



US Biochar Initiative Newsletter

November 2020

USBI UPDATE – TOM MILES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Biochar Acceptance Growing

One positive sign that biochar acceptance is growing is major distributors' increased interest in biochar products for turf and landscaping. Biochars that were once only available in certain regions are now being produced and supplied more widely. We are also hearing of potential franchised biochar production.

Uptick in Online Meetings

A recent uptick in online meetings means that many good presentations on biochar are now available. See the events calendar below showing webinars from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Green Carbon (hosted by the UK Biochar Research Centre), the US Forest Service, and the Australia New Zealand Biochar Industry Group. You can also access recorded presentations from professional societies like the Society of American Foresters and American Society of Agronomy.

Don't miss National Biochar Week's extensive program of experts and updates on December 7 - 11!



TAX BREAK STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2020 USBI CONTRIBUTIONS

There's still time for you to get a 2020 CARES Act tax benefit for a USBI contribution ([corporate and individual donations](#)) Here's the scoop on the new law:

- Allows all taxpayers to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300, even if you do not itemize.
- For those who do itemize their deductions, it allows for cash contributions to qualified charities to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year.
- Temporarily suspends the requirements for required minimum distributions (RMD) for the 2020 tax year. Many donors use their RMD to make a gift from their IRAs. If you are 70½ or older, you can still make a gift from your IRA or name us as a beneficiary. In addition, there are some new ways you can receive financial benefits and help the charities you care about.

- Increases the cash contribution limit from corporations from 10% to 25% in 2020. Charitable deductions from corporations in excess of 25% may be deducted for up to 5 years under the usual limits.

DONATE NOW



2020 BIOCHAR LEARNER SURVEY WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT BIOCHAR?

*The first 100 survey takers receive a free
USBI Directory listing valued at \$25!*



THERE'S STILL TIME TO TAKE THE LEARNER SURVEY and win a free directory listing!

Thanks to everyone who took our Biochar Learner Survey last month. We've received some great ideas but we want to hear more! So, bring it on and help make our Learning Center the best in the industry!

A directory listing is a great way let your fellow biochar proponents know where to find you and showcase your business or activities.

NEW BIOCHAR LEARNING CENTER (BLC)

Kelpie Wilson, USBI Outreach and Education Committee Chair

This month, we continue to expand the Biochar Learning Center database on the [USBI website](#) bringing you the **most current and useful articles, websites, videos and other resources.**

New November Resources

How to Make Biochar-Enhanced Compost

This video shows you how to make biochar-enhanced compost that can be used to improve soil conditions and yields for farmers everywhere. Learning level - beginner

A Field Guide to Biochar Water Treatment

This eBook describes a low-cost DIY drinking water treatment system using biochar to remove chemical pollutants. Synthesizing field experience with academic research, it's written in plain language that non-experts can appreciate and apply. Learning level – intermediate

“Let the Green, Save Green” Urban Soil Restoration: Helping Communities Meet Stormwater Management Requirements

In the US, lawns are the largest agricultural crop at approximately 40 million acres and growing. These acres can act as green infrastructure when biochar is used to manage urban runoff and pollution. Learning level - intermediate

Biochar and Livestock

Biochar has many uses, including in the production of livestock. The Nebraska Forest Service and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Department of Animal Science have teamed up on two projects to investigate those uses. Learning level - intermediate



MEET BIOCHAR PRACTITIONER

CHUCK HEGBERG

Restoration Ecologist and USBI Board Member

Each month we will interview biochar practitioners from North America to hear about their challenges and successes with biochar. This month we feature Restoration Ecologist and USBI Board Member Chuck Hegberg.

[More](#)

"Biochar can achieve the same results as activated carbon but at a much lower cost." C.H.

BIOCHAR EVENTS CALENDAR

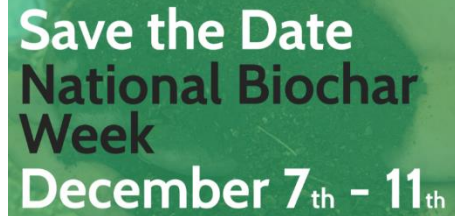
November 9 - December 4 [Ag Expo and International Sustainable Winegrowing Summit](#) features over 25 hours of live and recorded content, [Registration is still open!](#)

November 10 - 19 [Cornell Cooperative Extension Biochar Webinar Series](#) (free) [Registration is still open!](#)

November 26 Australia New Zealand Biochar Industry Group (ANZBIG) Biochar for Animal Health, Wealth & Climate 1-2:30 pm (AEDT) [Register here](#) with password 1W9p%Ja8

December 7- 11 National Biochar Week (NBW) 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. EST each day (free)

The development of the biochar industry has the potential to be world-changing. NBW will focus on "Biochar in the Real World" and spotlight biochar uses, implementation, and markets. [Register here.](#)

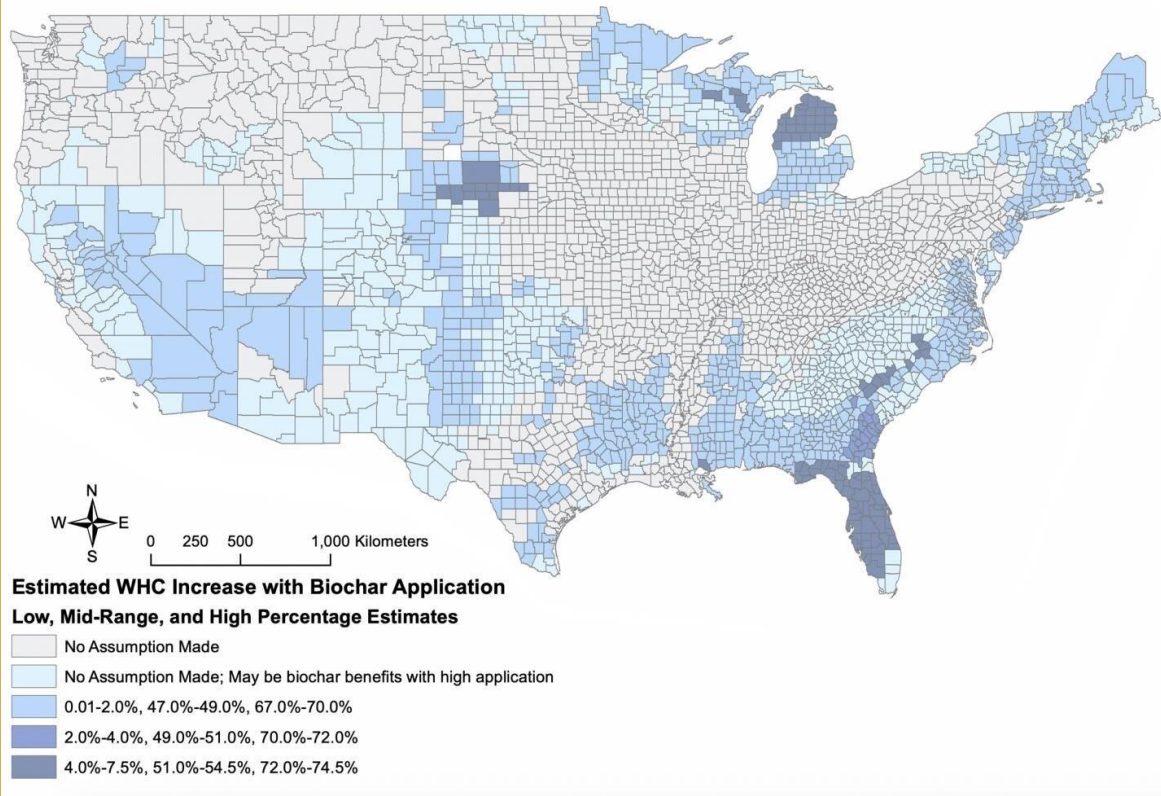


Save the Date
National Biochar
Week
December 7th - 11th

BIOCHAR NEWSLINKS

- ▶ [Near the town of Paradise, members of the Mechoopda Maidu community received fire prevention training](#) from Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS) to help them protect their ancestral lands. CHIPS also has approval to provide further assistance by converting an old mill site on the tribe's land into a community-scale biomass power plant. The firm will generate clean energy from forest biomass, sell it to Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), and create byproducts such as biodiesel and biochar.
- ▶ [Could biochar be the solution for Anaerobic Digestion plants with low gas yield?](#) Tech investors share their findings in this article behind a paywall at Bioenergy News.
- ▶ [The safety of a proposed pyrolysis plant](#) that would process old railroad ties is being questioned by neighbors. The North Carolina company, International Tie Disposal, claims it will make biochar from the process but, by definition, biochar must be made from uncontaminated feedstocks, so their carbon product may not qualify as "biochar." The company's permit application is still under review.
- ▶ [In the best-case scenarios for some regions, extensive use of biochar could save farmers a little more than 50% of the water](#) they now use to grow crops. That represents a significant immediate savings combined with the established environmental benefits of biochar according to a new study from Rice University. (See chart next page.)

Increase in Water-Holding Capacity with Biochar Application



- **The World Economic Forum is offering US cities help to create urban reforestation hubs.** The scale of the opportunity is staggering: landscapes across the US alone could support 60 billion new trees with all their benefits to climate, environment, and public health. As these trees reach the end of their lives, they can provide a range of products that include lumber, mulch, and biochar.



- **A Colorado law regulating waste cannabis biomass disposal requires diluting this waste stream** by at least 50% to discourage diverting the psychoactive substance for illegal use. The dilution requirement increases the amount of waste that growers must dispose. New exemptions to the rule will allow growers to 1; compost the waste or 2; convert it to biochar for recycling back into the soil or 3; both.

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/features/weed-between-the-lines/alternate-routes/>

- **A team led by Tarleton State University (Texas) researcher Dr. Eun Sung Kan has won a USDA grant** for "Biocarbon-Enhanced Dairy Manure Management Demonstration for Enhanced Water Quality." The Natural Resources Conservation Service project is expected to demonstrate a biocarbon-assisted phytoremediation system for enhancing water quality during dairy manure application in three Texas counties.

- Last month, the **2020 Northeast Texas Fall Dairy Conference offered education credits to CAFO** (concentrated animal feeding operation) managers. Credits were available for learning about topics such as recycled manure bedding, biochar use, manure management options and soil testing for manure management plans.

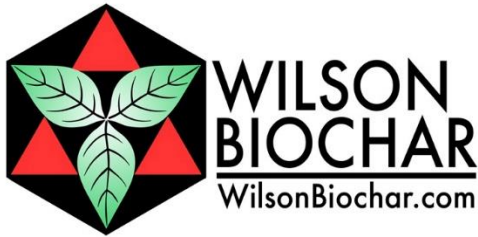
► **Toxic algal blooms in Idaho lakes have become more common and persist for more days each year**, according to Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality. University of Idaho researchers won a \$1 million US EPA grant to test new water treatment technologies including one that employs biochar to capture phosphorus

If you are looking for the latest biochar basic research, check out the International Biochar Initiative. IBI members have access to a monthly summary of biochar research papers.



----- promotional section -----

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Ring of Fire Biochar Kiln

Save 11% ~~\$1,095.00~~ **\$975.00**



Made in the USA. Manufactured in Jackson County, Oregon

**CALL FOR SHIPPING QUOTE:
541-218-9890**



Ring of Fire Biochar Kiln Specifications	
Kiln diameter (with heat shield)	77 inches
Kiln height (with heat shield)	44 inches
Kiln total volume:	3 cubic yards
Kiln weight (fully assembled)	240 pounds
Number of kiln body sections	3
Weight of one kiln body section	40 pounds
Burn time to make 1 cubic yard biochar	4 hours

For more information, please visit WilsonBiochar.com.