



 oahurcd For our next feature of our Farmer-to-Farmer Soil Health Network Series, we'd like to introduce Jennifer and Jason Witte of Thrive Hawai'i Family Farm (@thrive.hawaii)! Since starting their operation, these @gofarmhawaii grads prioritized rehabilitating the fallow farmland they leased back to health. Soil health practices they've incorporated include: soil carbon amendments (compost, biochar, and green mulch), installing windbreaks, rotating crops, managing irrigation, and regularly testing their soil. Regular soil testing guides their nutrient application, and the other practices listed restore function and health of their soil! Thrive Hawai'i Family Farm now grows productive food crops -- including cassava, bok choy, spinach, eggplant, zucchini and other mixed greens and root vegetables!

Through their participation in the Soil Health Cohort Training Program Oahu RC&D launched in partnership with NRCS in March 2022, Thrive Hawai'i Family Farm conducted a trial to integrate biochar into their farm management system to further enhance their soil microbial habitat, continue increasing soil carbon, and potentially enhance water holding capacity.

To read the full feature on Thrive Hawai'i Family Farm, subscribe to our newsletter at <http://ow.ly/6wMj50Josig>.

Our online learning platform will be releasing soon -- content will cover soil health practices tried by farmers participating in our O'ahu Soil Health Cohort Training Program. This program will release in late 2022 and will continue to grow over the next few years through development of the Hawai'i Soil Health Network documenting the practices of farmers on Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. Visit <http://ow.ly/MLon50Josib> to get a sneak peek!

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 hawaiisun This is great work!
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Healthy Soil, Healthy Orchard: from Planning to Practices



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oahurcd July Workshop Announcement!
Healthy Soil, Healthy Orchard: from Planning to Practices

Join O'ahu RC&D, CTAHR, and host farm @islandharvesthawaii for a field day on Saturday, July 16th from 9:00am to 12:00pm in Kapa'au, Hawai'i Island, to engage with soil health planning in orchard systems.

This on-farm workshop will share cover crop trials in an orchard system followed by a demonstration of an AerWay Orchard Aerator and cover crop seeder. Aerators are designed to lessen soil compaction without degrading the soil structure. Reducing compaction and promoting good soil structure can reduce runoff, improve moisture retention, stimulate root growth, and increase yield. We will also discuss soil health planning, practices, testing, and the opportunity for funding from NRCS programs for practice implementation.

Space is limited, please register on Eventbrite by July 9th to reserve your spot!
Link to register is in our bio or you can register directly at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/healthy-soil-healthy-orchard-from-planning-to-practices-tickets-333108756257>

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oahurcd Registration for our upcoming Soil Health workshop closes July 9th, register now to reserve your space!

Healthy Soil, Healthy Orchard: from Planning to Practices
Join O'ahu RC&D, CTAHR, and host farm Island Harvest for a field day on Saturday, July 16th from 9:00am to 12:00pm in Kapa'au, Hawai'i Island, to engage with soil health planning in orchard systems.

This on-farm workshop will share cover crop trials in an orchard system followed by a demonstration of an AerWay Orchard Aerator and cover crop seeder. Aerators are designed to lessen soil compaction without destroying the soil structure. Reducing compaction and promoting soil structure can reduce runoff, improve moisture retention, stimulate root growth, and increase yield. We will also discuss soil health planning, practices, testing, and the opportunity for funding from NRCS programs for practice implementation.

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oahurcd For this Farmer-to-Farmer Soil Health Network Series feature, we'd like to introduce Kualoa Ranch, a ~4,000 acre working cattle ranch, farm, tourist attraction and private nature reserve. They cultivate 60 different crops, a variety of tropical flowers, and produce five types of proteins (beef, pork, shrimp, oysters, and lamb), making their farming operation one of the most diverse in the state.

@kualoaranch participated in ORCD's Healthy Soils Hawaii: Building Better Soil on Agricultural Lands through Soil Health Planning project to measure soil health in their lower pastures. Lab testing through the Soil Health report tool provided by University Hawai'i showed a high level of soil health, including organic carbon levels that are likely built up and maintained by their rotational pasture management. Carbon supports soil's most desirable physical, chemical, and biological properties, improving overall soil function.

The products of Kualoa Ranch's diversified agricultural operation are sold under the brand @kualoagrown. Their products can be found at the Kualoa Grown Market located in the Ranch House building within Kualoa Ranch.

To read more Farmer-to-Farmer Soil Health Network features like this one, subscribe to our newsletter at oahurcd.org/newsletters.

[#soilhealth](#) [#soilcarbon](#) [#hawaiiagriculture](#)

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Cover Crop Installation at Island Harvest



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North Kohala, Big Island, Hi



oahurcd Successful cover crop installation demo at Island Harvest's macadamia orchards. Andrew Trump describes the root aerator functions and demonstrates how this machinery is used to seed cover crops within their 40 year old orchard. Their soil building cover crop mix, developed with Dr. Wang of University Hawaii, contains cowpea, sunn hemp, sorghum sudan, buckwheat, and radish. Cover cropping is a great way to increase biological diversity, build soil organic matter, break up compaction, and increase infiltration. The root aerator and seeder ensure that there is seed to soil contact in the mowed guinea grass alleys to facilitate successful cover crop establishment.

Island Harvest is a certified organic farm growing macadamia nuts on over 700 acres in North Kohala on the Big Island of Hawaii. They are committed to organic and sustainable farming methods that eliminate the use of potentially harmful chemicals and reduce the use of off-farm inputs. They participated in ORCD's Healthy Soils Hawaii: Building Better Soil on Agricultural Lands through Soil Health Planning project to get quantified soil health values.

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Edited · 23w



islandharvesthawaii Thanks for hosting with us, we had a great time!

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roasting coffee. Rusty's Hawaiian participated in O'ahu RC&D's Healthy Soils Hawaii: Building Better Soil on Agricultural Lands through Soil Health Planning, a project meant to identify soil health practices and guide how soil health plans can be useful to farmers.

Boosting soil health and climate resilience is a primary focus of Rusty's Hawaiian. They have participated in research with the United Ka'u Farmers Cooperative to assess nitrogen-fixing ground cover species planted between coffee trees. Successful field trials show farmers can increase soil carbon by planting cowpea, perennial peanut, ubon stylo or red clover. Farmers in this study preferred perennial peanut, as it prevented weeds from establishing, reduced soil erosion during heavy rains, and helped maintain soil moisture during dry periods.

Field tests show that soil from the orchard planted with ground cover species had stable soil aggregates when submerged under water. Soils with high aggregate stability retain their structure under disturbance from rains, promote water infiltration, facilitate downward root growth, and have a higher water holding capacity.

More materials produced from their project can be found at <https://bit.ly/39T3Vw0>. @rustyshawaiian

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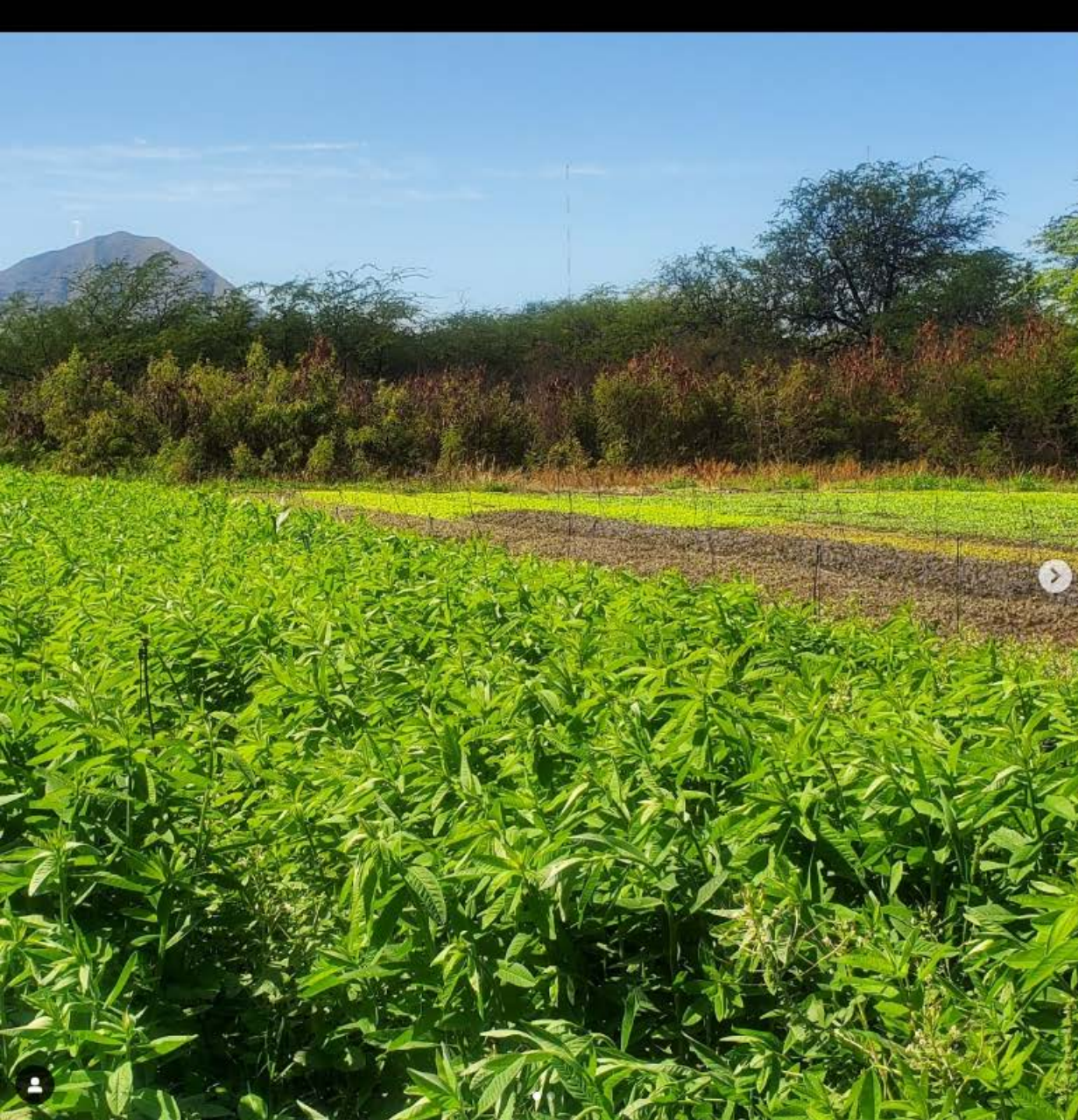
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oahurcd For this Farmer-to-Farmer Soil Health Network Series feature, we'd like to introduce Kahumana Organic Farms, a 31-acre certified organic farm cultivating in the Lualualei Valley.

Kahumana participated in ORCD's Healthy Soils Hawaii: Building Better Soil on Agricultural Lands through Soil Health Planning project to measure soil health in their orchard and crop fields. Kahumana diligently cover crops between crop rotations to reduce weed pressure, build soil organic matter, and provide habitat for soil microorganisms. The sunn hemp pictured here captures nitrogen from the air and transforms it into plant-available soil nitrogen which can reduce the fertilizer needed for the next crop. Soil organisms living in the rhizosphere exude compounds that bind soil particles into aggregates, building better soil structure. This promotes plant growth and increases water infiltration and water-holding capacity. Crops benefit from improved soil structure, especially during drought or in dry environments like Oahu's Lualualei Valley.

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Hawai'i Soil Health Resource Guide

This resource guide contains useful information for farmers and ranchers interested in building better soil on agricultural lands. A soil in good health can improve irrigation efficiency, reduce fertilization needs, reduce pest pressure, reduce erosion, and improve overall plant productivity. Hawai'i's unique island landscapes and history of soil degradation through intensive crop production heighten the importance and benefit of rebuilding soil health.

[DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE](#)



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oahurcd Interested in building better soil on agricultural lands? Take a dive into ORC&D's Hawai'i Soil Health Resource Guide to learn how to get started! This online resource provides information on soil health planning, Hawai'i's leading researchers and service providers in the field, different soil testing services, how to source compost, and other online tools and resources available for farmers aiming to build soil health!

Check it out on our website under soil health resources.

oahurcd.org/2023/01/04/soil-health-resource-guide/#conservation-practices-to-support-soil-health

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JANUARY 6



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N-fixing
Cover
Crops



Plant
Available
Nitrogen



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6w



synnora Gifting in Mākaha.



Partially composted chicken manure. You can apply it as gently to established trees but anything else and you'd want to compost/age it in a pile for a couple more months.

It contains, chicken, Turkey, quail and duck manure, native soil and random leaves from the garden, rock dust and some sand. Maybe a little rabbit manure added in for fun!

It's cleaned out of the coops but you'll need to shovel from the large compost pile into your own buckets or strong plastic bags. I cannot help with this as I've had foot surgery and am down for 4 more painful weeks.

Perfect for free, local, organic, plant fertilizer. I have enough for any gardeners out there that is interested up to like 20 buckets probably

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Soil Health Opportunities in Hawaii



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oahurcd Soil Health Management Plans are a tool for farmers that identify goals, resources, and opportunities to improve a soil's capacity to function – mapping out a strategy for soil health to contribute to the success of an agricultural operation. The plans build on an in-field soil health assessment and lab-based soil health indicators to inform a farm's soil health management and to serve as a measuring stick to monitor improvements and evaluate the plan's performance over time.

Watch the recorded webinar on our website to find out more - including how farmers on Hawai'i Island can participate in upcoming farmer-to-farmer soil health training events to complete a soil health management plan and how ag professionals can become eligible for certification from NRCS to develop soil health plans for local farms as Technical Service Providers!

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