



An Oregon-Grown Campaign to Raise Public Interest in Soil Health

Soil Your Undies Campaign Takes Root in Oregon



The **Soil Your Undies Campaign** is on in Oregon! It's the quick and easy way to test the microbial activity in your soil by burying organic matter (cotton undies) and digging them back up at least 60 days later. The more the underwear is deteriorated, the healthier your soil!

How Healthy is Your Soil? Take the Challenge to Find Out!

Whether you're on crop, range or forestland, the quick and dirty way to test your soil health is by "planting" a pair of new, cotton underwear in the site you're curious about. Follow these quick and easy steps to test your soil health.



1. Plant a pair of new, cotton underwear horizontally about 3 inches deep in the site you're curious about. Don't forget to mark the spot you planted!



2. Wait at least **60** days. This gives your soil microbes time to do their magic! Then dig the undies back up.



3. Share your results by sending us a photo of your "harvest" and a little info off-site link image about your operation to orinfo@nrcs.usda.gov.

THEY TOOK THE CHALLENGE: ARE YOU READY?



Gayle Goschie of Goschie Farms in Silverton is a nationally known hop grower. She and her brothers were the first hop growers to practice micro-irrigation and to earn a Salmon-Safe certification. She is a true leader in soil and water conservation, and soil health is critical to this farm's success. After 63 days in the ground, her dedication to the soil is evident. All that remained of her underwear was an elastic band.



Alan Klage's undies didn't stand a chance in his healthy hay field. Klages Ranch has been using cover crops for six years, which has benefited the health of the soil and cattle

Alan's undies were planted on April Fool's Day 2018 and harvested 122 days later.



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Joanne Ross is the premier Miniature Horse breeder of the Pacific Northwest. Joanne is confident in the health of her pastureland. After burying the underwear on May 7, 2019, Joanne exclaimed, "I didn't know if I was going to find them!" Fortunately, she did when she went to unearth them several months later, although just barely. The tattered remains are a testament to how well she cares for the soil on her property.



There's not much left of **Corey Miller's** briefs. His no till-wheat farm in Morrow County is clearly home to many happy and healthy soil microbes.



JOIN THE CHALLENGE TAKING ROOT THROUGHOUT OREGON



From farmers and ranchers to schools and agricultural communities, everyone is taking the challenge.

And you can to!

Follow the steps outlined earlier, and complete the information card below. Don't forget to take a photo and send to orinfo@nrcs.usda.gov.

GOOD LUCK!

Students from Monument High School in Grant County show off the varying results achieved across different terrain. The underwear on the left was buried on rangeland, whereas the underwear in the middle was planted in Conservation Research Enhancement Program (CREP) land and finally the underwear on the right was buried on a spring site.

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Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Town and County: _____

Undie Planting Date: _____ Undie Harvest Date: _____

Land Management: _____
(example: direct seed cropland for 12 years / irrigated pasture for 8 years)

Amount of rain or irrigation during challenge: _____

Describe your results and thoughts on what you found: _____

*Send us a photo of your soiled undies and a photo of this completed sheet to orinfo@nrcs.usda.gov