

# Farming in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## A Practical Approach to Improve Soil Health

### What is Soil Health? Why Should I Care?

Soil health is the capacity of a soil to function

--- (Doran & Parkin, 1993)

- Reduces inputs and costs
- Soil is a living factory of macroscopic and microscopic workers who need food to eat and places to live and do their work.
- Tillage, fertilizer, livestock, pesticides, and other management tools can be used to improve soil health ... or significantly damage it if not applied correctly.
- Managing for soil health is mostly a matter of maintaining the creatures that comprise the soil food web. It can be accomplished by ...
  - Disturbing the soil as little as possible
  - Growing as many different species of plants as practical
  - Keeping living plants in the soil as often as possible
  - Keeping the soil covered all the time



### Soils Health Workshop

Scout Hall – 28 Abbe Road, East Windsor, CT  
November 14-16, 2011 – 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Registration: \$10 (includes breaks/lunch)  
RSVP by November 4, 2011

For more information, contact:  
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**Sponsored by:**  
Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council  
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Managing for  
**Soil Health**  
begins by  
*changing the way you  
think about soil.*

Application recertification points are available from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Farming in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Practical Approach to Improve Soil Health

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Sessions you wish to attend \_\_\_\_\_

Nov. 14

Nov. 15

Nov. 16

No. Attending @ \$10/each \_\_\_\_\_

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Please mail to:

Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area  
24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066

Please RSVP by November 4, 2011

Space is limited ... register early!