

SOIL HEALTH SNAPSHOT



Soil Health is an approach to managing soil to its optimum potential through a system of conservation practices. This approach results in healthy soil that:

- **reduces erosion;**
- **requires less nutrient inputs;**
- **manages the effects of flood and drought; and**
- **reduces nutrient and sediment pollution to streams and rivers.**



Soil health is a focus of NRCS and is being promoted in Indiana through the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI).



Food production relies on good soil health. The U.S. can meet the world's production demands by integrating today's residue management technology with soil health best management practices.



ABOUT SOIL HEALTH



Soil Health Practices

- Functioning No-Till System
- Cover Crops
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Buffers

Soil Health Benefits

- Balances biological community
- High organic matter that retains and cycles nitrogen and sequesters carbon
- Stabilizes soil aggregates
- Resists the erosive forces of water and wind
- Improves water infiltration
- Manages the effects of flood or drought
- Reduces fertilizer and fuel costs
- Enhances wildlife habitat

<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/>