



SOIL HEALTH
— INSTITUTE —

Sustaining Soil, Safeguarding Life

OUR MISSION: SAFEGUARD AND ENHANCE THE
VITALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF SOIL THROUGH
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ADVANCEMENT



Soil Health | Water | Sustainability | Environment



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ABOUT THE SOIL HEALTH INSTITUTE

In 2013, the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and Farm Foundation, NFP, convened agricultural industry thought leaders, farmers, ranchers, government agency leaders, and non-governmental organizations to examine the current state of our world's soil health and its role in a vibrant, profitable, and sustainable ecosystem. As the group identified diverse and complex issues regarding soil health, it became clear that a collaborative-oriented organization was needed to spearhead accurate, science-based information, create a sense of urgency and coordinate change leadership.

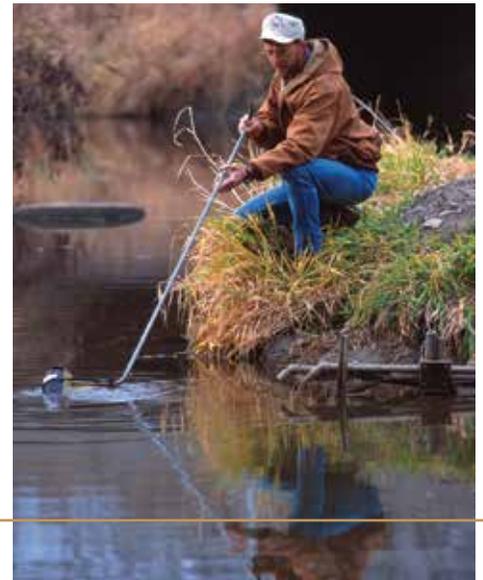
The Soil Health Institute is that organization. As the independent, non-profit organization charged with coordinating and supporting soil stewardship and advancing soil health, the Soil Health Institute is focused on fundamental and applied research and ensuring its adoption. We recognize that soil health must emerge as the cornerstone of land use management decisions throughout the world during the 21st Century because healthy soil is the foundation of life and society. Enhancing soil health allows us to improve water quality, increase drought resilience, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve farm economies, provide pollinator habitat, and better position us to feed the nine billion people expected by 2050. The Soil Health Institute is designed to move technology and knowledge from the research laboratory to the farm field – bringing together industry, farmers, ranchers, government agencies, scientists, and consumers toward the common goal of protecting and enriching our soils, our environment, and indeed, our lives.

We look forward to working with you to return as much to the soil as it gives to us.

Appreciatively,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C. Wayne Honeycutt, Ph.D.
President and CEO



Our Global Footprint Starts with Scientific Research



RESEARCH

The Soil Health Institute works with industry leaders, government agencies, independent research organizations, academic institutions, and producers to identify gaps in soil health research. With its many partners, the Institute prioritizes and develops strategic plans for funding the fundamental and applied research to resolve the most pressing soil health issues.

The Institute then ensures that knowledge and information generated from scientific research on soil health is promptly and broadly disseminated to all stakeholders.



MEASUREMENT AND STANDARDS

A key objective of the Institute is to establish, coordinate, and oversee national soil health measurement standards based on regional soil characteristics.

The Institute will promote standardized measurement in soil testing and research, working with agricultural communities to benefit producers and promote soil and water conservation. Working with partners, a National Soil Health Assessment will provide a baseline of the current state of soil health, as well as a marker for measuring future progress.



ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The Institute will increase awareness of the costs and benefits of soil health practices. By including economic analysis as part of our soil health research programs, the Institute will give farmers and ranchers information they need to adopt positive soil health practices, increase agricultural productivity and conserve natural resources with confidence.



PUBLIC POLICY

American agriculture is the backbone of food security, strong economies and innovation worldwide. The Institute will work closely with experts on public policy to enhance an agricultural system where freedom, opportunity, prosperity and civil society flourish. The Institute will promote soil health as a cornerstone of sound policy.



COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

The Soil Health Institute is committed to serving as a central hub for communications and education regarding soil health research and soil-related information. Informing policymakers, the scientific community, producers, industry leaders, and consumers underscores and emphasizes each of the Institute's primary activities and is critical to cultivating healthy soils for a healthy future.



TOGETHER – WE FACE TOUGH CLIMATE CHALLENGES FROM THE GROUND UP

THE SOIL HEALTH INSTITUTE IS COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH ALL PARTNERS TO:

- Enhance key soil processes that increase productivity, resilience and environmental quality, and
- Identify research gaps, coordinate national partnerships to address those gaps and help drive the transformational changes needed for the betterment of soil health and ultimately society.

TIMELY INFORMATION

- Generate accurate, ongoing reports of soil health;
- Quantify the impact of soil health practices on productivity and environmental quality;
- Coordinate and disseminate soil health research and conservation updates to all interested in soil productivity.

RESEARCH COORDINATION

- Determine research priorities;
- Facilitate research initiatives;
- Provide convenient data access for soil researchers and others through the Soil Health Institute Research Landscape Tool™;
- Assist in establishing rigorous research protocols.

INNOVATION

- Provide and expand the Soil Health Institute Research Landscape Tool, which provides an online repository of soil health studies to scientists, researchers and others involved in soil health advancement;
- Develop a practical, economics-savvy Decision Support System that allows agricultural producers to manage their soils to achieve a targeted level of drought resilience;
- Establish soil health measurements and standards, calibrated for regional soil characteristics;
- Lead and coordinate a National Soil Health Assessment.

IT'S EXCITING AND IMPORTANT WORK; IT'S DRILLING DOWN INTO SOIL'S DNA.

- Soil health management systems can build resilience to drought as well as provide protection from other extreme weather events, such as flooding. If we can increase soil organic carbon by a single percent – just **one** percent – we can increase the top six inches of soil's water-holding capacity by approximately 2,500 to 12,000 gallons per acre in many typical agricultural soils.
- By improving the soil's water-holding capacity and increasing water infiltration, we reduce runoff. More nutrients stay on the field, improving on-farm profitability and decreasing the unintended consequences of soil erosion and nutrient loss to streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.
- Scientific knowledge of the mechanisms and drivers influencing key soil processes will allow us to strategically increase soil organic carbon, control plant pathogens, increase yield, reduce greenhouse gases and protect water quality.
- Then, we can expand our scope of work, enhancing soil health worldwide for generations to come.

Now is the time for farmers, ranchers, researchers, academia, legislators, government agencies, industry, and environmental groups to invest in our soil like never before. Together, we can unify, restore and protect this land so it will enrich our lives.

We invite you to join us. If you're ready to make your impact on soil health as part of your global responsibility program, visit SoilHealthInstitute.org or call us at +1-919-230-0303.