



### **Learning Circle #3: Virtual (2 hrs)**

#### **By the end of the session, participants will:**

- ✓ Review soil health practices covered in the last session
- ✓ Review how soil health practices can implement soil health principles
- ✓ Learn more about how soil health practices can impact soil health via Pasa Soil Health Benchmark Study
- ✓ Learn more about soil health practices of particular relevance to their production systems
- ✓ Begin thinking how soil health can be managed on their land through specific practices and systems

**Welcome, Introductions and Check-Ins ( 20 minutes):** What are your farm goals for 2023? How can building healthier soil help you achieve them?

#### **Technical Discussion: Soil Health Practices 2 (90 minutes)**

Discussion leader(s): Sarah Bay Nawa, Pasa Sustainable Agriculture

- Share Pasa's Soil Health Benchmark Study research on how management appears to impact soil health indicators
- Continue discussion on cover cropping, tillage reduction, rotational grazing, nutrient management, organic amendments, mulching
- Deeper dive on practices identified as of interest or relevant to participants
- Small groups based on production system to target more specific practices

**Wrap up & Review (15 minutes):** How can we manage for soil health? Overview of soil health as a management system. Set up for next session's discussion on soil health management plans.

**Homework: *continue and revise soil health goal setting worksheet***

**Adjourn**

**Optional Q & A**



## **Farmers for the Land Pennsylvania Soil Health Cohort**

### **Learning Circle #4: Virtual (2hrs)**

#### **By the end of the session, participants will:**

- ✓ Understand the components of a soil health management plan
- ✓ Draft a soil health management plan for their farm

#### **Welcome, introductions, updates (15 minutes):**

How are things on your farm as we get closer to spring? Are you still feeling the peace of winter, or are things feeling like they are ramping up already?

How is a soil health management plan different than a list of practices you'd like to try?

**Technical Discussion: introduction to soil health management planning and the SHMP template (90 minutes) Discussion leader(s): Lisa Garfield, Future Harvest**

#### **Wrap up and Homework (15 minutes):**

Refine your farm and soil health goals. Begin thinking about how you'd construct a soil health management plan that would integrate with other plans (pasture rotation, planting and harvest schedule, etc.) you work with daily.

For next session – create a draft of your soil health management plan to share with peers and service providers next session. You will have a chance to share and workshop your draft, then finalize it for our presentations at our spring in-person learning circle.

#### **Adjourn**

#### **Optional Q&A**



**March 15, 2023**

**Learning Circle #5: Virtual (2hrs)**

**By the end of the session, participants will:**

- ✓ Workshop their soil health management plan with peers and service providers
- ✓ Establish an implementation timeline for their plan
- ✓ Identify costs associated with their plan and resources to cover those costs, including NE-SARE funding

**Welcome, introductions and updates (20 minutes)**

**Small group breakouts to workshop soil health management plans (30 minutes)**

Questions to ask one another:

1. Does each plan contain all the necessary components?
2. Does each plan have an action plan that is economically and logistically feasible, both in the short term and the long run?
3. Has the farmer identified her support system? Who will she go to for implementation help? Who will she go to if she has questions or needs to troubleshoot?

**Report out and problem-solving (30 minutes)**

- Were there questions identified in small groups that could use input from the larger group?

**Implementation timelines and budgeting (30 minutes)**

**Discussion leader(s):** Amanda Cather, with support from all partners

**Wrap Up and Homework (10 minutes):**

For next time, finalize your soil health management plan and be ready to present to the group!



**Learning Circle #7: On-Farm, 10 AM to 3 PM, April 11, 2023**

**Rowantree Farm, 920 Strock Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA, 17055**

**From our host, Rowan Miller:** There are two ways to get to Strock Dr, from Eppley road or Brindle, it's a dirt road. The farm buildings are right in the middle of the farm.

**By the end of the session, participants will:**

- ✓ Workshop their soil health management plan with peers and service providers
- ✓ Establish an implementation timeline for their plan
- ✓ Visit a farm demonstrating healthy soils practices
- ✓ Network with peers and celebrate their successes

10-10:30 AM: Welcome, snacks, introductions

10:30-12:00: Soil health management plan presentations, Q&A with partners, and next steps

12:00-12:45 Lunch and introductions of new attendees

12:45-2:00 Tour of Rowantree Farm

2:00-3:00 Networking, wrap up and evaluation



## **Twilight Learning Circle: On-Farm, 4pm - 8pm, August 29, 2023**

**Hill Creek Farm 75 Creamery Road, Pottstown, PA 19465**

**From our host, Dorene Pasekoff:**

**Parking:** We have 3 driveways. The driveway into the grassy lot next to the high tunnel has the most room. I'll have a "Save Our Drinking Water" at this driveway entrance and my white Toyota truck parked in the grass. Park next to my truck/whoever else is there. Walk around the high tunnel, past the concrete block building to the red barn, where we'll be eating dinner.

**Lawn Chairs:** Bring chairs! We love visitors and are good on tables, but not so together on chairs.

**Want some Cup Plants?** They are native and good for birds and pollinators. We'll have shovels available! Here's more information on the plant: [Silphium perfoliatum \(Common Cup-plant\)](#)

**By the end of the session, participants will:**

- ✓ Reconnect with one another and celebrate the abundance of the farming season
- ✓ Tour Hill Creek Farm and learn about soil health monitoring and practices on a fast-paced diversified vegetable operation
- ✓ Share their experiences with implementing soil health practices since we last met
- ✓ Share ideas and thoughts about climate change adaptation, hear from service provider guests about opportunities for support

### **Schedule**

**4:00pm** - Welcome, reminders (i.e. FA available for practices and soil health testing, Soil Health Benchmark Study), and thank you to partners and participants (Amanda)

**4:30pm** - Farm Tour of Hill Creek Farm (Dorene)

**5:30pm** - Dinner

**6:00pm** - Share-out and group discussion (Rachel)

### **Discussion Questions:**

- How has this growing season been? What were the highlights and challenges?
- What new soil health practices have you implemented? What are your future soil health plans?
- How is your operation being impacted by climate change? From a production point of view, how have you changed or would like to change your practices to adapt? From a business point of view, are there challenges and opportunities?
- What resources and support would be most helpful to you going forward?