

Practical Soil Health Specialist Training New York State



WORKSHOP ONE – PROJECT ORIENTATION AND SOIL HEALTH PRINCIPLES

SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25, 2018 • CORTLAND, NY

Welcome to the Practical Soil Health Specialist Training Program! We have been working on designing a series of workshops to help you get an in depth understanding of what soil health is, how it can be measured and monitored over time, and how soil health can be improved through holistic, adaptive, and data-driven soil management.

Activities throughout all five workshops will include a mix of classroom training, hands-on field experiences and opportunities to network with a cadre of professionals that will assist farmers across New York State. You will learn about soil health principles, analysis, reporting, interpretation and management from experts across the state.

SOME NOTES ON LOGISTICS:

The folder is a working document and we will provide you with supplemental material to add as each session progresses. In addition, materials will be made available on the American Farmland Trust website (farmland.org) after each workshop. In the folder and online, we will include pdfs of the presentations, additional reference materials and some of the presenter's recent work, if applicable.

Some parts of the training, including Workshops 1 and 2 will be held outdoors, rain or shine. September and October can be cool in the morning and warm in the afternoon. We recommend that you come prepared with layers for temperature changes, appropriate footwear for the field and for the "classroom", and protection from sun or rain.

In general, you will be responsible for breakfasts, snacks, and dinners for all workshops. For Workshop 1 we can provide dinner with our social hour and, if you are staying at the Comfort Inn in Cortland, breakfast is offered with an overnight stay. We will also provide lunch on Tuesday afternoon. Workshop 1 is being conducted in conjunction with the New York State Conservation District Employees Association Conservation Skills Workshop, therefore coffee and snacks will be provided during breaks. You may want to bring a travel mug to take coffee/tea on the road for the field trip and for various beverage refills during breaks and travel to the field.

If you have additional time during Workshop 1, you may want to read through sections of the Cornell Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health Training Manual (<http://soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu/training-manual/>) and the SARE publication "Building Soils for Better Crops" (<https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Building-Soils-for-Better-Crops-3rd-Edition>). Links to these and other resources can be found in the Resources section at the end of this packet.

We look forward to meeting you and engaging with you over the course of the next five workshops! We hope that the training will surpass your expectations and prove useful to you for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ristow and the Cornell Soil Health Team