



Join Us for the Soil Health Institute's Information-Packed 2019 Annual Meeting

This year's theme is **Soil Health – A Global Imperative**, reflecting just how critically imminent it is that we safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soils to address food, water, climate, wildlife, fiber, fuel, and other global issues.

You will learn about:

- Where we go next for exploring soil health - human health relationships,
- Identifying the best indicators of soil health across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico,
- New state and federal programs and policies for supporting soil health,
- Latest research in understanding and managing the soil microbiome,
- Filling the economics information gap for farmers,
- Training programs to assist farmers with adopting soil health systems,
- Adapting soil health principles in rangeland systems,
- Ecosystem service markets for the environmental benefits attributed through soil health, and
- Soil stewardship as the "Great Connector."

Information for Planning Your Trip:

- Opening Reception: 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 16
- Presentations and Working Sessions: Wednesday, July 17, until Noon Thursday, July 18
- Register for the meeting [here](#). Please note that this year we have a modest registration fee to help us offset a few of the increasing costs.
- Reserve your room [here](#) or call Hyatt room reservations at 800-233-1234. If you call, please mention the "Soil Health Institute Annual Conference 2019" to access the discounted room block rate.
- For more information, please contact info@soilhealthinstitute.org.

SOIL HEALTH
A Global Imperative

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

July 16-18, 2019

Sacramento, California USA

Call for Soil Health Posters

Poster Proposal Submission Deadline: June 1, 2019

The Soil Health Institute invites applications for poster presentations at its **Fourth Annual Meeting "Soil Health: A Global Imperative"** to be held July 16-18, 2019 in Sacramento, CA. Presenters should plan to be present from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., July 16, to discuss their work with other attendees.

Poster presentations should be relevant to soil health and sufficiently transparent, detailed, and rigorous to support a scientific discussion of soil health.

Online poster proposals/applications are due by 5:30 p.m., Saturday, June 1, 2019, and must designate the primary presenter, author(s), primary contact information, and affiliation(s). The application requires a summary description as well as a head/shoulders photograph of the primary presenter that will be used to promote the Poster Session.

The poster proposal/application form and poster guidelines can be found [here](#).

Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton Launches in Three States in 2019, Expands to Six States in 2020

The Soil Health Institute has launched [Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton](#), a continuous engagement project to help U.S. cotton farmers increase soil health on their farms. The project seeks to quantify and expand the productivity, economic, and environmental benefits of soil health systems for those farmers. The initial pilot program, which will be conducted during 2019, includes cotton producers in Arkansas, Georgia, and North Carolina, according to Dr. Cristine Morgan, Chief Scientific Officer.

Mr. David Lamm Named Project Manager of Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton

The Soil Health Institute (SHI) has named [Mr. David Lamm](#) as project manager of Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton.

Most recently, Mr. Lamm served as Team Leader of the National Soil Health and Sustainability Team for USDA-NRCS. He previously served NRCS as an Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in Georgia and as a District Conservationist for the Ft. Wayne, Indiana Field Office.



Mr. Lamm assisted with the USDA-NRCS Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Ag effort and worked with program policy, particularly for the Conservation Security Program. His experience merging the technical side of conservation, (no-till farming, cover crops and nutrient and pest management) and

knowledge of USDA-NRCS conservation programs makes him a valuable asset to the Soil Health Institute's cotton training project, according to Dr. Cristine Morgan, Chief Scientific Officer. Mr. Lamm earned his B.S. in Natural Resources from Ball State University in 1978.



"This farmer-focused education and training program will be delivered by a qualified team comprised of technical specialists and successful cotton farmers," Dr. Morgan said. "In 2020, the program will expand to Mississippi, Texas, and California."

"Cotton producers who successfully complete the program will gain knowledge in soil health systems and become part of a network of farmers interested in increasing sustainability of cotton production," Dr. Morgan added.

What Cotton Growers Gain by Participating

By participating in the project, cotton growers will:

- Learn how to evaluate soil health on their farm using current soil health assessment protocols;
- Develop a Soil Health Management System plan that is tailored to their soils and farming operation;
- Build a cover cropping strategy that addresses their specific local environment and soil health needs;
- Adjust equipment to ensure success;
- Network with farmer mentors from their state who have been successful in improving soil health on their farms;
- Consult with a Soil Health Technical Specialist; and
- Quantify the environmental impact of their practices.

According to Mr. David Lamm, Project Manager, the project will identify farmers in each state who are successfully adopting soil health systems. These farmers will provide insights into their soil health systems and help mentor others who participate in the training program. In addition, a local Soil Health Technical Specialist will help conduct farmer training and provide continuous technical support over at least the next two years.

Healthy Soils for Sustainable Cotton is supported through the generosity of the Wrangler® brand, the VF Corporation Foundation, and the Walmart Foundation.

Information about the project is available [here](#). If you have questions, please contact [Mr. Lamm](#).

NORTH AMERICAN PROJECT TO EVALUATE SOIL HEALTH MEASUREMENTS UPDATE

Scientists Sample More Than 60% of Sites by May, Despite Weather

The [North American Project to Evaluate Soil Health Measurements](#) (NAPESHM) sampling phase is currently underway with greater than 60 percent of the 122 participating long-term agricultural research sites sampled by May 1, 2019. The target date for sample completion is mid-June, 2019.

Since February, 2019, SHI's [team of seven project scientists](#) has been on the road sampling sites and developing relationships with long-term agricultural experiment site partners. This summer, project scientists and site partners will transition from sampling to data interpretation.

"As of today, 65% of the sites in the southeastern US have been sampled," Project Scientist Dr. Kelsey Hoegenauer said. "Frequent and heavy rainfall events have challenged our sampling timeline, but the assistance from researchers and staff at all locations has enabled sampling to progress despite the weather. I have enjoyed meeting scientists and research staff across the southeastern United States who are participating in our project and are passionate about advancing soil health research. I am grateful for all of the time and expertise these professionals have contributed."

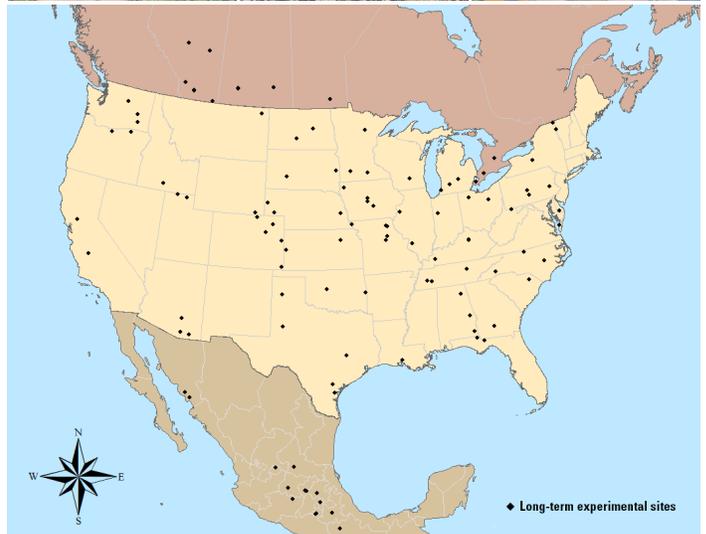
Because of extremely dry conditions in Mexico or requests by site scientists, a few sites (about 6%) will have sampling delayed until this summer/early next fall, according to Dr. Paul Tracy, SHI Project Manager.

SHI Project Scientists by Region

Region	Lead SHI Project Scientist
Southeast/Texas/Oklahoma	Dr. Kelsey Hoegenauer
Southern Midwest/Eastern Seaboard	Dr. Mac Bean
U.S. Far West	Dr. Shannon Cappellazzi
U.S. Great Plains (excluding Texas and Oklahoma)	Dr. Dan Liptzin
U.S. Northern Midwest/Northeast	Dr. Elizabeth Rieke
Canada	Dr. Charlotte Norris
Mexico	Dr. Paul Tracy

"We're extremely grateful for the support provided from our partnered-site scientists" Dr. Tracy said. "Without their site knowledge, guidance, sampling support and professionalism, we could not accomplish the project's goals. It continues to amaze me how this project is further developing a network of scientists interested in the factors that contribute to the vitality of our agricultural soils.

"The target for May 1 was around 60%, so we are right on track. We believe we will be at least 90% finished sampling by June 1, then we'll clean up the last few sites in August to October. We're already seeing some interesting results from the real-time measurements we get from the SATURO infiltrator readings. I have a sense we're all going to learn a lot from this project. Kudos to all," Dr. Tracy said.



NACD Stewardship Week:

Three Organizations Share Soil Health Message

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), Soil and Water Conservation Service (SWCS), and the Soil Health Institute (SHI) joined to celebrate NACD Stewardship Week, Apr. 28 to May 5.

NACD's Stewardship Week was established more than 60 years ago to educate the public on the importance of conservation practices. Each year, NACD Stewardship Week centers around a theme. The 2019 theme, "*Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper*," celebrated the living world beneath our feet.

"Soil is crucial to our health as a nation," Mr. Tim Palmer, NACD President, said. "The earth below us is teeming with life, and it is our duty as stewards of the land to all do our part to protect it."

Conservation districts across the nation host events each year during NACD Stewardship Week to educate their local communities about the significance of conservation practices, as well as how they can integrate conservation practices into their routines at home.

NACD also celebrated the 64th annual Stewardship Week at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s

People's Garden.

A number of conservation districts, as well as others, gathered to view and discuss the documentary *Living Soil*. Released in late 2018 by SHI through the generous support of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, the 60-minute documentary features innovative farmers, including several [NACD Soil Health Champions](#), and soil health experts describing their journey to improve soil health.

"*Living Soil* challenges its viewers to think of how we can protect and enhance this precious resource," Dr. Wayne Honeycutt, SHI President and CEO, said.

All three organizations provided resources, including NACD's free educational materials and toolkits for hosting *Living Soil* on the association's [Stewardship Week webpage](#).

"Everyone on this earth depends on soil and in turn it is up to all of us to keep it healthy, protected and productive," Clare Lindahl, SWCS CEO, said. "When we take care of our soil, we are caring for all of life that depends on it." We invite you to host a screening of *Living Soil* in your community by visiting www.livingsoilfilm.com.

Soil Health Institute Names Dr. Archie Flanders as Agricultural Economist

The Soil Health Institute (SHI) has named Dr. Archie Flanders as its Agricultural Economist. Dr. Flanders recently served on the faculty at the University of Georgia and the University of Arkansas where he focused on production economics, farm management, and economic development.



"Dr. Flanders has developed interactive economic decision tools for crop and livestock commodities, agricultural policy programs, and whole-farm analysis," said Dr. Wayne

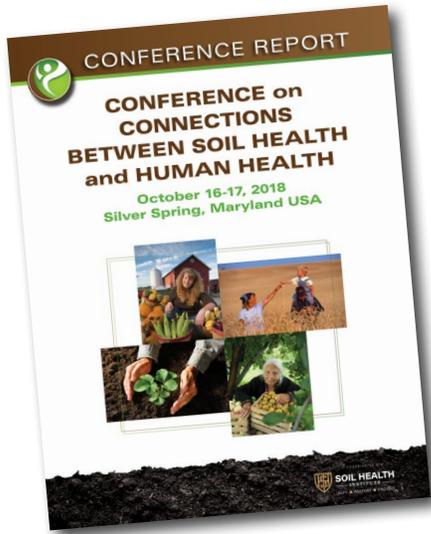
Honeycutt, SHI President and CEO. "Farmers and ranchers must have tools they can trust as they evaluate which soil health practices are right for each field or pasture – looking at each field's production, economic return, and

environmental impact. Interactive decision tools allow them to customize enterprise budgets that represent unique production situations. Dr. Flanders will lead the development and use of those tools for establishing the business case for adopting soil health systems."

Dr. Flanders received his B.S.A. in General Agriculture, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Georgia. He is a member of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association as well as the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

"I look forward to working with producers and agricultural researchers so that farmers and ranchers can make informed decisions about production practices for optimizing soil health while realizing economic efficiencies by applying enterprise budgets," Dr. Flanders said.

Soil Health Institute Releases Report: Conference on Connections Between Soil Health and Human Health



The Soil Health Institute (SHI) has released the [Conference on Connections Between Soil Health and Human Health report](#), which includes recommendations for better understanding soil health - human health relationships.

The Conference on Connections Between Soil Health and Human

Health was designed to bring the soil health and human health communities together, establish the current state of collective knowledge, identify gaps and associated priorities, and scope a collaborative path forward. Held last October, the conference included more than 180 attendees from more than 120 organizations.

During the conference, participants learned that the medical community largely thinks of soil decontamination rather than soil as a source of nutrients. In fact, the medical profession is so concerned about climate change that medical societies representing more than half of the doctors in the United States have created a consortium to inform the public and policymakers about the harmful health effects of climate change. Most of the issues discussed are issues that can be addressed by improving soil health!

Priorities include identifying opportunities to:

- Connect research on the human microbiome to the soil microbiome,
- Quantify how improvements in soil health affect the nutrient density of food, and
- Conduct joint research to optimize both human health and soil health outcomes.



The next step is to map out the approach for addressing and funding the leading priorities.

For more information, please contact Dr. [Cristine Morgan](#), Chief Scientific Officer, who will be coordinating the effort for the Soil Health Institute.

- You may access the report [here](#).
- The news release is available [here](#).
- Watch event presentations on the [Soil Health Institute YouTube Channel](#).



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