WORKSHOP THREE – ELIMINATING, REDUCING OR MODIFYING TILLAGE
AUGUST 6 AND 7, 2019 • SENECA FALLS, NY

Agenda

Soil Health Center Activities are open to the public and highlighted in BOLD

Day 1 – Tuesday August 6th

9:00 – 9:30 Coffee and Socializing

9:30 - 10:00 Agenda for the third workshop– Aaron Ristow, American Farmland Trust & Joseph Amsili, Cornell Soil Health Lab

10:00 – 11:00 Soil Health: History, Geography, and Opportunities in New York State – Harold van Es, Cornell

11:00 – 12:00 Producer Panel - Nutrient Management in No-Till Systems with John Kemmeren, Dave Magos, and Jay Swede. Moderated by Paul Salon, CCA, former USDA-NRCS Northeast Soil Health Specialist

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch Sponsored by King’s AgriSeeds

1:00 – 2:00 Cover Crop Field Demo (Lot #296) – Rod Porter, King’s AgriSeeds, Adam Robertson, SeedWay and Paul Salon, USDA-NRCS

2:00 – 2:40 Pests and Diseases in Corn and Soybean; Management in No-Till Systems - Jaime Cummings, NYS IPM Field Crops and Livestock Coordinator, Cornell

3:00 – 4:00 Interactive Group Activity – Aaron Ristow, American Farmland Trust

4:00 Adjourn Session

6:00 Dinner on your own –
Although you are responsible for your own dinner, reservation have been made at Parker’s Grille and Tap House, 86 Fall Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148, https://www.parkersgrille.com/. Dinner is not a requirement for the program but a courtesy as the restaurant is expecting a larger group at 6pm.
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Day 2 - Wednesday August 7th

8:30 – 9:10       Coffee and Welcome

9:10 – 9:50       Penn State Planting Green Research Summary – Heidi Reed, Penn State Extension Educator

10:00 – 11:00    Managing for Healthier Soils and Cleaner Water – Jim Hershey, Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance

11:00 – 12:00    Producer Panel - Successes and Challenges with Planting Green in NY and PA Farmer Panel with Donn Branton, Jim Hershey, and John Macauley. Moderated by Bryan Lord, Carolina Eastern-Crocker and Practical Soil Health Specialist Trainee

12:00 – 1:00     Lunch Sponsored by King’s AgriSeeds

1:00 – 2:00       Cover Crop Field Demo (Lot #296) – Rod Porter, King’s AgriSeeds, Adam Robertson, SeedWay and Paul Salon, NRCS (Not required for day 2)

1:30 – 2:30       Tillage Equipment Field Tour with Greg Albrecht, NYSDAM and Dale Gates, NRCS

2:30 – 3:00       Tillage and Manure Spreading Demo with Shawn Bossard and Rob Cross, Morrisville State College

3:15 – 4:00       Effects of Reduced Tillage on Beneficial Arthropods – Karly Regan, Cornell Postdoctoral Associate

4:00           Adjourn
Agenda

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Day 3 is not part of the Specialist Training

Day 3 - Thursday August 8th

10:00 – 11:00   Integrating Cover Crops and Reduced Tillage in Vegetable Systems – Ryan Maher, Cornell Small Farms Research and Extension Specialist

11:00 – 12:00   Soil Health Practices in Vegetable Operations - Farmer Panel with Josh Jurs, Andy Fellenz, and Moderated by Thomas Bjorkman

12:00 – 1:00    Soil Health Lunch Sponsored by King’s AgriSeeds

1:00 – 2:00     Cover Crop Field Demo – Rod Porter, King’s AgriSeeds; and Adam Robertson, SeedWay; and Paul Salon, NRCS Lot #926
Empire Farm Days
Rodman Lott and Son Farms
2973 Route 414
Seneca Falls, NY 12534
https://goo.gl/maps/vUwQGP97WxVv2gx6

There are parking lots on the North and South ends of the show.
Both lots are open to the public.

Parking is $10/car.
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Locations

Quality Inn
2468 NY-414
Waterloo, NY 13165
(315) 539-5011

https://goo.gl/maps/8zK2WNBF3ZyHL8kD7

Check in: 3:00PM
Check out: 11:00AM

We recommend you check in around 5pm, just after the end of the first day of the workshop and just before dinner around 6pm (You are not required to attend the dinner).

You will also need to check out as you leave the hotel in the morning to join the second day of the workshop as there will not be time to check-out once we get started.
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Locations

Parker’s Grille & Tap House
86 Fall Street
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

https://goo.gl/maps/XTLyqQCMop8RbjKV8

Reservations have been made for 6pm

Dinner is not a requirement.
TUESDAY, AUGUST, 6

10:00 am SOIL HEALTH: HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, AND OPPORTUNITIES IN NEW YORK STATE
Harold M. van Es, Ph.D., Cornell University Soil and Crop Sciences
Healthy soil is the foundation for sustainable crop production. Before the rise of agriculture, natural processes shaped the distribution of healthy soils. Today, humans have a large impact on where healthy soils are located through the movement of crop exports and agricultural management practices. Come learn about the history and geography of soil health, opportunities for New York, and a recent analysis of New York soil health.

11:00 am FARMER PANEL: NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT IN NO-TILL SYSTEMS
Panelists: John Kemmeren, Angel Rose Dairy, Chenango County, NY
Dave Megos, Morning Star Farm, Jefferson County, NY
Jay Swede, Swede Family Farm, Pavilion, NY
Moderator: Paul Salon, CCA, USDA-NRCS Northeast Soil Health Specialist (Ret.)

1:00-2:00 pm COVER CROPS FIELD DEMO
TOUR Lot #926

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7

10:00 am MANAGING FOR HEALTHIER SOILS AND CLEANER WATER
Jim Hershey, President, Pennsylvania No Till Alliance, Harrisburg, PA
No-till and cover crops are powerful strategies for improving soil health and crop performance in the long term. Jim will discuss how long-term no-till and cover crop usage has improved soil health, weed and pest suppression, and crop yields on his farm. Come learn about Jim's innovative sustainable soil management techniques: long-term no-till, planting green, and inter-seeding cover crops.

11:00 am FARMER PANEL: SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES WITH PLANTING GREEN IN NY AND PA
Panelists: Donn Brenton, Brantton Farms, Genesee County, NY
Jim Hershey, Hershey Farms, Elizabethtown, PA
John Macauley, Macauley Farms, LLC, Livingston County, NY
Moderator: Bryan Lord, Carolina Eastern Crocker, American Farmland Trust Practical Soil Health Specialist Trainee

1:00-2:00 pm COVER CROPS FIELD DEMO
TOUR Lot #926
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

10:00 am INTEGRATING COVER CROPS AND REDUCED TILLAGE IN VEGETABLE SYSTEMS

Ryan Maher, Cornell Small Farms Program Research and Extension Specialist
Strip tillage vegetable systems can balance some of the soil improving benefits of no-till with the well-known advantages of tillage. However, we need to adapt these systems for organic crops and harness cover crop benefits while avoiding the pitfalls with weeds, residue, and nitrogen availability. Come hear about the latest research on strip tillage with winter-hardy cover crops. We will dig deep into legume mixes and management practices and discuss the approaches and tools that will work to reduce inputs and improve productivity on your farm.

11:00 pm FARMER PANEL: SOIL HEALTH PRACTICES IN VEGETABLE OPERATIONS

Panelists: Josh Jurs, Kreher Family Farms, Erie County, NY
Andy Fellenz, Fellenz Family Farm, Phelps, NY
Moderator: Thomas Bjorkman, Ph.D., Cornell University Horticulture

1:00-2:00 pm COVER CROPS FIELD DEMO TOUR Lot #926

Our Speakers

Jim Hershey, with his wife Shirl, son Marc and daughter-in-law Crystal, owns and operates Hershey Farms, a 500-acre crop and livestock farm in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, PA. The operation includes organic certified broiler chickens, a swine wean-to-finish facility, a crop management service, and the Harvest View Barn Wedding venue. Crops include corn, wheat, and soybeans, all managed in a no-till/cover crop environment, maintaining living cover year-round. Jim has been planting into green living cover for more than 7 years and has seen a significant improvement in the soil’s ability to handle drought and excessive wet conditions. He has been cover crop interseeding for 6 years and more recently started intercropping, promoting no-till, cover crops & soil health.

Ryan Maher has worked as a specialist in the Small Farms Program at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, since 2013. He manages research and extension projects in vegetable cropping systems to support farmers at any scale in adopting reduced tillage practices to improve soil health on their farm. After graduating from SUNY-ESF in 2003, he spent two years training on small-scale, diversified vegetable farms. He spent five years with the USDA-ARS in St. Paul, MN, coordinating research on nutrient cycling in perennial forage crops. He graduated from Iowa State in 2017 with an MS in Sustainable Agriculture, investigating soil processes in native grassland restorations.

Harold van Es, Ph.D., is a 30-year Professor of Soil Science at Cornell University, with primary expertise in digital agriculture and soil health. He received degrees from the University of Amsterdam, Iowa State University, and North Carolina State University. He is the lead inventor of a computational tool for precision nitrogen management: Adapt-N, winner of the Tulane Nitrogen Reduction Grand Challenge, and a comprehensive soil health management framework. He has published more than 150 scientific papers and co-authored the widely-read book Building Soils for Better Crops. He is a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America (Past President, 2016), and the American Society of Agronomy.

Resource Tip

The Cornell Soil Health Assessment test, in addition to nutrient analysis, helps identify biological, physical and chemical constraints so farmers can enhance soil management changes where they will be most effective. Basic ($60) and standard ($110) comprehensive assessment of soil health packages available from the Cornell Soil Health Testing Laboratory. Download a free training manual: http://soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu/training-manual/
OUR FARMER PANELISTS

Donn Branton farms 1,500 acres at Branton Farms in Genesee County, NY, with his son Chad. They grow a variety of cash crops, including corn, soybean, alfalfa, peas, sweet corn, lima beans, dry beans, wheat, oats, and rye. Donn is a tireless advocate and innovator of reduced tillage and cover cropping practices to improve soil health, and he is the current president of the Western New York Soil Health Alliance, a farmer-led organization working to promote soil health practices and to serve as a collective voice for farmers in Western New York. He started experimenting with planting green before there was a name for it in 2005. Recently, Donn and Chad created the Big Daddy Cover Crops website to share information and insights from the various cover crop practices including cover crop mixtures, interseeding, planting green, etc.

Andy Fellenz started Fellenz Family Farm in 2002, growing a diverse range of organic vegetables to sell through a CSA, farmers’ markets, and other channels. Andy has been an active champion and educator for organic and soil health practices. He recently transferred management of the 45-acre organic vegetable, herb, and fruit farm to his son Erik and Erik’s partner Jenny. The farm uses a mix of cover crops, compost, and fertilizer to maintain soil fertility. Compost, peat, and mulches are used to build and maintain good soil tilth.

Jim Hershey: see Our Speakers

Josh Jurz is Crop Team Manager at Kreher Family Farms in Erie County, NY, with nearly 6,000 acres of organic cropland. The farm produces organic and conventional grains for its egg operation and grows several vegetable crops for local processing. Josh is currently updating his cover crop program to incorporate different species to build soil health, reduce erosion, and suppress weeds.

John Kemmeren manages Angel Rose Dairy, a 750-acre farm, in Chenango County, NY. He was one of the first farmers in the region to experiment with no-till back in 1975 and has been planting no-till ever since (>40 years). Furthermore, John incorporates cover crops into his rotation whenever possible to combat erosion and feed the soil. His integrated farming practices have allowed him to reduce costs and improve soil health.

John Macauley manages 1,200 acres at Macauley Farms L.L.C. in Livingston County, NY, with his father Jim and brother Jeff. They primarily grow corn grain, soybeans, and winter wheat, and raise 100 beef cows. In 2009, they began transition away from conventional tillage by first experimenting with both strip tillage and no-till planting. Today, they practice no-till on 100% of their acres and integrate diverse cover crop mixtures where possible to build soil health and reduce run-off. They have experimented with planting green for five years.

Dave Magos farms 2,200 acres of cropland at Morning Star Farm in Jefferson County, NY. He grows corn silage and alfalfa for his 780-cow dairy herd and corn grain and soybeans as cash crops. He began planting cover crops in 2007 and about the same time decided to try no-till. He is now 100 percent no-till. He has experimented with diversified cover crop mixes and many no-till corn planter attachments.

Jason Swede farms 4,500 acres of cropland with his father and brother at the Gary Sweded Family Farm, Pavilion, NY. The Swedes grow corn (sweet, silage and grain), soybeans, winter wheat, alfalfa, and vegetables. The family has won several national corn yield contests. The Swedes currently strip-till all of their acreage, but are actively interested in transitioning some acres to no-till. Jay is a leader in the precision agriculture world and co-founder of the Advanced Ag Alliance that works to advance precision agriculture, including precision nutrient management in New York and beyond.

Visit NY Soil Health Trailer Lot #921
See how different soils react to water, how healthy soils improve infiltration and prevent run-off, and how cover cropping and no-till farming reduce soil erosion and enhance crop development.

www.empirefarmdays.com