

## Leather Learning Series

### Part Two – Leather’s Connection to the Farm

#### *Q&A Session of the Webinar*

Speakers:

- Anne Gillespie, *Director of Impact Acceleration – Textile Exchange*
- Pablo Borrelli, Co-founder of *Ovis 21*, EOV Program Manager at *Savory Institute*
- Charton Jahn Locks, Associate Founder and CEO, *Aliança da Terra*
- Mariano Salerno, Director, Sustainable Products Development, *ACDI*
- Kaley Segboer, Certification Framework Manager, *Canadian Round Table for Sustainable Beef (CRSB)*

To access the recording and presentation: <https://responsibleleather.org/meetings/webinars/>

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**Q: Do the net carbon reduction studies take into account transportation of the production process (i.e. after the meat, fiber etc. leaves the farm) - or is the reduction specific to the farm-level?**

In the case of this study, it was included until processing.

**Q: What’s the point of investing in sourcing raw materials from regenerative livestock farming, when databases such as Aequilibria, Higg etc. do not distinguish between the different techniques?**

The problem with many of the structures that relate with carbon offset is that they do not know enough about regenerative livestock production. We are developing our own platform for environmental services marketing.

**Textile Exchange comments:**

We are also talking with the Gold Standard about eventually calculating emission factors relating to farms covered by the Leather Impact Accelerator. Impact Incentives will allow brands to connect directly with these farms and to talk about their efforts.

**Q: With EOV, is it the farm that is verified and then brands would use the content claim standard as the chain of custody requirements to track the integrity of their inputs? Is this correct?**

We verify individual farms and also secure the chain of custody up to the first processor. The brands need to secure the rest. A mass balance is made to make sure that quantities of raw materials and product match

**Textile Exchange comments:**

Again, with the LIA Impact Incentives we have a means to connect brands to individual farms and make claims accordingly.

**Q: Has regenerative livestock a better Carbon/Water Footprint than Conventional livestock? Why? and how much?**

As I presented in the case of White Oak Pastures, the difference is huge, and it is based in reductions in inputs that have high carbon footprint and also in 2-3 fold increase in photosynthesis, which implies the increase in Soil Organic Carbon. From a +33 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per kilo of beef to -3,5. Same with water. Regenerative livestock can increase infiltration rates significantly

**Q: For the Savory institute representative: Do the GHG emission numbers for cattle production in North America employ GWP or GWP\* system of measurement? How is methane accounted for in the studies being cited?**

I do not have an answer for that. I can share the original report.

**Q: Can you please describe what you mean by the "technical assistance" that retailers are providing to producers? Do you have any idea what is driving retailers to enter into these partnerships?**

Aliança da Terra sends its technicians to each of the farms to guide and monitor each of the farms in the program. Technical assistance consists of socio-environmental assessment of farms, construction and support in the implementation of an adequacy plan. The costs of this technical assistance have been paid by retail companies.

**Q: Are you aware of the Non-Deforestation leather certification from CICB? Is this not enough assurance?**

Yes, we know about the CICB's commitment to zero deforestation, but sustainability is not just deforestation. There are many socio-environmental improvements that are necessary for sustainable leather production, fire protection is one of them. We need to act in a more integrated way.

**Q: Questions for Charton, How would you connect small fashion brands with your work in Brazil? Do you have a contact with NGO or transformers that are selling the leather that you could share?**

We can use the Leather Impact Accelerator and support these producers through sustainable leather credits.

**Q: Do any fashion brands currently working with ACIDI or the Future in the Forest project? If so, how are they contributing?**

Yes. look at <https://tienda.matriarca.com.ar/>

**Q: Can anyone speak to the progress and status of the adoption of organic on-farm practices related to cattle and sheep, and then the complementary adoption of regenerative practices into the organic system? And more specifically any engagement by producers of beef, leather and wool with the Regenerative Organic Alliance and the ROC? Thanks**

**Textile Exchange comments:**

We do not seem to have any information to answer this question. Textile Exchange has been focusing on the two Leather Impact Accelerator scopes only so far: Deforestation/Conversion-Free and Animal Welfare.

**Q: Thanks Charton! Do you mean Wild Fires? or fires for deforestation? Because I understand that nobody can assure against wild fires. Or am I wrong?**

Most fires in Brazil are set by man, accidentally or on purpose. The problem is that in the dry season, these fires get out of control, and invade neighboring areas to those who placed them, which is why the importance of preparing the farms beforehand.

**Q: Can we ensure the traceability of the leather with these credits? thank you for your feedback**

The idea of the credits is precisely to avoid the need for product traceability (beef or leather). In this system, verified farms will receive the amount of credits derived from their annual production, companies concerned with sustainable sourcing can help this producer by buying the credits directly, helping the producer to transform his production in a more sustainable way.

**Textile Exchange comments:**

You can learn more at <https://textileexchange.org/leatherimpactaccelerator/lia-impact-incentives/>