



# American Farmland Trust

## SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAM LOOKING TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

New York farmers are facing many challenges including economic viability, increasing extreme weather events and pressure to protect water quality. Improving the health of their soil can help meet these challenges through building resiliency while minimizing inputs.

**HELP FARMERS IMPROVE  
THE HEALTH OF THEIR SOIL  
WITH REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS  
BECOME A PRACTICAL  
SOIL HEALTH SPECIALIST**



Practical Soil Health Specialist Training is an advanced program for private and public agricultural professionals who work with farmers on practical practices to improve soil health.

Participants will receive in-depth training that will strengthen their personal expertise and along with their organization's capacity to provide practical advice and solutions to farmers on improving soil health.

Topics include:

- Soil health principles, functions, and indicators
- Soil health assessment methods
- Soil biology and ecology
- Cover crops and cropping systems
- Adaptive nutrient management and manure management
- No-till and conservation tillage systems
- The economics of soil health
- Soil health demonstrations

### APPLY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY

<https://www.farmland.org/nysoilspecialist>

**Applications are due July 20, 2018**

20 participants will be selected for this unique professional development opportunity and to be part of a diverse network of technical service providers. Selected applicants will have demonstrated the capacity to work with farmers and the aspiration to improve their knowledge of soil health and practical practices to better serve their clients.

The 5 workshops/field days will be two consecutive days each and held in Central and Western NY. Tuition for the program is only \$100, and stipends are available to help with travel expenses and lodging. A limited number of competitive scholarships are also available.

**For more information contact Jeff Ten Eyck at [jteneyck@farmland.org](mailto:jteneyck@farmland.org) or 607-423-4892**



Applicants must be professionals actively working with farmers including crop consultants, agronomists, seed dealers, integration specialists working with equipment dealerships, custom operators, extension educators, conservationists, and other technical service providers. Participants will be selected through a competitive application process and are expected to commit to completing a 3-year program starting September 2018.

The commitment will include:

- Attend a 2-day orientation and introductory workshop in September 2018
- Attend at least 3 of the 4 remaining two day workshops/field days held between November 2018 and December 2019
- Develop a self-designed training plan and teacher tool kit
- Commit to hosting at least one soil health educational event and/or provide technical assistance to at least 5 farmers on soil health related activities by December 2020
- Track and report on soil health educational activities and/or technical assistance activities, and complete pre and post training surveys

Participants will be eligible for modest stipends to help with their educational events or technical assistance activities.

**Completion certificates as a Practical Soil Health Specialist will be awarded to those who complete all program requirements.**

The Practical Soil Health Specialist Training is being coordinated by American Farm Trust in cooperation with:

- Cornell University and Cooperative Extension
- USDA NRCS
- NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Agri-businesses
- Farmers



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