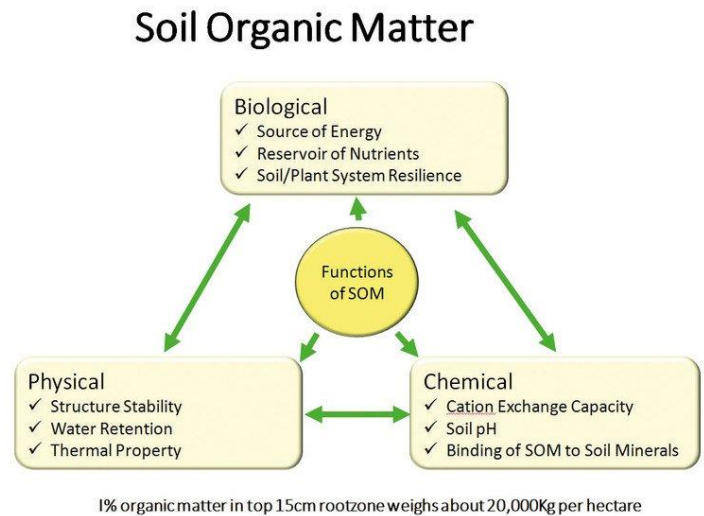


Breakout Group One

Step One:

1. What management practices of soil can increase or decrease SOM?
2. What management practices of forage can increase or decrease SOM?



3. What management practices of animals can increase or decrease SOM?

Step Two:

Choose up to two management practices to dive into. What are the interactions between all three: plant, animal, soil? What other part of the system benefits? What other part of the system might be harmed?

Practice:

Animal:

Soil:

Plant:

Practice:

Animal:

Soil:

Plant:

Step Three:

Prior to discussion with the group, jot down your ideas on this worksheet on the following questions:

1. How much SOM is “good”? What does “good” mean?

2. What is a reasonable percentage of SOM to build in a year? For example, can you increase SOM by 0.01%, 0.01%, 1%, 5%, more, less, etc. in one season?

Breakout Group Two

Step One:

Discussion with group on soil test interpretation. Take notes here as desired:

Capacity of the soil to store plant available water

Indicates compaction (PSI) from 0-6"

Indicates compaction (PSI) from 6-18"

Ability to resist disruption, ex: rain

Organic part of the soil

Indicates the quality of SOM re: ability to supply N to plants

Indicates abundance/activity of soil microbes

Food for microbes

Measured Soil Textural Class:

Sand: **51%** - Silt: **38%** - Clay: **10%**

Group	Indicator	Value	Rating	Constraints
physical	Predicted Available Water Capacity	0.21	87	
physical	Surface Hardness	340	2	Rooting, Water Transmission
physical	Subsurface Hardness	584	0	Subsurface Pan/Deep Compaction, Deep Rooting, Water and Nutrient Access
physical	Aggregate Stability	16.5	21	
biological	Organic Matter Total Carbon: 1.4 / Total Nitrogen: 0.1	1.6	31	
biological	ACE Soil Protein Index	4.2	18	Organic Matter Quality, Organic N Storage, N Mineralization
biological	Soil Respiration	0.4	24	
biological	Active Carbon	334	28	
chemical	Soil pH	5.7	39	
chemical	Extractable Phosphorus	14.2	100	
chemical	Extractable Potassium	141.3	100	
chemical	Minor Elements Mg: 51.5 / Fe: 3.2 / Mn: 3.5 / Zn: 1.5		100	

Overall Quality Score: **46** / Medium

Step Two:

What management practices of the soil, the animals, or the plants can help change these conditions? There are many conditions to pick from! You can focus on an overall soil health improvement, or zero in on a particular topic of interest or concern from this example test.

1. Soil Management:

2. Plant Management:

3. Animal Management:

When we think of the interactions between plants, animals, and soil, what are the potential tradeoffs for each management practice? Will all three parts of your system benefit equally? Will you prioritize one part of your system over another? Choose up to two practices to dive into.

Practice:

Animal:

Soil:

Plant:

Practice:

Animal:

Soil:

Plant:

Step Three

What goals might you set for this field, keeping soil health in mind?

What risks are you concerned about while you improve your soil health in this field?

Will the management practices you proposed in step two address these risks in a timely manner, or should further measures be considered during the transition period?