

unlock the
SECRETS
IN THE
SOIL

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Massachusetts
www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov

Please join us for a day-long workshop on...

Farming with Nature: Improving Soil Health on Vegetable Farms

Soil is a living and life-giving substance, without which we would perish.

As world population and food production demands rise, keeping our soil healthy and productive is of paramount importance. So much so that we believe improving the health of our Nation's soil is one of the most important endeavors of our time.

By focusing more attention on soil health and by educating farmers and the public about the positive impact healthy soils can have on productivity and conservation, we can help our Nation's farmers and ranchers feed the world more profitably and sustainably – now and for generations to come.

What: This workshop, designed to benefit farmers who grow vegetables, fruit and field crops, will focus on the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital living system that sustains plant, animal and human health. Healthy soils rich in organic matter drain better, have greater disease resistance, and better water holding capacity in times of drought. **Healthy soils are important to your bottom line!**

Soil health experts Ray Archuleta – a.k.a. Ray The Soil Guy – of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Soil Health Team in Greensboro, North Carolina; UMass graduate student Julie Stultz Fine will cover the economics of soil health, the benefits of deep zone tillage, and cover crops for soil health. The day will include classroom presentations, hands-on demonstrations and field exercises on rolling cover crops, a soil pit investigation, and a rainfall simulation on healthy and not-so-healthy soils. Pesticide recertification credits have been requested from MDAR.

See reverse side for full agenda and registration form.

When: Thursday, November 6, 2014 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Bristol County Agricultural High School, 135 Center Street, Dighton, MA

To register: To register, please complete the registration form on the reverse side and e-mail it to mary.mccaffrey@ma.usda.gov or mail it to BCCD, 84 Center St, Dighton, MA 02715 by **November 1st.**

Questions? Contact Contact Sue Guiducci at 508-990-2854 or sguiducci10@gmail.com with questions or if any special accommodation is needed.

Brought to you by: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; the Bristol County Conservation District; UMass Extension and Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE). This project has been financed with Federal funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under an s319 competitive grant. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of EPA or DEP, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

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Agenda

Thursday, November 6, 2014, Dighton, MA

9:15 am	Registration	
9:45 am	Welcome	Christine Clarke, State Conservationist, NRCS, MA and conservation district representatives
10:00 am	A Soil Health Primer: Eye Opening Demonstrations	Ray Archuleta, Conservation Agronomist, NRCS National Soil Health and Sustainability Team, Greensboro, NC
11:00 am	Break	Refreshments provided by the Bristol County Conservation District
11:10 am	Cover Crop Cocktails for Sweet Corn	Julie Stultz Fine, Graduate Student, UMass Amherst
12:00 noon	Bristol County Conservation District Annual Meeting	Open to all attendees
12:30 pm	Lunch	Provided by the Bristol County Conservation District and Northeast SARE
1:00 pm	A Soil Health Primer, continued	Ray Archuleta, NRCS
1:30 pm	Field exercises at Bristol County Agricultural High School fields	Kyle Medeiros, Bristol County Agricultural High School; Ray Archuleta, NRCS; Lisa Petruski, Soil Conservationist, NRCS MA
	Rainfall simulator demonstration and soil pit investigation	Ray Covino, District Conservationist, NRCS CT and Maggie Payne, Resource Soil Scientist, NRCS MA
2:15 pm	Rolling Cover Crops	Eric Young, farmer, Woodstock, CT
2:45 pm	Questions & Answers	Ray Archuleta and Ray Covino, NRCS
	NRCS technical and financial assistance programs	Rita Thibodeau, Team Leader, NRCS MA
3:00 pm	Adjourn	

Registration Form

Name:	
Farm/Organization:	No. of attendees:
Phone:	Email:
Mailing Address:	
City/State/Zip:	