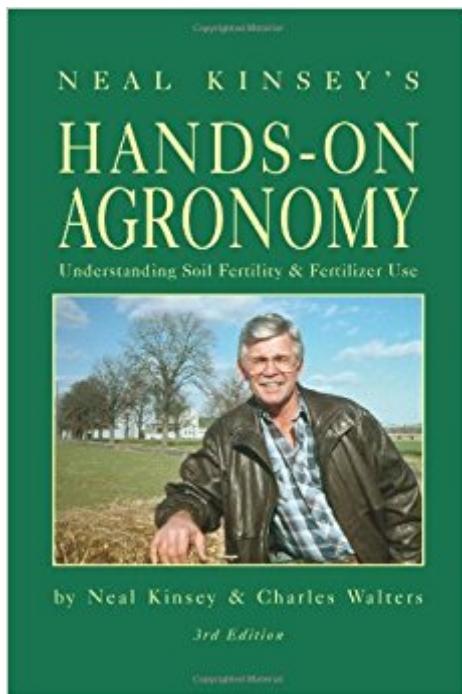


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# Hands-On Agronomy, 3rd Edition



## **Synopsis**

The soil is much more than just a substrate that anchors crops in place. An ecologically balanced soil system is essential for maintaining nutritious, resilient crops. In *Hands-On Agronomy*, Neal Kinsey shows us how working with the soil to bring it into balance produces healthier crops with a higher yield. Meticulously revised and expanded, this new edition includes additional chapters and updated information to further enhance Kinsey's sophisticated, easy-to-live-with system of fertility management that focuses on balance, not merely quantity of fertility elements. *Hands-On Agronomy* covers the major fertility elements, stressing that accurate soil analyses and audits are key for quality crop production. Discover why simple N-P-K fertilization is not enough to sustain and nurture your soil to optimal health. With Kinsey's help, understand the proper use, timing and application of manures, compost, tillage and micronutrients. Kinsey demonstrates how to recognize and remedy common problems and examines the importance of balancing soil nutrients for maximum yield. In addition, the "whats and whys" of nutrients, soil drainage, tilth, soil structure and organic matter are explained in detail. In this truly comprehensive manual on soil management, Kinsey has drawn on his experience with thousands of students to clarify and expand on the lessons taught therein, making *Hands-On Agronomy* more accessible -- and informative -- than ever.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book has been key to our goal of developing a self-sustainable homestead. It all starts with the soil and Neal Kinsey explains why and how. If the soil is healthy, the plants will be healthy, which means the animals and people eating them will be healthy. It also means the manure will be

healthy. One of the things I learned from this book is that not all manure and compost are equal! Mr. Kinsey subscribes to the Albrecht System which works toward balancing the soil. There is a lot of science in this book (which is pretty much written for the lay person), along with a lot of personal examples of its principles and case studies. Having our soil properly tested for micronutrients and then remineralizing it is a long-term investment in our homestead and everything on it. No matter your farming philosophy, this book is an excellent and helpful resource.

This book is composed of never ending anecdotes with very little or no supporting evidence. I don't even know if this book was even copy-edited. If you're a scientist with an evidence based and logical way of thinking, this book is going to drive you up the wall. You're going to want to throw it across the room in frustration because Neal Kinsey can't write worth crap, nor can he present coherent ideas at all. This book was written by a person whose career is literally an age of technology and research ago. His sayings aren't born out by time tested trials nor does most of what he writes make sense. Get the Western Fertilizer Handbook and you'll be in much clearer hands. This isn't for self education, it's a tome of a rambling old man who wants to boost his ego every ten pages.

I have been following Neal since before he wrote the first edition of Hands-On Agronomy. His insight into soil fertility as outlined by Dr. Albrecht continues to inspire me and should be required reading by anyone looking to understand the relationship of all living organisms to the balance of nutrients available in the soil. Optimum production of any crop is only achieved with proper levels of all major, secondary and micronutrients. I know of no other place that lays these optimum levels and their relationship out so plainly and so easy to comprehend.

Great reading for anyone who is concerned about the health of their soil and making sure your products have the necessary micronutrients, whether it be livestock or garden products. I've read many, many books on soil health and this is one of my favorites right next to my books from Albrecht.

As a farmer, I was excited to learn more about colloidal exchanges, but after reading Neal's book, I realized it's really just one big plug for his soil testing company and is incredibly hard to follow. Throughout the book, he uses anecdotes to make points about soil that are hard to connect, and even harder to try and figure out how to apply to your own operation. I would recommend the

handbook on soil minerals by Agricola from Soilminerals.com who also bases his formula on the work of Dr. William Albrecht

This guy clearly has a lot of experience and he seems to be genuinely interested in passing it along, but it is very difficult to use. He uses the first person, which makes the book come off as an advertisement for him, which I don't think was his intention. Plus, he has so much information in his head that he just plops it down wherever it occurs to him. There are so many interactions between the elements that it is very difficult to treat any individual one in isolation. Even so, the book does a poor job. For example, discussions of manganese and boron are spread throughout multiple chapters. In order to use this book, you need to go through it and take notes, to extract the important information from the anecdotes. You cannot just pick it up, look in the index, and find the piece of information that you need.

Must read, or rather must own. Information dense and no commercial grower should be without this whether you agree with Kinsey's ideas or not.

It's time to move past N-P-K and get the whole story on your soil! A must read for any farmer or gardener.

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