



November 2020 Newsletter

Looking into the Future

Ongoing Assessing Soil Health Webinar Series

A Soil Science Society of America webinar series produced in partnership with The Soil Health Institute and sponsored by The Walton Family Foundation. This soil health focused webinar series integrates economics, measurement tools, measurement assessment, and modeling to educate, motivate, and equip Certified Crop Advisers, consultants, and agricultural retailers to engage in soil health management systems.

Upcoming Webinars:

Measures of Soil Water Cycling (July 21, 2020) Registration Now Open!

Measures of Soil Carbon Cycling and Storage (August 13, 2020)

Measures of Soil Nitrogen Cycling (September 17, 2020)

Practical Measures of the Soil Microbiome (November 17, 2020)

Standard Measurements for Soil Health (December 8, 2020)

Soil Health Economics (January 19, 2021)

Ongoing Waseca Self Guided Soil Health Tour

The Waseca SWCD & NRCS have put together several locations where the landowners have graciously allowed access to their fields for soil health education. Pick a day that fits your schedule and when the weather suits you. Tour will remain open until freeze-up or substantial snow. Visit one or visit all. An informational page will be provided at each location. Look for these signs. You can expect to see sweet corn, pea, soybean, and corn fields; a variety of cover crop mixes; and a variety of conservation tillage practices.

Things to consider bringing with you: camera, shovel/trowel to examine soil structure and rooting, tape measure, cover crop ID book, and thermometer.

For more information contact the Waseca SWCD at 507-835-4800 ext. 3 or check out our website: <http://www.wasecaswcd.org/soil-health.html>

We want to know if this was valuable to you. Please fill out a survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26C7MW3>

11/17-11/18 National Cover Crop Summit

More than 5,000 attendees from all 50 states and 45 countries have attended the National Cover Crop Summit to learn how to harness the full potential of a cover-crop system to protect their soil and increase their farm's profits. Due to overwhelming attendee feedback, the National Cover Crop Summit is returning November 17-18, 2020, with a lineup of all-new speakers and presentation topics!

Sign up for this FREE ONLINE EVENT and learn practical strategies from some of today's top cover crop experts.

Find these events on our website

<https://mnsoilhealth.org/events/>

And Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/mnsoilhealth/>

Want to promote your event through our newsletter?

Email us at coordinator@mnsoilhealth.org!

Still Looking into the Future

11/21-11/22 Organic Farm TEAM Summit

Dakotas Best will be hosting a live event at our seed warehouse. Join us Nov. 20-21 in Platte for the Organic TEAM Summit. Engage with regional leaders in sustainable and organic agriculture.

Our focus is to support progressive growers committed soil health through Training, Engagement, Advancement & Marketing. We offer expertise in certification processes, agronomy, input options, and specialty crop marketing. Learn more at www.organicfarmteam.com

Dakota's Best Seed Warehouse, 36656 SD Hwy 44
Platte, South Dakota 57369

12/4 Our Farms...Our Future

Are you a farmer? New to Conservation Practices? Not sure where to get started? Join the ATCC Farm Business Management Program, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District, and Natural Resources Conservation Service for a free seminar.

What to expect:

This seminar will have an open forum discussion to cover some important topics on programs and cost share with the farming industry.

- Ag. Best Management Practices (BMP) loans
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- Farm Service Agency (FSA) Programs
- MN. Ag. Water Quality Certification Program
- Soil Health

For more information and to register for the workshop please contact the Douglas SWCD or Alexandria Technical and Community College Farm Business Management (FBM) program

SWCD Phone: 320-763-3191 Ext 3 FBM Phone: 320-762-0221

Alexandria Public Works, 526 Willow Dr

Alexandria, MN 56308

12/15-12/16 CTC

Like many annual events, this year's Soil Management Summit (SMS), formerly known as the Conservation Tillage Conference or CTC, has had to make the transition from in-person to online.

The SMS planning committee wants to ensure the health and wellbeing of participants, vendors, and everyone else involved in the summit's production while maintaining the high standard of programmatic content the event has provided over the years. As the COVID-19 situation has evolved, the committee made the decision that this event will be offered online only.

The Soil Management Summit (SMS) emphasizes proven farmer experience and applied science. Straight from the fields, learn how heavier, colder soils aren't necessarily the challenge they're made out to be. Hear from long-time no-till, reduced tillage and cover crop farmers as they share their experiences, so you can be spared the same hard-learned lessons.

Some of this year's topics include tillage erosion, soil organic matter and water dynamics, and the conference staple – a panel of farmers sharing their own personal experiences with soil management. Kicking off the event is J. Gordon Arbuckle, a professor of sociology from Iowa State University whose research helps stakeholders maintain or enhance long-term agricultural productivity while also improving social and environmental outcomes of agriculture. His keynote talk on December 15 will explore the sociology of soil management.

While this year's format may be a little different, organizers hope people embrace the change and join online December 15 and 16. "We'll still deliver a high-value learning and networking experience for our attendees while emphasizing proven farmer experience and applied science," said committee chair Jodi DeJong Hughes.

Mark your calendars to join your fellow soil enthusiasts for two days of interactive online presentations, panels, and discussions. Advanced Crop Advisors can earn up to 5 continuing education units (CEUs). Additionally, 20 registration scholarships will be available for interested attendees.

For more information and to register, visit z.umn.edu/SMS2020

OUT IN THE FIELD

Harmonious Herbicides

Harvest came early this year rushing us to get after it. Something that can't be rushed are herbicide decisions. We need to have a strong herbicide program that works with our operation and if we're integrating cover crops, that needs to be taken into consideration when choosing your chemical program. Some commonly used herbicides can thwart interseeded cover crops leaving us wondering why it didn't work or chalking it up to a failure. Luckily there is information available to choose herbicides to integrate with using covers.

This is also available on our website at https://mnsoilhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Cover-Crop-Inventory_All.pdf

Species Suitable with Select Herbicides

Species suitable

Pursuit	Stinger	Flexstar	Dual	Callisto	Sharpen	Dicamba	Liberty	Warrant	Sharpen	Assure	Harmony
Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Annual rye	Alfalfa	Barley	Barley	All	All	Wheat	Barley	All	All
Cereal rye	Annual Rye	Barley	Barley	Buckwheat	Cereal rye				Cereal rye		
Clover	Barley	Buckwheat	Cereal rye	Cereal rye	Field pea				Oats		
Cowpea	Cereal rye	Cereal rye	Oats	Millet	Millet				Millet		
Field pea	Millet	Millet	Radish	Oats	Oats				Sorghum		
Wheat	Oats	Oats	Wheat	Sorghum	Sorghum				Triticale		
	Radish	Sorghum		Triticale	Triticale				Wheat		
	Triticale	Sudangrass		Wheat	Wheat				Field Peas		
	Wheat	Triticale									
		Wheat									

There's additional resources from University Extensions:

[PennState Soybean Herbicides](#)

[PennState Corn Herbicides](#)

[Wisconsin Extension Herbicide Carryover](#)

[Iowa Extension Grazing Restrictions](#)

You can find more resources on cover crops on our website at <https://mnsoilhealth.org/technical-information/> or ask a farmer mentor <https://mnsoilhealth.org/mentor/>

Want to show others that you're a soil health advocate? Signs, shirts, and other merchandise are now available to purchase on our website! <https://mnsoilhealth.org/shop/>





BACKYARD BIOLOGY

Preparing for Winter

The weather is turning, we've harvested, canned, frozen, and preserved our produce, is it time to clean up the garden? Nope! Residues provide critical cover to your topsoil to protect it against wind and water erosion. It also provides soil organisms with food and shelter. While the soil organisms work to decompose the residues, they will turn them into plant available nutrients! The standing stalks of forbs and grasses also benefit pollinators by providing them with winter homes so leaving them standing provides them needed shelter and guarantees they'll be back next year.

Frost seeding in the winter can be a beneficial practice to plant clovers or grains in the off season and allow them to grow in the spring. This reduces traffic on wet spring soils as well as the covers growing as soon as possible!

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE MNSHC?

Fall is an active time for farmers and the MNSHC with harvest, planting cover crops, and soil testing. Our farmer mentors are finishing up harvest, planting cover crops, and planning for next year.

Small local meetings are planned for the winter as well as - you guessed it - virtual meetings. The beauty of virtual meetings in the winter is not dealing with hazardous road conditions and if you're vacationing in the south, you can still participate!

Keep an eye out for upcoming events on our website at <https://mnsoilhealth.org/events/> and we'll be sure to send you the info

Time to catch up after harvest? You can check out the videos we completed this year learning from 6 farmers around the state in our Fridays on the Farm, interviewing 3 Redwood County producers, and a 4 series video on specific management objectives out on board member and farmer mentor Jamie Labat's farm. Find those and others at <https://www.mnsoilhealth.org/videos>

We have also put together a specialist list - those in Minnesota who have specialties related to soil health, find them at <https://mnsoilhealth.org/specialist-list/>



In addition to our videos, we also have a library of podcasts that we add to every other Friday! Check them out at <https://mnsoilhealth.org/resources-old/podcasts/>



BABE'S COUNTRY

Building Revenue with Agroforestry

Christmas Trees - growing spruce in areas where crop production isn't high can be an opportunity to increase profits of that ground

Hazelnuts - Hazelnuts are used in a variety of products and can be grown in blocks or strips to add diversity of revenue

Fruit Trees - Apple and plum trees are well suited to Minnesota's climate to provide an additional source of income whether it's a pick your own or wholesale marketing

Fruiting Shrubs - A variety of fruiting shrubs are acclimated to Minnesota's climate that can be used for health foods, preservation, and baking

Understory Vegetation - Fungi, wild leeks, blueberries, wild herbs, and others can be grown and collected for sale.

Find more information at the University of Minnesota Extension's website <https://extension.umn.edu/agroforestry/forest-farming>

Meet a Minnesota Soil Health Coalition Mentor!

Eric Stelling— *Central Minnesota*



I farm with my father and brother in and around Osakis, MN. We currently operate around 1500 acres consisting of corn, beans, alfalfa, and some small grains. Approximately 160 acres of our operation is certified organic. Three years ago we got out of dairy and now finish feeder cattle. We are in our second year of strip tilling and have been using cover crops for over 10 years, and have been no-tilling for much longer than that. Our soil varies from blow sand to heavy black soil, all of which require different management strategies. In 2018 we were the Todd County farm family of the year and were the Farm Family of the year in 2019, as well as the Todd County Conservationist of the Year in 2020.

Striving to improve soil health is and will always be priority number and proves to be challenging as well as rewarding.

To connect with Eric or any one of our other mentors, please visit <https://www.mnsoilhealth.org/mentor>

To hear more from Eric on soil health at <https://www.mnsoilhealth.org/videos>

Contact

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Coalition Coordinator

coordinator@mnsoilhealth.org

<https://mnsoilhealth.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mnsoilhealth/>

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Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



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HOW TO MANAGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your membership to the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition is greatly appreciated! We want to ensure you're getting everything out of your membership you possibly can!

Online Membership Sign Ups

You can sign up for membership online and manage your membership.

To Sign Up: <https://mnsoilhealth.org/become-a-member/>

You can choose an annual or recurring membership with sign in information so you can always log in and manage your membership

To Log In to Your Existing Membership: <https://mnsoilhealth.org/member-login/>

To Manage Your Online Membership: Select Membership Account on the top right

You can edit your profile, change your password, view past invoices, and renew your membership

Hard Copy Memberships

You can download the membership brochure found at <https://mnsoilhealth.org/become-a-member/> and mail in with your dues

All Members

You will have a sticker on the front page of your newsletter with your membership expiration date to keep you informed and can renew your membership online or hard copy

If your contact information has changed, please update your membership information on the website or email Jennifer Hahn at coordinator@mnsoilhealth.org to ensure you're receiving emails and mailings

