



CONNECTICUT SOIL HEALTH INITIATIVE

Soil Health is the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem to support plants, animals, and humans

The Soil Health Initiative hosted by CT RC&D in partnership with USDA NRCS, delivers education and support to producers and a variety of federal, state, and nonprofit staff through workshops, conferences, pilot programs, equipment sharing, and hands on learning for the implementation of healthy soils in Connecticut.



Connecticut
Resource Conservation
& Development



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROVIDER

SOIL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

- Minimize soil disturbance - fewer tillage passes
- Maximize soil cover - plants year round
- Maximize biodiversity - changing plant types (vegetables/grains/grass/legumes)
- Maximize the presence of living roots - living roots equal living soil

BENEFITS OF SOIL HEALTH

Fields with soil health systems, such as no-till, cover cropping, or crop rotation have demonstrated positive results through:

- Increasing the soil's organic matter and improving microbial activity
- Sequestering more carbon
- Increasing water infiltration
- Improving wildlife and pollinator habitats
- Harvesting better profits and often better yields
- Reducing labor, fertilizer, and energy costs

MORE INFORMATION ON IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH

CT RC&D Soil Health Initiative:

www.ctrctd.org/agriculture/soil-health-initiative

USDA NRCS CT Soil Health:

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ct/soils/health

