

Practical Soil Health Specialist Training New York State



WORKSHOP ONE – PROJECT ORIENTATION AND SOIL HEALTH PRINCIPLES SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25, 2018 ● CORTLAND, NY

Participants

Debbie Aller

Agricultural Stewardship Specialist, da352@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

Lorie Ames

Field Technician, lames@wnycma.com

Western New York Crop Management Association (WNYCMA)

I am Lorie, a nature enthusiast, passionate about agronomy and eager to learn. I received my bachelor's degree in biology from the State University of New York at Geneseo College in 2012 as a returning adult student. I owned and operated my own cleaning business for 19 years prior in efforts to be a stay at home mother for my two children. With my degree in Biology, I also successfully finished the Ella Cline Shear School of Education as an adolescent educator in Biology. I received three certifications through the state (after successful completion of the exams) for adolescent education, elementary education and education in Biology. I pursued work at Crop Management (WNYCMA) that summer of 2013, for temporary work for the summer as a technician. After two months I decided to accept the full-time position as a field technician under the guidance of crop consultant, David DeGolyer. I am currently pursuing my CCA certification to become a crop consultant. My work allows me to scout fields from planting to harvest. Our company focuses on grain crops yet a few of my farms grow vegetables. I have had the privilege of witnessing soil health first hand since several of our farms are actively involved in improving their fields. In my spare time I am a gardener and an artist. I enjoy watercolors and oil painting. I have participated ten years in Perry's annual chalk art festival as a chalk artist. My husband (of 30 years), my children and I enjoy participating in 5K races together.



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Lynn Bliven

Issue Leader, lao3@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany County

Agriculture & Natural Resource Issue Leader for Cooperative Extension in Allegany County NY. We are located along the NY/PA line southeast of Buffalo. I began my Extension career in 4-H and currently work in Agriculture Economic Development; specializing in local food systems and livestock production. My husband Shawn and I operate a 52 acre farm in Rushford, NY raising Register Hereford Cattle along with a mix of sheep, primarily Shetlands with some cheviot crosses. We sell breeding stock and grass-fed beef & lamb. I believe enhancing soil health is critical to economic sustainability for many of the small farms I work with. In particular the fresh market vegetable growers but also for livestock producers. One specific area I would like to enhance my knowledge in is soil health and nutrient management growing in high tunnels. I look forward to sharing and learning throughout the training.

Brian Boerman

Senior Agronomist, brian.boerman@acscrops.com

Agricultural Consulting Services

The course appeals to me because at this point in my career I have a firm grasp on the nutrient management planning and crop protection portion of crop production but the concepts of understanding an improving soil health are missing. This class has the opportunity to bring me to a more holistic approach to crop management. I have been working with farms who have grown cover crops since 1999 but it wasn't until recently that I've been implementing systems with farms where we don't kill the cover crop (planting green) until after planting with success and some failure. The failures when planting green are significant and as a consultant it's difficult to suggest that other farms try it when the consequence of a failure is so large. I can imagine that as I learn more about soil health there will come a point in each one of these sessions that I can learn one practice, approach or nuance to soil health that I can see applied to commercial agriculture. My current position is that studying soil health and implementing practices in a university, garden or the community supported organic agricultural system is easier but often difficult to understand or manage on much bigger 2,000 plus acre farms where time is short and tillage systems and soil types vary considerably. I will measure my success in this program by an increase in my ability to interpret field and lab analysis and make meaningful, easy recommendations that any farmer can implement.



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Ann Marie Calabro

Agronomist, AnnMarie.Calabro@suffolkcountyny.gov

Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District

As the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District's Agronomist I provide technical assistance, conservation plans, and educational opportunities and workshops to farm operations for erosion remediation, nitrogen reduction, conservation planning, and building organic matter through soil health practices. My academic roots are in Biological and Environmental Sciences. Since the soil health initiative took off I have become motivated to learn and incorporate soil health into every day conversation with the farmers. I believe that Long Island growers need to take a proactive approach towards soil health to conserve and improve the health of our sandy highly erodible soils. I applied for this program to gain an in depth understanding of the many ways we can improve the physical, biological, and chemical nature of our soils. I would also like to learn more about measuring progress, interpreting test results, and prescribing the best practices to meet the needs of the diverse farming culture of Suffolk County.

Daniel Eggert

Organic Brand Manager, deggert@harrisseed.com

Harris Seeds Organic

Daniel grew up gardening with his father who instilled the value of knowing where real food comes from, and how rewarding it can be to enjoy the fruits of your labor. This cultivated a passion in Daniel to learn more about food production, and its effect on the ecosystem. After graduating from college, he strived for self-sufficiency. He started a construction company that focused on sustainable and environment friendly practices. During the same time, he started working seasonally at Harris Seeds, answering phones and helping growers of all sizes. In the fall of 2016, Daniel embarked on a journey that changed his life. He volunteered as a WWOOF'er in South Australia. His accomplishments range from building a winery with recycled materials, to processing commercial organic wine, to living within a community sustained eco village. He learned a great deal about the permaculture from its origins, and how agriculture harmonizes with the life surrounding it. Daniel's passion and experiences have lead him to the position of Organic Brand Manager of Harris Seeds Organic.

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Matthew Entwistle

Agronomy Sales, mentwistle@carolina-eastern.com

CaroVail

I grew up working on my family's dairy farm. I graduated from SUNY Cobleskill with a Bachelors in Ag Business. I became interested in soil fertility and health while taking agronomy courses. After Cobleskill I interned as a field scout at Agway. I was hired by Agway as a feed/fertilizer salesman after the internship. I was more interested in the agronomic side and became a CCA in 2000. I started working in sales and application at Carovail in late 2000 where I could focus solely on agronomy. In the years that I have worked at CaroVail I have been able to observe the different interactions between soil fertility, pH, crop rotations and the use of cover crops. Through the years with the same customers and the same fields I realized that it's not just NPK and lime. Everything that we do affects the soil and a healthy soil is a productive soil. To help further my agronomic knowledge I became a CCA Sustainability Specialist in 2016 and a CCA 4R Nutrient Management specialist in 2017. I am currently a director on the NY 4R Nutrient Stewardship Counsel.

Corey Ernisse

Business Development and Marketing, cernisse@carolina-eastern.com

Liquid Products, LLC

I started at Liquid Products about 3 months ago and am new to the industry. At Liquid Products we provide fertilizer & nutrient solutions to retailers/dealers across New York State and the surrounding areas. I really look forward to learning more about the agronomy side of the business.

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Morgan Hartman

Organic Dairy and Livestock Coordinator, Mhartman@nofany.org

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York

Tucker Kautz

Water Resource Technician, tucker.kautz@ontswcd.com

Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District

I grew up on a 150-cow family dairy farm in Hector NY before attending SUNY Oneonta and receiving a Bachelor of Science in Geography. Since college, I have worked entirely for SWCDs for 9 years now as a technician with a heavy focus on implementing best management practices on agricultural lands. I have also coordinated county level AEM programs for my entire 9 years with SWCDs. I have a high level on interest in cultural BMPs and agronomy as I feel strongly that these practices have the highest “bang for the buck” when it comes down to protecting our natural resources while also helping to keep farming profitable. In my free time I enjoy hunting, fishing, and farming.

Kevin Keenan

MiField Analytics Specialist, kkeen@growmarkfs.com

Growmark FS

I grew up working on an 8,000-acre grain farm in Caledonia NY. I was hired by Growmark FS in 2014 as a Precision Planting Technician. After two years as a Precision Planting Technician I transitioned into the Growmark FS Precision Farming team. I now focus heavily on soil sampling and variable rate technologies as well as imagery and yield data. I am excited to learn a lot more about soils to better help me when it comes to soil sampling and fertilizer recommendations.

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Darleen Krisher-Meehan

Owner, darleenK@frontiernet.net

Country Crossroads Feed and Seeds

I was raised on a dairy farm in Andover. After graduation I worked for D-L Feeds in Andover until they sold out to Leon Lacy Inc. In 2003 Lacy's closed and my husband and I decided to start our own ag retail store. I have two children - MacKenzie age 24 and Nathan age 22. With my husband and kids, I operate Country Crossroads feed and Seeds and we cash crop approximately 900 acres of hay, oats, sunflowers, soybeans, corn, wheat and rye. I am the President of the Allegany County Farm Bureau, Secretary for the Allegany-Steuben Holstein Club and a class 15 graduate of Lead NY. I would like to gain more in depth knowledge about soil health and utilizing soil sampling to get maximum yields for my customers and my own farm.

Jodi Letham

Field Crops Specialist, jll347@cornell.edu

Northwest New York Dairy Livestock and Field Crops Team of Cornell Cooperative Extension

Paul Loomis

Organic Markets and Beginning Farmer Coordinator, Paul@NOFANY.org

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York

Studied Agricultural Food Systems at Suny Brockport College. Owner / Organic Farmer at Growing Family Farms, a Certified Organic, Regenerative, Perma-bed, bio-intensive farm in Spencerport, NY. Healthy soil; healthier ecology, environment, economics. At NOFA-NY we are looking to develop an extensive soil and plant health program that we can share with the 1000+ farmers within the organization and beyond. Collaborations are welcome, we are constantly seeking to expand our outreach.

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Bryan Lord

Sales, blord@cecrocker.com

Carolina Eastern Crocker

Upon completing of my Master's in Management in Agribusiness from Massey University in New Zealand, I took a job as an assistant farm manager on a 7,100-acre sheep, beef, red stag and dairy farm. I fulfilled this position for 3 seasons. When my fiancé and I moved back to Ny, I took a position with C.E Crocker as a salesman selling fertilizer, seed, crop protection products and application. I have found myself involved with growers and working with them to work with their land. My goals from this program are to further my knowledge regarding soil principals and healthy soil practices.

Heidi Lott

Consultant, basagronomy@frontier.com

Blowers Agra Service Inc.

I grew up on a 2,300-acre grain farm in Seneca County growing corn, soybeans, wheat, and sunflowers. I have an A.A.S in Biotechnology from FLCC, B.S.T in Plant Science from SUNY Cobleskill, and I currently am enrolled in the master's program at Iowa State University for Agronomy. I have a passion for agriculture and enjoy teaching. Sustainability of our soils is crucial for future generations. I have a desire to have a better understanding of soils and how the health of those soils can lead to higher yields. It is important to take the knowledge I have and guide the farmers I work with to achieve the highest yield they can while preserving our soil.



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Cliff Love

Nutrient Management Specialist, clove@tompkins-co.org

Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District

I have been interested in soil and plant interactions for several years. Earlier this summer, I was fortunate to attend the New York Soil Health Summit Meeting. Being in the Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District, I can further my connections and awareness on soil health and consider practical ways to influence this practice. I have 32 years of professional experience in ag services, being a member of American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and a Certified Crop Adviser, and NRCS Technical Service Provider. I have also had a Certified Professional Pesticide Applicator in three different states since 1997. The titles don't mean much except to show that I am a curious person and look to learn from others and their experiences. Due to my background, I find that the practical application of BMP's can sometimes be complex due to the deadlines and constraints operational issues. I am looking to see what experiences and thoughts other have in the practical advancement of Soil Health.

Rodney Porter

Regional Coordinator, rodporter@kinsagrisseds.com

Kings AgriSeeds

I am a Cornell graduate and have worked almost 35 years in the seed industry in NY. I have been with King's AgriSeeds since 2008 with responsibilities for seed dealer and producer support, training and development throughout NY and New England. Additionally, I own and operate a local ag supply business and a 700-acre organic crop farm. In the last 5 years or so, Kings and myself have put a strong focus on cover cropping systems and have worked with numerous organizations supporting cover crop testing and education. My regular work responsibilities include teaching producers new methods and systems of which soil health and cover cropping have been an important part of many interactions. I am a member of the NYS Agribusiness Association and a board member of Tompkins County Farm Bureau. I look forward to the training to improve and broaden my skills relating to soil health and teaching producers.

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Patricia Ristow

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Agricultural Consulting Services

Katherine Vail

Field Scout, kvail@carolina-eastern.com

CaroVail

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Jodi Letham
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Lorie Ames
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Morgan Hartman
Organic Dairy and
Livestock Coordinator
NOFA

Rod Porter
Sales and Support
Kings AgriSeeds

Brian Boerman
Senior Agronomist
Agricultural Consulting Services

Corey Ennisse
Sales/Marketing
Liquid Products LLC

Debbie Aller
Ag Stewardship Specialist
Suffolk CCE

Katherine Vail
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CaroVail

Lynn Bliven
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