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USDA NRCS East National Technology Support Center
National Soil Health and Sustainability Team
2014 Healthy Soils Webinar Series



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Date	Healthy Soils Topic
Jan 16	An Experimental Case Study for Soil Health
Feb 11	The Biology of Soil Compaction
Feb 13	Core NRCS Conservation Practices for Enhancing Soil Health
Mar 11	Soil Health and Production Benefits of Mob Grazing
Mar 28	Cover Crops: Why grow a crop you don't sell?
Apr 08	Managing for Soil Health on Dryland – A Farmer's Perspective
May 13	Using RUSLE2 to Evaluate Soil Health Planning Principles
Jun 10	Managing for Soil Health in the Piedmont Area of the Southeast – A Farmer's Perspective
Jul 08	Managing for Soil Health when Raising Potatoes – A Farmer's Perspective
Aug 12	Managing for Soil Health on an Organic Farm – A Farmer's Perspective

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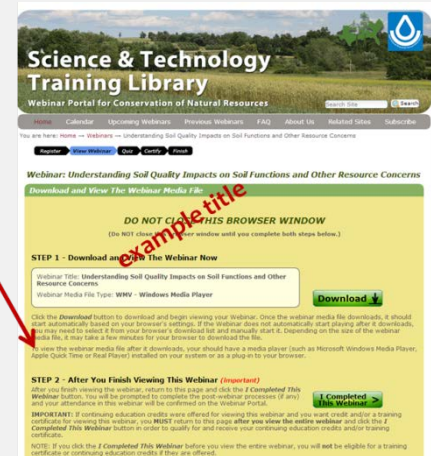
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unlock the
SECRETS
IN THE
SOIL

Core NRCS Conservation Practices for Enhancing Soil Health



David Lamm

National Soil Health &
Sustainability Team, Leader



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Today's Agenda

- Core NRCS Practices David Lamm
- Building a Working Conservation System to Enhance Soil Health
 - Midwest Corn Belt Barry Fisher
State Agronomist, IN
 - SE Cotton & Peanuts Gordon Mikell
State Agronomist, IN
 - Arid West Joel Moffett
Soil Health Coordinator, CO



Soil Health: What is It?

The continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans

Soil Function to Support Agriculture



- Nutrient cycling
- Water (infiltration & availability)
- Filtering and Buffering
- Physical Stability and Support
- Habitat for Biodiversity

Soil Health Planning Principles



- Manage more by Disturbing Soil Less
- Use Plant Diversity to Increase Diversity in the Soil
- Grow Living Roots Throughout the year
- Keep the Soil Covered as Much as Possible



NRCS Conservation Practice Standard

- 161 different practice standards
 - 97 CED has lead
 - 21 ESD Agronomist has lead
 - 13 Erosion primary resource concern
 - 4 Residue Management
 - 9 ESD Grazing Specialist has lead
- Limited number of practices to choose from
- Soil Health requires more than controlling erosion

Core Soil Health Enhancing Conservation Practices



- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Residue Management – No Till (329)
- Residue Management – Reduced Till (345)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)

Synergistic Practices

- Practice that increase soil health enhancement when applied in conjunction with a core practice
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Pest Management (595)
 - Irrigation Water Management (349)

