Hi my name is Willie and I’m calling from the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District.

Can I please speak to the person who manages your hay production?

I would like to tell you about a project that Fairbanks Soil and Water is working on and then ask you a few questions about your hay fields.

We are working on a project to try and find affordable methods of improving hay fields that are declining in production. This project will investigate the effectiveness of using mechanical over-seeding that slightly discs and then seeds new grass into older hay fields. It will also measure the effectiveness of using a radish cover crop to break up compaction and improve soil health. Three local farmers are participating in the study and have generously donated their time and equipment to completing the project. Last summer was year 2 out of 4 of the project. When it is completed in 2017 the results will be shared at the SARE conference and other venues.

Do you have any questions about the project?

Questions for farmers:

1. How many years have your hay fields been in production?
2. Has there been a change in productivity of your fields over time?
3. Have you ever plowed up and replanted any of your fields?
4. Have you ever used cover crops in your hay fields?
5. Are you interested in renovating your fields using cover crops or over-seeding?
6. Have you observed any problems with your soil quality such as compaction, erosion, or poor infiltration rate?
7. Could applied research be used to answer any questions that you have about hay production?
8. How could FSWCD help you improve your soil or the health of your hay fields?