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Alexander Liebman is a 2nd year PhD student studying agroecology at the University of Minnesota in the Applied Plant Sciences program. I use the lens of agroecology – in its biological, political, and economic dimensions – to explore nutrient cycling in agroecosystems and its relation to food sovereignty and ecological conservation. Current projects involve the analysis of carbon dynamics and root competition in silvopastoral systems at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the development of linked socio-ecological agroecosystem assessments as a visiting student at UNAL-Palmira, supported by a USAID Borlaug fellowship. I am also working on the assessment of legume cover crop contributions to soil organic matter pools in row-crop agroecosystems of the upper Midwest USA. I am a leading member of FEAST, a UMN student-led organization that seeks to provide a platform for graduate students in the natural sciences to develop the interdisciplinary literacy needed to critically navigate broader social, economic and political concerns of the food and agricultural sciences. I am also fundraising committee chair of the Twin Cities Agricultural Land Trust, a community-led organization working to develop long-term solutions to land access for market farmers and community gardeners in the Twin Cities metro region. Ultimately, I would like to work with small farmers, NGOs, universities, and government administrations to accurately evaluate, develop, and implement sustainable agriculture techniques that are economically viable, ecologically resilient and restorative, and increase farmer and local community control over land and capital.