



Partners



Use: Questions and Answers for Presenters

Use: Chat for sharing information with all participants



NOFA-NY Update

NYS Soil Health Summit | December 13, 2022

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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

2023 Virtual Winter Conference: February 2 – 5, 2023

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

Bianca Moebius-Clune, PhD
Director, Climate Initiative
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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/>

Quantify
Impacts



Work on
the
Ground



Unite Coalitions &
Advance Policy
Solutions



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/>



GENESEE RIVER DEMONSTRATION
FARM NETWORK

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/](https://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!

link to sign up
for AFT's free
newsletter

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

