an accredited lab as per Soil Science Society of America's Performance Assessment Program - [Accredited Labs](#).

## 5. Quality Assurance

### 5.1. Verification Review Board

- 5.1.1. The Verification Review Board for any determination event will consist of Regenified's Chief Scientist and Director of Standards & Protocol, a Senior Verifier, and a Field Verifier that has not been associated in any way with the farm/ranch submitted for the verification process.

### 5.2. Planner Approval

- 5.2.1. Individuals wishing to be approved to write the regenerative plans required for the Regenified™ Verification Program must submit the following: educational background, practical experience, and a regenerative plan the individual has previously developed for a farm or ranch. A plan must be submitted for each type of operation in which they wish to be considered. Examples of different farming operations: cropland, grassland, forestry, or vegetables.
- 5.2.2. Their qualifications and regenerative plan submission will be reviewed by the Verification Review Board for the applicant's knowledge and experience, as well as the plan's completeness in addressing the six Principles of Soil Health and the three Rules of Adaptive Stewardship.

### 5.3. Field Verifier Responsibilities

- 5.3.1. Verifiers will all be trained by Regenified™ and will have personal instruction in the use of the Regenified™ protocol by the Senior Verifier.
- 5.3.2. All Verifiers will have attended a Soil Health Academy.
- 5.3.3. All Field Verifiers will have a Senior Verifier accompany them on a minimum of one verification per year.
- 5.3.4. The Field Verifier for each farm/ranch will collect information only. Field Verifiers will not make any verification determinations on farms/ranches they completed field evaluations for.
- 5.3.5. The Field Verifier will submit a fully completed Field Inventory Evaluation and Lab Test Results summary to the Verification Review Board.
- 5.3.6. The Field Verifier will participate in an interview by the Verification Review Board answering any questions they may have.

### 5.4. Verification Review Board Process

- 5.4.1. The Verification Review Board will meet, either in person or virtually, to review

- all documentation submitted by the Field Verifier for the farm or ranch.
- 5.4.2. The Verification Review Board will use our internal scoring process to do the final scoring on the Field Verifier's field evaluation score sheet and the soil test results.
  - 5.4.3. The Verification Review Board will interview the Field Verifier.
  - 5.4.4. The Verification Review Board can also interview the Producer from the farm or ranch if any clarification is needed.
  - 5.4.5. The Verification Review Board will make the initial determination of which tier the operation is eligible for, if any.
  - 5.4.6. The Verification Review Board will complete this process annually to make subsequent determinations of continued eligibility or tier advancement for all farming or ranching operations.

### **5.5. Adverse Action Review Process**

- 5.5.1. Prior to any adverse determinations, the Verification Review Board will re-evaluate the farm or ranch scoring to determine if circumstances beyond a producer's control contributed to this adverse determination. Examples of circumstances beyond a producer's control could be, but are not limited to, natural events such as drought, fire or flood. Other examples could include a severe personal or family member injury or emergency.
- 5.5.2. A landowner could be called on to provide additional information or documentation for this secondary review as well as an interview if requested by the board.
- 5.5.3. If it is determined that circumstances beyond the producer's control contributed to the adverse determination, the producer will be given a one year exception and will be required to submit a remediation plan outlining steps to be taken.

## **Integrity and Impartiality Safeguards**

### **Verification Review Board**

The Verification Review Board at Regenified serves an important purpose. Each farm or ranch must have their verification audit findings submitted to the Review Board for official verification. The determinations of the Review Board must be untainted by bias or conflicts of interest. It is essential that the actions of the board are beyond reproach; therefore, it has been determined that individuals with ownership interest in a consulting, related, or competing business are prohibited from certain activities.

#### **Prohibited Activities of Verification Review Board Members:**

- Members and related family members\* may not have ownership in an agricultural consulting business
- Members and related family members\* may not review for verification any farm or ranch in which he or she has consulted in the previous three years.
- Members and related family\* may not review for verification any farm or ranch in which he or she has any ownership, equity, or financial interest.

- Members may not review for verification any farm or ranch in which a related family member\* has employment, equity, or ownership.
- Handle or edit the private data or audit findings of farms or ranches being presented for verification, except where provided by the party seeking verification after the data has been submitted to the Review Board.
- Members of the Verification Review Board are prohibited from accepting any gifts, favors, or any other consideration from consultants, companies that provide consulting services, or parties seeking verification. Review Board members may not have any of their compensation conditioned on the outcomes of audits.

## Field Verifiers

Field Verifiers play an integral role at Regenified. These are the individuals responsible for gathering the data from each farm or ranch necessary to determine verification status. The presentation of the field verifiers findings to the Review board with accuracy and objectivity is essential. Activities that compromise the integrity of the program are prohibited.

### Prohibited Activities of Field Verifiers:

- Accept any gifts, favors, or any other consideration from consultants, companies that provide consulting services, or parties seeking verification.
- Participate as a member of the Review Board on any case in which the Field Verifier participated in any aspect of data gathering.
- Participate as a member of the Review Board on any case in which the Field Verifier is a related family member\*.
- Receive compensation from Regenified or any other party based on verifications outcomes. Compensation must be unconditional for work performed.
- Field Verifiers and related family members\* may not have ownership in an agricultural consulting business.
- Field Verifiers and related family members\* may not conduct data gathering or onsite verification work. for any farm/ranch in which he or she has consulted in the previous 3 years.
- Field Verifiers and related family members\* may not conduct data gathering or onsite verification work. for any farm or ranch in which he or she has any ownership, equity, or financial interest.

## Understanding Ag Shareholders

It is acknowledged by Regenified that there is an inherent conflict of interest with its ownership structure. While not identical in ownership, the shareholders of Regenified own a controlling interest in the agricultural consulting firm Understanding Ag. Regenified has taken great steps to create a “firewall” between the two firms. Below is a list of prohibited practices and activities.

### Prohibited Activities of Understanding Ag Shareholders and related family:

Understanding Ag shareholders and related family member\* may not:

- Participate in the day-to-day activities of Regenified.

- Participate in, assist, or be a member of the Review Board.
- Participate in the gathering of data or onsite assessment related to field verification.
- Provide Regenified or any of its employees incentive to refer clients, farms, or ranches to Understanding Ag for consulting business.
- Provide Regenified or any of its employees incentive to alter or misrepresent any data or findings collected from field verification related to Understanding Ag clients.

*\*Related family is defined as a member of the family which includes spouse, ancestor, lineal descendent or a spouse of lineal descendent.*



## 6. Change Log

1.2.1 Changed to “all tracts” instead of “all fields” to enable effective verification of large, contiguous landbases	Feb 12, 2023
1.6.3 Tier 5 scores and tests must be maintained instead of showing continuous improvements.	Feb 12, 2023
3.4.1 Split into two questions (3.4.1 and 3.4.2) to improve accuracy.	Feb 12, 2023
3.5.2 was eliminated to remove the duplication of 3.5.1.	Feb 12, 2023
3.2.3: Language added to include guidance on chemical pesticide restrictions prior to harvest.	March 22, 2023

<b>Regenified Standards Update (April 10, 2024)</b>		
<b>Protocol reference number</b>	<b>Change made</b>	<b>Justification for Change</b>
<b>1.3 Tier 2</b>		
1.3.2	Changed language from “The farm/ranch written regenerative plan following the criteria set forth in section 2.0 of this document, must be in place” to “The farm/ranch written regenerative plan following the criteria set forth in section 2.0 of this document must be in place and approved by the Regenified™ Review Board.”	Combined 1.3.2 and 1.3.4. Both dealt with the plan requirements..
1.3.4	Deleted “The farm/ranch written plan must be approved by the Regenified™ Review Board”	Combined this requirement into 1.3.2
<b>1.4 Tier 3</b>		
1.4.2	Added “The farm/ranch written regenerative plan following the criteria set forth in section 2.0 of this document must be in place and approved by the Regenified™ Review Board.”	Included clarifying language requiring a farm plan for operations that start at or progress to Tier 3.
<b>1.5 Tier 4</b>		

1.5.2	Added “The farm/ranch written regenerative plan following the criteria set forth in section 2.0 of this document must be in place and approved by the Regenified™ Review Board.”	Included clarifying language requiring a farm plan for operations that start at or progress to Tier 4.
<b>1.6 Tier 5</b>		
1.6.2	Added “The farm/ranch written regenerative plan following the criteria set forth in section 2.0 of this document must be in place and approved by the Regenified™ Review Board.”	Included clarifying language requiring a farm plan for operations that start at or progress to Tier 5.
<b>2.6 Principle of Living Roots</b>		
2.6.1	Removed “where all three corresponds to root growth”	Removed unnecessary language.
<b>3.2 Principle of Disturbance</b>		
3.2.1	<p>Changed language from “There must be a reduction in tillage passes from previous verifications for Tiers 2-3 and score must be 50 or higher for Tier 4-5. Tillage passes include all full width and row cultivation, in addition to planting. For a multiple year rotation without tillage followed by an occasional tillage pass, divide tillage passes by the years in the rotation for a percentage listed in parenthesis in the table below</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">to the following</p> <p>“For Tier 2 there must be a reduction in tillage passes from conventional production practices to current production practices. For Tier 3 there can be no more than one tillage pass per year. For Tier 4 there can be no more than one tillage pass every 2 years. For Tier 5 there can be no more than one tillage pass every 4 years” and deleted the unnecessary scoring table.</p>	Added clarifying language and established separate criteria for Tier 4 and Tier 5 making scoring table obsolete

3.2.3	Changed language that previously stated “from the initial verification to the most recent verification to now say “from one tier to the next higher tier”	Changed language to reflect improvements needed to move from one tier to the next
3.2.4	Added new criteria “Prior to the use of any pesticide (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides), a basic pest management plan must be developed. Threshold values and locations should be determined for all target pests. The plan should include: 1) expected target pests, 2) planned monitoring strategies and treatment thresholds, 3) planned chemical suppression techniques including rates and timing 4) alternatives considered such as cultural, biological, or mechanical suppression techniques.	Included the requirement for a pest management plan enabling growers to develop a strategy that can aid in the reduction of the use of pesticides and encourage exploration of other non-chemical approaches.
3.2.5	Changed language from “The recovery period should be long enough to ensure full recovery on most perennial plants in the grazing area.” to “The recovery period between disturbance events (grazing, trampling, whole plant biomass removal, burning, etc), should be long enough to ensure full recovery on most perennial plants in the management area.”	Included clarifying language to indicate that disturbance events could be more than just grazing.
3.2.6	Changed language from “The grazing period should be short enough to prevent most second bite opportunities during the grazing period” to the following “The impact period (grazing, trampling, whole plant biomass	Highlighting the fact that the impact period may not just be from grazing but also from other impact events.

	removal, burning, etc), should be long enough to ensure full recovery on most perennial plants in the management area.”	
3.2.7	Deleted “The length of the average grazing period should be shorter than the previous evaluations”	Clarified that grazing management does not necessarily need to change annually.
3.2.8	Changed “Hay acres should be rotated annually” to “Areas used for whole plant biomass removal (haying, silage, biofuel, etc.) should be rotated annually.”	Included all types of biomass removal in this requirement.
3.2.9	Changed “Hay should be fed where it was harvested” to “whole plant biomass should be fed where it was harvested.”	Included all types of biomass removal in this requirement.
3.2.10	Changed “For Tier 2-3, hay should not be sold or exported from the farm” to “For Tier 2-3, whole plant biomass should not be sold or exported from the farm”	Included all types of biomass removal in this requirement.
3.2.11	Changed from “For Tier 4-5, hay must not be sold or exported from the farm.” to “For Tier 4-5, whole plant biomass must not be sold or exported from the farm.”	Included all types of biomass removal in this requirement.
3.2.12	Changed from “There should be a reduction in hay acres from previous evaluations.to “There should be a reduction in whole plant biomass acres from previous evaluations.”	Included all types of biomass removal in this requirement.
3.2.13	Changed “There should be a reduction in rate or applications of pesticides used on the	Changed language to reflect improvements needed to move from one tier to the next

	grasslands from previous evaluations.” to “To move to the next higher tier there should be a reduction in rate or applications of pesticides used on grasslands from the previous tie evaluations to tier.”	
3.2.14	Added new criteria “Prior to the use of any pesticide (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides), a basic pest management plan must be developed. Threshold values and locations should be determined for all target pests. The plan should include: 1) expected target pests, 2) planned monitoring strategies and treatment thresholds, 3) planned chemical suppression techniques including rates and timing 4) alternatives considered such as cultural, biological, or mechanical suppression techniques.	Added new criteria for all perennial crops to establish threshold values for the use of pesticides.
<b>3.4 Principle of Diversity</b>		
3.4.1	Changed language from “Cropland - 3 functional groups (warm, cool, grass, broadleaf, legume) must be present in the entire rotation in the form of cash crops, cover crops and/or annual forages.” to “Cropland - Three functional groups (warm, cool, grass, broadleaf, legume, shrub, tree) must be present in the entire rotation in the form of cash crops, cover crops draftand/or annual forages.”	Added language including shrubs and trees into possible diversity of plant communities.

3.4.3	<p>Changed language from “Grassland – 3 functional groups (warm, cool, grass, broadleaf, legume) should be present in the grassland.” to “Grassland – Three functional groups (warm, cool, grass, broadleaf, legume, shrub, tree ) should be present in the grassland.”</p>	<p>Added language including shrubs and trees into possible diversity of plant communities.</p>
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**3.6 Principle of Livestock Integration and Livestock Husbandry**

3.6.1	<p>Deleted the following obsolete table:  Score Acres  0 0  25 0 – 25%  50 25 – 50%  75 50 – 75%  100 75 – 100%</p>	<p>Actual percentage of acres with livestock integration is used to score this item so table was no longer needed.</p>
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3.6.3	<p>Added: “Poultry must have adequate shade for a significant portion of the flock. Generally, this should be equal to 25% of the house size. It should be spaced appropriately across the available area. For Tier 2 and 3 this shade can be artificial. For Tier 4 and 5 at least 25% of the shade could be natural shade from trees or shrubs”</p>	<p>Shade is the primary enticement for poultry to go outside. Added criteria for a shade requirement for poultry.</p>
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3.6.4	<p>Added “Stationary poultry houses must have doors with adequate locations and size to allow the majority of the flock both visual and physical access outside.”</p>	<p>Added criteria for outside access.</p>
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3.6.5	<p>Added “Stationary poultry houses should achieve daily outside activity on a minimum of 40% of the flock.”</p>	<p>Added criteria for outside access.</p>
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3.6.6	Added "Poultry in portable structures with a covered roof that are moved frequently across a pasture or other vegetated area are not subject to the secondary shade requirements."	Added criteria for portable structures.
3.6.7	Added "Grazing animals such as cattle, sheep, swine and goats cannot be in concrete or bare dirt confinement more than 60 days total over their life for any activities."	Included a criteria limiting confinement activities of certain livestock.
3.6.11	Added "Tier 1 and Tier 2 do not have any regenerative feed requirements for livestock. "	Added clarifying language that was previously only included in section 1.4.2
3.6.12	Added "For Tier 3 livestock operations must have 40-60% of annual feed inputs, including grazing, on-farm produced or purchased feed, produced regeneratively meeting Regenified's standard. For Tier 4 livestock operations must have 60-80% of annual feed inputs, including grazing, on-farm produced or purchased feed, produced regeneratively meeting Regenified's standard. For Tier 5 livestock operations must have 80-100% of annual feed inputs, including grazing, on-farm produced or purchased feed, produced regenerative."	Added clarifying language that was previously only included in section 1.4.2
<b>3.7 Water Cycle</b>		
3.7.2	Changed language from "Infiltration assessment - unsaturated hydraulic conductivity. Single Ring Infiltrometer or Mini Disk Infiltrometer will be used annually." to "Infiltration	Removed use of obsolete Mini Disk Infiltrometer. Changed from annual improvements to upward trend to allow for variations caused by drought or extremely wet

	rate should be increasing every year.” to “Infiltration assessment - unsaturated hydraulic conductivity. Single ring Infiltrometer will be used annually. Infiltration rate should be on an upward trend.”	conditions.
3.7.3	Changed language from “Infiltration assessment - saturated hydraulic conductivity. The Dual Head Infiltrometer will be used initially and then only every three years. Infiltration rate should be increasing every 3 years.” to “Infiltration assessment - saturated hydraulic conductivity. The Dual Head Infiltrometer will be used annually. Infiltration rate should be on an upward trend.”	To increase accuracy Dual Head Infiltrometer will be used annually.
<b>3.8 Mineral Cycle</b>		
3.8.5	Deleted “Phosphorus application should be at or below crop removal rates, or no application needed.”	This was a duplicate that was already required in 3.8.1

<b>Regenified Standards Update 8-15-2024</b>		
3.8.5	Deleted “The recovery period between disturbance events (grazing, trampling, whole plant biomass removal, burning, etc), should be long enough to ensure full recovery on most perennial plants in the management area.” Inserted “The disturbance event (grazing, trampling, whole plant	Correction of language



	biomass removal, burning, etc) should be short enough to prevent continued impact on plants after regrowth has started during the same disturbance time period.”	
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