

August 24, 2018

Practical Soil Health Specialist Training Curriculum

Survey of Training Needs

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Practical Soil Health Specialist Training Program. To maximize your learning and networking opportunities we are asking for your input for the later workshops through the informal survey below. The purpose of the survey is to make the Planning Committee aware of soil health-related topics you would like to explore further. The general outline of the program is set, but we may delve into specific topics within each course if there is interest. Furthermore, if you know of interesting specialists for a particular topic, please indicate who they are so we may contact them, if appropriate. In addition, please indicate if you have knowledge within a given topic that you may share with the group. Although much of the content will be provided to you, this program is geared towards facilitating networking and exchange of information amongst your peers, so you are encouraged to share and provide input at any point during the courses.

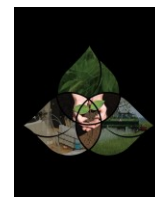
For each of the workshops listed below please answer the following questions:

- Do you have any additional topics for this workshop you would like to see that are not covered?
- Do you know of any experts on this topic?
- Do you have expertise or special skills in this area that you could share with the group?
- Any other needs that you'd like to see explored further?

You can print this out, hand write your responses, and turn it in at the first workshop or you can fill it in electronically and email to Aaron Ristow at aristow@farmland.org.

Workshop 2: Cropping Systems and Cover Crops

This workshop will address field crops and vegetable systems on crop rotation; discuss the benefits of cover crops; cover crop characteristics and seed mixes; adapting cover crop management for differing purposes, soils, and farms; planting dates and methods; harvesting/grazing options; weed control/pest management; and termination. October 23-24 (tentative) 2018, Ithaca.



Workshop 3: Adaptive Nutrient Management for Soil Health

This workshop will focus on nutrient cycling; how soil biology impacts nutrient management; nutrient scavenging; fertilizer recommendations; modeling and tools; manure management and application. Late Winter 2019, site TBD.

Workshop 4: Eliminating, Reducing, or Modifying Tillage for Soil Health

Workshop 4 will cover the benefits of less tillage; no-till systems; planting green; tillage equipment; manure application equipment; equipment field demonstrations. August 2019, tentatively at Empire Farms Days, Seneca Falls.

Workshop 5: Customizing Soil Health Systems to the Farm and Farmer

In the final workshop we plan to cover the economics of soil health; grazing systems; communication skills and storytelling; preparation for participant education and technical assistance activities. The final course agenda is the most open of all the workshops and we will be looking for additional input on this course as the curriculum progresses. November 2019, site TBD.

Thank you for your thoughtful input into developing your specialist training. Please note that we will consider all suggestions, but we may not be able to include them all. If you think of anything later, please don't hesitate to contact Aaron Ristow at aristow@farmland.org or (607) 745-7165.