

Practical Soil Health Specialist Training New York State



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- Grubinger, V. *Vegetable Farmers and their Sustainable Tillage Practices*. A 45-minute educational video featuring 9 farms from 4 northeastern states (PA, NH, NY, NJ). University of Vermont Extension in conjunction with NE-SARE. (ordering information available at: <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/Videos/covercropvideo.html>)

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Selected Web Resources

Cornell Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH) (<http://soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu>):

The Cornell CASH website provides resources on many aspects of soil health management. For example, there is information regarding the Cornell Soil Health Test in addition to links to important resources such as how to take, package and ship a soil health sample, a downloadable version of this manual, demonstration tools, and a detailed description of the Soil Health Management Planning Process.

Quick links to CASH outreach tools:

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Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NESARE) (<http://www.nesare.org>):

Search the project report database for the latest in sustainable research and education projects that are ongoing in the northeast including information on soil management.

American Farmland Trust (AFT) (farmland.org):

American Farmland Trust works around the country to build support for policies and programs that protect the land, keep farmers in business and help new farmers access land. They are known for raising awareness about the importance of farmers and healthy farmland – No Farms No Food®. The website has information on the various AFT initiatives that serve to both save the land and promote sound farming practices.

New York Soil Health (NYSH) (newyorksoilhealth.org):

The NYSH project facilitates collaboration among the many on-going efforts across the New York to implement research, outreach and policy solution to address these constraints. The website is a hub for soil health-related networking, research, education and outreach.

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Selected Web Resources Continued

National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (<http://attra.ncat.org/>):

This site contains information pertaining to sustainable agriculture and organic farming including in-depth publications on production practices, alternative crop and livestock enterprises, innovative marketing, organic certification, and highlights of local, regional, USDA and other federal sustainable ag activities.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey and Soil Health Information (<http://soils.usda.gov>) (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/>):

Helping People Help the Land. Websites provide a wealth of information of soil taxonomy, soil survey maps, soil biology, soil function, soil health educational materials, etc. for educators, researchers and land managers.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Health Literature Summaries

(<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/soils/health/mgmt/?cid=stelprdb1257753>): The information in the Soil Health Literature files is compiled from peer-reviewed papers relating to the impact of conservation practices on soil physical and chemical properties important for soil health, as summarized by the NRCS Soil Health Division's soil health specialists located across the country.

The Nobel Research Institute (NRI) (www.noble.org):

The NRI focuses on research that will help farmers and ranchers improve land stewardship and productivity. Their approach considers all spectrums of agricultural research, including the basic, translational and applied. To advance soil health and make soil health the cornerstone of land use management decisions, the NRI brought together relevant stakeholders around critical needs. In 2015 This group formed the Soil Health Institute in 2015 (see below)

The Soil Health Institute (SHI) (<https://soilhealthinstitute.org/>):

The SHI is an independent, nonprofit organization charged with coordinating and supporting soil stewardship and advancing soil health. The SHI program is designed to move scientific knowledge and technology from the research laboratory to the farm field by bringing together traditional and non-traditional agricultural industry partners, farmers, ranchers, government agencies, scientists, and consumers to focus on one common, clear goal: protecting and enriching our soils. The website has a number of resources including fact sheets, a soil health decision tool and an expansive database on soil health management.

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Selected Web Resources Continued

Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) (<http://www.soils.org>):

The SSSA website is for soil science professionals.

Northeast Cover Crop Council (<http://northeastcovercrops.com/>):

The Northeast Cover Crop Council was established in 2016 to bring together cover crop researchers and practitioners from the northeast to address research gaps, to develop tools, and to promote cover cropping. The organization is currently working on an exciting cover crop tool that integrates existing tools to provide regionally specific information on cover crop practices. There is an extensive list of extension publications on broadleaf cover crops, legume cover crops, grass cover crops, cover crop mixtures, and cover crop planting and termination.

Cover Crop Guide for New York Vegetable Growers (covercrop.org):

This site provides recommendations for results of the Cornell Soil Health Test. The report from that test often prescribes using cover crops, and this site will help identify the cover crop to use and how to use it effectively. The goal is to provide a key component of an integrated management recommendation for growers.

Cover Crop Database from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and UC Davis's Agricultural Sustainability Institute (<http://asi.ucdavis.edu/programs/sarep/research-initiatives/are/nutrient-mgmt/cover-crops>):

The database contains detailed entries for over 40 commonly used cover crop species. For each crop, a summary of key factors is provided, including seed, seedling and mature plant descriptions and pictures; ideal temperature and geographic range; soil, water and nutrient considerations; management details including planting and termination dates maintenance issues, mowing, incorporation, harvesting and recommended equipment; common uses; interactions with pests and weeds; potential nutrient and biomass contributions.

USDA Agricultural Research Service Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory Cover Crop Chart (<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=20323>):

This chart is designed to assist producers with decisions on the use of cover crops in crop and forage production systems.

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Selected Web Resources Continued

Cornell Waste Management Institute (<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/soilquality.htm>):

This site contains fact sheets and other resources that provide a variety of information related to soil contaminants, soil testing, and best practices, including “Sources and Impacts of Contaminants in Soils”, “Guide to Soil Testing and Interpreting Results”, and “Soil Contaminants and Best Practices for Healthy Gardens.”

Sustainable Cropping Systems Lab at Cornell (<https://blogs.cornell.edu/scslab/>):

This site is the home of Matthew Ryan’s research group at Cornell and focuses on management practices to improve the sustainability of agricultural systems.

Cornell Small Farms Program (<http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/projects/reduced-tillage/>):

Reduced Tillage in Vegetables Group works to research and promote successful strategies to reduce tillage on vegetable farms.

New York State Department of Health, Lead Poisoning Prevention

(<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>):

This site provides information to help people prevent lead poisoning.

US Environmental Protection Agency, Urban Agriculture and Improving Local Sustainable Food Systems (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/urbanag/>):

Resources from the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization provide information intended for people working on agriculture projects as a part of brownfield redevelopment and reuse. The website includes educational resources,