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Like many in the biochar industry, I came to it from a soil and agriculture perspective. The Terra Preta soils in the Amazon Basin fascinated me. Hundreds of research papers showed that biochar could improve soil health, crop yields, water holding, and nutrient retention. In the early 2010s, I expected the industry to scale rapidly to meet growing demand from the agricultural sector.

But that didn't happen — and I became disillusioned by biochar in agriculture. Demand for biochar in agriculture has grown, for sure, but not in the way I expected. Biochar was too expensive. The benefits were oversold and many in the industry fell into magical thinking. Applying biochar was difficult and time consuming. The benefits, while notable in some situations, are not as obvious in high quality soils and yield benefits only pay for themselves in certain high value crops. Most importantly, many in the biochar industry were focused on biochar as a solution unto itself, rather than a solution to particular problems faced by farmers.

In the past few years though, my thinking on biochar in agriculture has evolved and my optimism has grown. But instead of a cure-all, I now believe that biochar will succeed, at least initially, in targeted solutions: as a component of horticultural growing media, as an ingredient in enhanced efficiency fertilizers, and yes, as a soil amendment in certain situations.

To drive this demand, USBI is jumping feet first into the agricultural sector. We are working with Washington State University to implement large scale trials of biochar and biochar-enhanced fertilizers with commercial farms this month. We are reaching out to universities to conduct commercially-relevant research on

using biochar in horticultural media. We will be hosting Train-the-Trainer sessions starting this fall to educate agricultural professionals about biochar and USDA cost-share programs, in conjunction with American Farmland Trust. And most importantly, to lead this effort, we are hiring for a Director of Agricultural Markets.

It will not be easy, and there is a lot of hard work to be done, but biochar as an agricultural input is poised for rapid growth, finally.



Myles Gray
Executive Director

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The North American Biochar Conference, organized by USBI, has become the premier gathering for the biochar industry in North America and beyond. For 2025, as interest and momentum within the biochar community continue to grow, we anticipate an exceptional turnout of over 1,000 attendees and 75+ exhibitors and sponsors.

We're excited about the momentum building, and we want to make sure you have the opportunity to be front and center. Now is the ideal time to confirm your sponsorship and/or exhibitor spot. Early commitment means:

- Expanded exposure across our early marketing and promotional campaigns
- Prime placement in the exhibitor hall

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USBI is entering an exciting new era. As the biochar industry continues to grow - we are thrilled to announce that USBI is undergoing a rebrand to more powerfully reflect our mission, our values, and the community we serve. This will include a new visual identity, messaging, and communications that align with the future of the biochar industry.

We look forward to unveiling our new look in the months ahead.

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The first-ever Biochar Carbon Removal Credits from an asphalt application have officially been issued and sold!



In an exciting collaboration, Oregon Biochar Solutions, NCAT, and Verde produced and installed 110 tons of cold mix asphalt blended with five tons of biochar this past December. This project proved that combining cold mix asphalt with biochar can deliver major greenhouse gas reductions — a breakthrough for moving forward sustainable built environment options.

The results? Eight tons of carbon removal credits issued by Puro.earth, pre-purchased by one of the world's largest financial institutions focused on carbon removals!

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Credit: Verde Resources

Help Spread the Word: We're Hiring!

USBI is recruiting for a Director of Agricultural Markets to grow demand for biochar as an agricultural input.

We are looking for an experienced self-starter to grow demand for biochar as a soil amendment, as an ingredient in enhanced efficiency fertilizers and biologicals, and as a component of potting media and horticultural substrate.

We request that only highly qualified candidates submit applications to jobs@biochar-us.org. The role will be contractual with annual compensation of \$140,000 - \$180,000 as a contractor.

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Connect and collaborate at in-person or online events!

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April 28–May 2

[DC Climate Week](#): Providing opportunities to engage with policymakers, fund climate solutions, and showcase cutting-edge technologies
Washington, DC

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May 6

[Your Biochar, Certified: Understanding the World Biochar Certificate](#): Join the webinar with Carbon Standards International and the International Biochar Initiative
Virtual

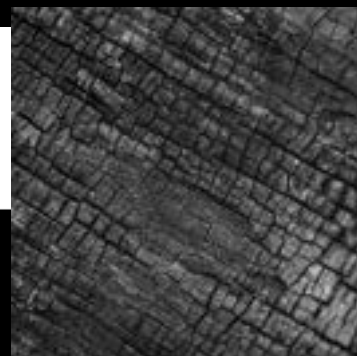
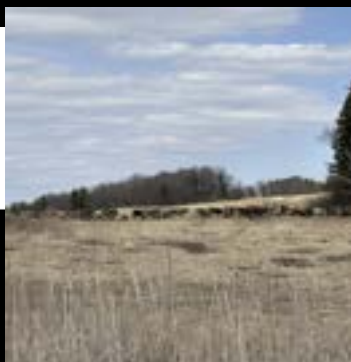
May 7

[Biochar On Site: Monthly Network Video Meet Up](#)
Virtual

May 20–21

[Carbon Unbound, East Coast](#): The Global Business Summit Accelerating Gigaton-Scale CDR
New York, NY

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[Biochar Today Podcast: Opportunities and Challenges for the Future of Biochar](#)

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[Shelburne Farms tests biochar's potential to reduce methane emissions](#)

Shelburne Farms is a 1,400-acre dairy farm and education center is testing biochar as a methane mitigation tool, with plans to expand field trials and host a biochar summit to deepen industry knowledge.

Stay connected!

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