NO-TILL ORGANIC MARKET GARDEN

Producer Case Study

Growing Through Challenge and Change

The Story of Anthony Hoff and Heart & Harvest Homestead

Caddo Parish, Louisiana



USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NO-TILL OMG! Organically Managed Gardening

CAMPTI Field of DREAMS

Building a Life Around the Land

For Anthony Hoff, farming is more than a profession or hobby—it's a way of life centered on family, stewardship, and continuous learning.

As a veteran, husband, father, and homesteader, Anthony has always been drawn to practical skills that foster self-reliance and resilience. His vision for Heart & Harvest Homestead grew from a desire to produce healthy food, care for the land, and create a meaningful future for his family. During the course of the No-Till Organic Market Garden project, Anthony and his wife welcomed a daughter into their growing family and later celebrated the arrival of another child, making the farm's long-term sustainability even more important.

Located in Shreveport, Louisiana, Heart & Harvest Homestead combines market gardening, fruit production, and diversified agriculture with a strong commitment to soil health. During the project, Anthony made the difficult decision to relocate his farm from Stonewall to Shreveport. Rather than leaving years of investment behind, he carefully moved trees, perennial plantings, and farm infrastructure to the new site, demonstrating the persistence and adaptability that have become hallmarks of his farming journey. Anthony was attracted to regenerative agriculture because it offered a practical approach to improving productivity while reducing dependence on external inputs.

Like many beginning farmers, he faced significant challenges. Flooding, severe weather, squash bug infestations, limited equipment, and the demands of developing infrastructure tested both patience and perseverance. Yet each challenge became an opportunity to learn and adapt.

Participation in the No-Till Organic Market Garden project provided access to education, technical assistance, soil health monitoring, and a network of producers committed to similar goals. These resources helped Anthony refine his management practices and accelerate the development of a resilient farming system.

“I've seen my fair share of 12- to 16-hour days.” — Anthony Hoff



Following a successful biochar burn, Anthony Hoff, his family, and fellow producer David Beeter gather around a Ring of Fire biochar kiln. Farmer-to-farmer collaboration and shared learning were central to the project's success.

Learning Through Innovation

Innovation has been a defining characteristic of Heart & Harvest Homestead from the beginning.

Rather than relying on a single production model, Anthony embraced experimentation and observation. He explored deep mulch systems, compost applications, cover crops, perennial plantings, and diversified crop production as tools for improving soil health and farm resilience. His approach often resembled that of a scientist conducting field trials, testing new combinations and evaluating what worked best under local conditions.

One area of particular interest was biodiversity. Anthony established diverse crop plantings and developed perennial hedgerows designed to support beneficial insects, improve ecological function, and create a more resilient production system. He also invested considerable effort into establishing an orchard containing more than 200 heirloom fruit trees. When the farm relocated during the project, many of those trees were carefully moved and replanted, preserving years of work while demonstrating Anthony's commitment to long-term stewardship and perennial agriculture.

Educational opportunities provided through the project reinforced these efforts. Workshops, farm tours, peer learning, soil health assessments, and one-on-one technical assistance helped Anthony refine management decisions while expanding his understanding of regenerative agriculture.

Key Findings

- Established an orchard with more than 200 heirloom fruit trees
- Adopted deep mulch systems and compost applications
- Implemented cover crops and perennial hedgerows
- Improved biodiversity and habitat for beneficial organisms
- Installed a 30' x 70' NRCS-supported high tunnel
- Increased resilience through diversified production systems



Building Healthy Soil

For Anthony, soil health is not an abstract concept. It is the foundation upon which every other farm decision depends. Early in the project, flooding, pest pressure, and variable growing conditions highlighted the importance of healthy, biologically active soils. Rather than responding with increased inputs, Anthony focused on improving the soil's ability to function naturally.

Deep mulch became one of his most effective tools. Layers of grass clippings, compost, and organic materials protected the soil surface, conserved moisture, reduced weed pressure, and created favorable conditions for soil organisms. Cover crops further supported soil structure while helping cycle nutrients and increase organic matter.

Perennial hedgerows and diverse plantings added another dimension to the system. These features helped support pollinators and beneficial insects while contributing to overall farm biodiversity. Together, these practices created a more balanced and resilient ecosystem.

Over time, Anthony observed improvements in soil function, crop performance, and the farm's ability to recover from environmental stresses. While soil building remains a long-term process, the project reinforced the value of investing in biological health as the foundation of productive agriculture.





Wood chips from local landscaping crews are used as poultry bedding before being composted and returned to the soil, creating a valuable source of organic matter and nutrients for the farm.

Growing a Farm and a Community

Heart & Harvest Homestead demonstrates that regenerative agriculture is about more than growing food—it is about building relationships, sharing knowledge, and creating stronger communities.

Through local food production and direct marketing, Anthony contributes to a growing network of producers working to strengthen regional food systems and provide families with access to nutrient-dense, locally grown food. But his impact extended far beyond his own farm.

As a participant in the No-Till Organic Market Garden project, Anthony played a key role in documenting the stories of fellow producers. Working alongside his brother, he traveled across Louisiana to film interviews, farm tours, and educational videos that captured the experiences, challenges, and successes of project participants. The work often meant long days on the road, early mornings, late evenings, and countless hours behind the camera, but Anthony approached it as a labor of love and a way to serve the farming community.

His background in the military and his strong organizational skills helped keep production schedules moving even when conditions were difficult. More importantly, Anthony's experience as a farmer helped put participants at ease. Because he understood the realities of farming firsthand, producers were willing to share honest stories about their successes, failures, and lessons learned.

At the same time, Anthony was facing challenges on his own farm. Weather events, pest pressure, and crop losses forced him to continually adapt and rethink his approach. Rather than giving up, he pivoted. He explored new crops, expanded perennial plantings, and began focusing on value-added products such as herbal teas made from crops like roselle. Each setback became an opportunity to learn, improve, and move forward.

Throughout the project, Anthony demonstrated a quiet determination that inspired those around him. Whether building soil, establishing an orchard, documenting fellow farmers, or creating new market opportunities, he remained committed to the same goal: producing healthy food, caring for the land, and creating a better future for his family and community.

"Producing healthy food for my family and community has always been worth the hard work." — Anthony Hoff

Looking Forward

Anthony sees farming as a continual process of learning, observation, and improvement.

Future plans for Heart & Harvest Homestead include expanding perennial systems, increasing fruit production, refining regenerative management practices, and continuing to build healthy soils. The orchard, high tunnel, and diversified production system provide a strong foundation for future growth.

He also remains committed to sharing knowledge with other producers interested in regenerative agriculture. By documenting practices, participating in educational programs, and contributing to farmer networks, Anthony helps strengthen the broader movement toward conservation-based farming.



Anthony's talents extend far beyond farming. His skills in design, construction, and problem-solving have helped him build farm infrastructure ranging from rabbit hutches to chicken coops.

Key Lessons Learned

- Healthy soil is the foundation of farm resilience.
- Diversity increases ecological and economic stability.
- Challenges often create opportunities for innovation.
- Observation is one of a farmer's most valuable tools.
- Learning is a lifelong part of regenerative agriculture.

Key Themes from Anthony's Journey

- Veteran Farmers
- Soil Health
- Biodiversity
- Regenerative Agriculture
- Family Farming
- Orchard Development
- Climate Resilience
- Farmer-to-Farmer Learning

Closing Reflection

Anthony Hoff's journey at Heart & Harvest Homestead illustrates the power of perseverance, curiosity, and stewardship. Through regenerative agriculture, he has transformed challenges into opportunities, building a diversified farm that supports both his family and his community. His commitment to soil health, biodiversity, and continuous learning demonstrates how conservation and innovation can work together to create resilient farms for future generations.