



Greetings,

August 24, 2018

Congratulations! You have been selected as one of twenty successful applicants to participate in the Practical Soil Health Specialist Training Program. You now have the unique opportunity to become part of a cadre of professionals that will assist farmers across New York State in improving their soil's health and meeting their goals. Our first workshop will be September 24 and 25 in Cortland and is a mandatory session. The agenda is attached, and other details on the session will be sent out soon. If you decide to not participate in the project, please contact us immediately so that your slot can be offered to another applicant.

You were selected from a large and highly competitive applicant pool with the expectation that you have the talent and ability to complete all the requirements. It is essential that you are committed to completing the course and associated tasks, listed below. Please consider them carefully, and if you believe you can fulfill your obligations, please sign and return the attached affirmation form. Project requirements include:

- Return the signed affirmation form by August 31, 2018
- Pay the \$100 participation fee by September 12, 2018 (payable via check or credit card)
- Attend the first workshop and project orientation (agenda attached) on September 24 and 25 in Cortland
- Attend at least three of the four remaining workshops (tentative schedule attached)
- Administer at least one farmer soil health related event or provide one on one soil health technical assistance to five farmers by December 31, 2020.
- Complete initial and close-out surveys along with workshop evaluations
- Track and file quarterly reports on educational and technical assistance activities
- Develop an outreach plan (AFT format and assistance provided)
- Develop a teacher tool kit (AFT assistance provided)

AFT will provide reasonable travel reimbursement and overnight accommodations for participants over 60 miles away (one way) from the workshop site and lunch at all sessions. Funds are not available to compensate for your time away from work and you will need to provide your own breakfasts and dinners.

Attached you will find an optional survey where you can let us know what other soil health related topics you would like to see addressed. We will do our best to include these topics. In addition, you may be invited to share your expertise on a particular topic at one of the trainings.

Once you have affirmed your participation in the project we will send you additional information on the first workshop in Cortland including overnight accommodations.

As always, do not hesitate to contact Jeff Ten Eyck (jiteneyck@farmland.org; (607) 423-4892) or Aaron Ristow (aristow@farmland.org; 607-745-7165) with questions, concerns or suggestions.

Once again, congratulations on your acceptance into this competitive program!

Sincerely,
Jeff and Aaron