Partners

Use: Questions and Answers for Presenters
Use: Chat for sharing information with all participants
About us

We are farmers, gardeners, and consumers working together to create a sustainable regional food system that’s ecologically sound and economically viable. Through demonstration, education, advocacy and organic certification we promote land stewardship, organic food production, and local marketing. We are NY’s top USDA accredited organic certifier.
Organic in New York

3rd in the nation for number of organic farms behind only California and Wisconsin

4th in the nation in terms of acres of certified farmland

1st in the nation for number of organic dairy farms

In 2019 NY farmers made $298.5 million in Organic Farmgate sales and farmed 323,081 Certified Organic acres.

Sources: 2017 Census of Agriculture; 2019 Organic Survey Certified Organic Survey
Soil Health in Organic Systems

All organic farms must improve soil as detailed in their organic system plans. These plans may include:

- adding compost and other organic materials,
- diversifying the crop rotation,
- growing cover crops,
- utilizing legumes to provide nitrogen (N), and
- integrating crops and livestock.

Organic farmers also protect soil organisms by avoiding synthetic chemicals.
NOFA-NY’s Soil Health Programming

- Technical assistance to organic and transitioning to organic producers
- Education for farmers and gardeners on building healthy soils
Soil health and policy workshops:

- Cultivating Climate Resilience with Whole Farm Planning, Laura Lengnick of Glynwood
- Understanding Exotic Earthworms and the Invasive ‘Jumping Worm’, Justin Richardson of University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Advocating for a More Just and Resilient Future Through the 2023 Farm Bill, NOFA staff
- Vision 2050: A New York State Vision for a Profitable, Regenerative, Equitable, and Healthy Food System by 2050, Phoebe Schreiner of The Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE)
- In progress: farmer panel featuring on-farm soil health projects

More workshops added regularly: nofany.org/2023conference/
NOFA-NY’s Soil Health Advocacy

We advocate for state and federal soil health policies and funding that support resilient food systems, land stewardship, carbon sequestration, and healthy communities and waterways through grassroots engagement and cooperation with state & national allies.
Influencing Soil Health and Climate with American Farmland Trust

holistic approach to agriculture
Land– people – practices

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NY Soil Health Summit, Dec 13, 2022
Addressing Climate & Soil Health

A synergistic & interdisciplinary group of leading experts and regional influencers.

- Soil Health
- Climate
- Water
- Sociology
- Agroecosystems
- Economics
- Outcomes
- Policy
- Land Protection
- Solar Development
- Communications
Our Approaches

Examples:
- Soil Health Demonstration
- Decision Support Tools
- State Mitigation Potential Briefs
- Scaling Sustainable Biochar Use
- 4 Climate Smart Commodity Partnership Projects
- Farm Bill 2023

https://farmland.org/project/climate/
Two National Policy Soil Health Levers: IRA & Farm Bill 2023

- $19.5B in IRA for climate smart practices and quantification. Federal Register comments due 12/21.
- One Recommendation on AFT’s Farm Bill Agenda: Provide Federal Matching Funds for State Soil Health Programs

https://farmland.org/2023-farm-bill/
On farm research and demonstration
Peer to peer learning for soil health management systems adoption
Economic case studies

farmland.org/project/genesee-river-demonstration-farms-network/
Together, let’s work toward a New Conventional Agriculture

… where diverse, climate-smart, and soil health-promoting agricultural systems ensure a prosperous and resilient future for farmers and the land that sustains us

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Thank you!
Soil Health

• Importance of healthy soil
• Farmers use various methods to protect soil including:
  • Crop rotation
  • Cover crops
  • Tillage options
  • Precision application of chemical inputs
• EPF Funding: SWCD’s, Cornell Soil Health, Climate Resilient Farming
• Conservation program implementation
  • NY Ag & Markets
  • USDA
• Pest pressures
• Future: Is there a way for farmers to capture value from soil health practices
  • Carbon sequestration credit