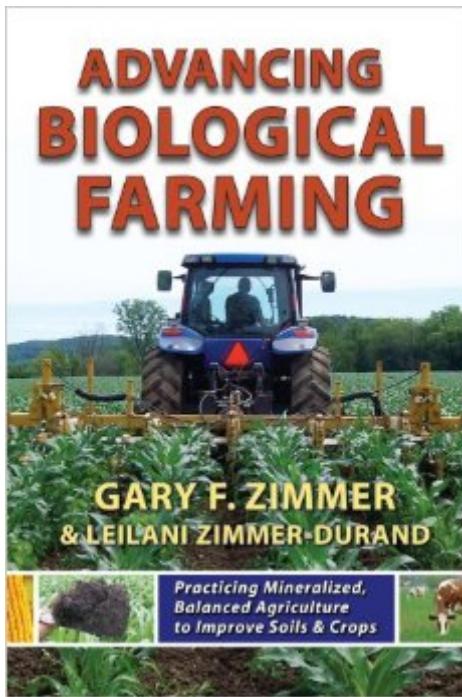


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# Advancing Biological Farming



## **Synopsis**

One of the leading authorities on biological farming, Zimmer is recognized for improving farming by restoring soils. Arguing that an optimally productive soil contains a balance of inorganic minerals, organic materials and living organisms, he relies less on modern improvements than on "the things we've learned by improving fertility in a natural, sustainable way over many years." This book offers invaluable scientific support for committed organic farmers as well as conventional farmers who'd like to reduce chemical inputs and use natural processes to their advantage. Advancing Biological Farming updates and expands upon Zimmer's classic, *The Biological Farmer*. Technically precise yet written in friendly language, this book is for everyone who wants a future in bio-logical farming.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #195,362 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 inÂ  Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Horticulture #117 inÂ  Books > Business & Money > Industries > Agriculture #238 inÂ  Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Botany

## **Customer Reviews**

As a beginning farmer with depleted soil, this book is an invaluable resource. It goes beyond the typical organic discussions and focuses on how to successfully rebuild soil on all fronts- chemically (minerals), biologically (soil life), and structurally. The information and advice on fertilizers- which ones are beneficial to soil life and which ones are harmful- is extremely helpful and hard to find elsewhere. This book also effectively switches from the big picture down to specific details of soil quality and back again, all the while remaining very clear and easy to understand. I like the way the authors use repetition in a way that helps you really retain the information without being annoying at all. I highly recommend this book.

Prescriptive book for improving crop production. Could be applied to gardeners but best for

small/med/large farmers. If you are a gardener, first try Steve Solomon's book "The Intelligent Gardener". Big focus is on soluble calcium sources teamed with boron. Good explanation and examples of adding minor nutrients like iron, manganese, copper, zinc. If you team this book with Michael Astera's "Ideal Soil" book, you would have a detailed prescription on how much and what type of soil amendments to apply based on spreadsheet type calculations. As an aside, I saw Gary Zimmer present his ideas at a winter workshop/meeting in West Branch, MI in Feb 2013. He is a dynamic speaker, very funny and uses great examples. Highly recommend his book and seeing him in person if you have a chance.

I have read many soils books and studied soils at the University as part of my degree. Even if I were a beginner, I would feel that this is one of the best soils books available. It provides the basic understanding as well as details one needs to enhance their garden or fields. Take this information and add to it Eliot Coleman's The New Organic Grower and The Winter Harvest Handbook and it makes growing nutritious, less disease prone foods and crops much simpler. It provides great insight into reading and applying the information from a soils test as well as really understanding the biology of the soil.

This is a practical book, that is written by a farmer who at the end of the day has to make money. Since he is certified organic he discusses limitations in what he can use and has solutions for that and mentions products that are better if they were approved he would use. Those products are OK to use for conventional farmers. It has been very educational to me, I plan to read it again and use it as a reference. He is growing soybeans, corn and forage crops. Those crops have low profit margins and sometimes it is a loser because of commodity prices. Once you have the basic concept down that the soil is alive and conventional production fertility kills most of that life off. It gets easier. There is no political agenda or bashing of conventional farming, corporate farming or the suppliers for conventional farming. So you don't have to filter that out in reading the book. Farming is a tough gig regardless of the farming system. Those who know nothing about farming have a lot of opinions and if things were done that way we would starve. I have changed how I see crop production. That was the easy part. Now how to do that and not go broke is the hard part. But that is always the hard part of farming is to farm and not go broke. So yes I like the book and recommend it to all farmers.

I think big farmers need to adopt these methods on their way to natural no-till farming. The info in

this book is really pretty good. Feed the life in the soil and let the soil life feed the plant life instead of tilling and fertilizing the soil life out of existence!

Advancing Biological Farming: Practicing...Gary F. Zimmer & Leilani Zimmer-DurandExcellent book. Mr. Zimmer has done more for the advancing of farming for nutrient density than many of the so called gardening experts who read a book and then regurgitate it back - repackaged as something new and innovative.

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