



Wisconsin State Technical Committee Minutes / Thursday, April 18, 2024 | 9:30a – 12:00p CST

Agenda	
Speaker	Topic
Josh Odekirk <i>Acting State Conservationist</i>	State Conservationist Report
Melissa Bartz <i>ASTC – Financial Assistance Programs</i>	EQIP Obligation Update, 2024 Local Work Group Meetings, and Program Planning (EQIP, CSP, RCPP) for Fiscal Year 2025.
Chris Miller <i>MLRA Soil Survey Leader</i>	Urban Soil Survey of Milwaukee County
Kristin Foehringer <i>State Working Lands Climate Smart Specialist</i>	Conservation Practice Standard 336 Soil Carbon Amendment and CEMA 221 Soil Organic Carbon Stock Monitoring
Ryan Gerlich <i>ASTC - Partnerships</i>	State Notice of Funding Opportunities
Subcommittee Leads	Subcommittee Reports: Forestry, Soil Health, Wildlife, Source Water Protection, Urban & Community Agriculture
Partners	Partner reports
Adjourn	

Meeting Notes:

Josh Odekirk <i>Acting State Conservationist</i>	State Conservationist Report
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1. Staffing
 - a. State Outreach Coordinator position will be posted soon, as John White (current State Outreach Coordinator) is retiring this summer
 - b. No update on permanent State Conservationist hiring. Josh will continue as Acting
 - c. Filled the Assistant State Conservationist – Partnerships with Ryan Gerlich
2. Budget
 - a. Congress has approved budget for Fiscal Year 2024
3. Training
 - a. Working Effectively with American Indians Training being held in Menominee, April 22-26
 - b. Grassland 2.0 scheduled for this summer
 - c. UW Platteville Training: one session will be held this fiscal year
 - d. Fundamentals of Conservation Planning: sessions will be held in May and September
4. Outreach/Programs





- a. Large number of Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Programs (CSP) applications received = a backlog for Fiscal Year 2025

Melissa Bartz <i>ASTC – Financial Assistance Programs</i>	EQIP Obligation Update, 2024 Local Work Group Meetings, and Program Planning (EQIP, CSP, RCPP) for Fiscal Year 2025.
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- 1. Jenn Chakravorty has been selected as the new program manager for Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCCP) and Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)
- 2. Annual Local Work Group Meetings ([Wisconsin NRCS Local Working Group Meetings](#)):
 - a. Southeast; June 18 (Mayville)
 - b. Southwest; June 20 (Richland Center)
 - c. Northwest; June 25 (Barron)
 - d. Northeast; June 25 (Wausau)
- 3. Public Dashboards: Wisconsin is leading the country in Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) obligations ([RCA Data Viewer](#))
- 4. 2024 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP) Notice of Funding Webinar for Applicants: April 23 and May 30 ([How to Apply to RCCP](#))

Chris Miller <i>MLRA Soil Survey Leader</i>	Urban Soil Survey of Milwaukee County
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- 1. Focus is on the greater Milwaukee area, as that was not surveyed with the others in the area back in the 1950's (54,000 acres)
 - a.

Kristin Foehringer <i>State Working Lands Climate Smart Specialist</i>	Conservation Practice Standard 336 Soil Carbon Amendment and CEMA 221 Soil Organic Carbon Stock Monitoring
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- 1. Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) 336 includes Biochar and Compost application (and mixture of both)
 - a. Biochar:
 - i. charcoal
 - ii. native soil constituent
 - iii. carbonized biomass
 - iv. included in Field Office Tech Guide
- 2. Soil Organic Carbon Stock Monitoring: Conservation Practice, System or Activity (CEMA) 221
 - a. Used in the conservation planning process





- b. Goal is to train staff on this so we have qualified individuals that can implement this activity

Ryan Gerlich <i>ASTC - Partnerships</i>	State Notice of Funding Opportunities
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1. Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023 is now available ([Wisconsin Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2023](#)). Hard copies can also be obtained by emailing the Public Affairs team (NRCS-WI-PublicAffairs@usda.gov).
2. Success Stories from the Field Fiscal Year 2023 is now available ([Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Success Stories](#))
3. WiWiC’s “Portraits of Love on the Land” is now available
4. Agreements
 - a. 109 active agreements
 - b. 27 obligated amendments to new agreements
 - c. \$42 M in obligations
5. Fiscal Year Cooperative Conservation Agreements Notice of Funding proposals were due April 15
6. Tribal Grant Notice of Funding proposals are due April 24
7. Community Agriculture Grants Notice of Funding proposals are due May 22
8. Funds are limited for new agreements in 2024.

Subcommittee Leads	Subcommittee Reports: Forestry, Soil Health, Wildlife, Source Water Protection, Urban & Community Agriculture
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1. Purpose of subcommittees:
 - a. Provide a conduit for NRCS to hear from partners and determine what is being worked on and what is needed.
 - b. A collaboration on national policies so we can “Wisconsin’ize” them
2. Forestry Subcommittee
 - a. Will be meeting in May
 - b. Intro to Forestry training held in March
 - c. Tree Planting training held last week (April 15-19)
 - d. Additional classes scheduled for this summer
3. Soil Health Subcommittee
 - a. Met on April 5 and discussed future of subcommittee
 - b. Also discussing the alignment of the subcommittee’s goals to policies and practices and will engage with other subcommittees
4. Source Water Protection
 - a. Plan to meet in early June
 - b. Farm Bill Focus





- i. Decisions: Identify watershed target areas specific to groundwater protection and well head protection areas
- 5. Urban/Community Agriculture Subcommittee
 - a. Met on 4/16
 - b. Training planned for this summer with partners
 - c. Working with Northcentral Technical College on small scale agriculture
 - d. Working on outreach with a focus on farmer's markets

Partners	Partner reports
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- 1. Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
 - a. Restarted tristate meetings (Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa)
- 2. Wisconsin Dairy Alliance
 - a. Focusing on helping dairy farmers work to reduce carbon footprint (uses COMET tool)
- 3. Pheasants Forever
 - a. Now up to 20 field staff
 - b. Precision Agriculture Specialist interviews taking place
 - c. Working on precision agriculture Cargill grant
- 4. Wisconsin Land & Water
 - a. Hiring Climate Specialist
- 5. FSA
 - a. Waiting on results from Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
 - b. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is now open for sign ups
 - c. Heli/Safe Program sign-ups are now open, and applications are being processed in batches as 353 applications have been received, which totals over 5,000 acres
 - i. Reenrollments will be due end of July
- 6. Ducks Unlimited
 - a. New Engineering Technician starts on May 1
 - b. Grazing Biologists position in Northwestern Wisconsin: contract signed this week
- 7. Sand County Foundation
 - a. Holding Oak Savanna Restoration Event on May 4 ([Oak Event | Sand County Foundation](#))
- 8. Savanna Institute
 - a. Summer events scheduled ([Calendar | Savanna Institute](#))
- 9. Grassworks
 - a. Grassworks 2.0 (Beginning Farmers) is ready to launch ([Grassland 2.0 \(grasslandag.org\)](#))
 - b. Hosting grazing schools in September (September 10 and September 27-28)





Next Meeting: Thursday, July 19, 2024 (9:30a-12:00p CST)





United States Department of Agriculture

FA Programs

State Tech Advisory Committee
April 2024



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FY2024 EQIP Obligation Update

EQIP General (including GLRI):

WI Received \$25.5M

Application Preapprovals ~950

Funding 2/3 of applications in General

EQIP-IRA:

WI Received \$28.6M

Application Preapprovals ~460

Funding 2/3 of applications in IRA

RCPP:

WI Received \$750K

Application Preapprovals 33



Annual Local Work Group Meeting

Public Notice will be published soon

4 in-person LWG Meetings to gather public input for future program planning

NW Wisconsin June 25th, 2024 (10:00am -noon)

Barron County Government Center
Auditorium
335 E Monroe Ave
Barron, WI 54812

SW Wisconsin June 20th, 2024 (10:00am -noon)

Phoenix Center
100 S Orange St
Richland Center, WI 53581

NE Wisconsin June 25th, 2024 (10:00am -noon)

Northcentral Technical College
Health Science Building
First Floor Room 1004A
1000 W Campus Dr
Wausau, WI 54401

SE Wisconsin June 18th, 2024 (10:00am -noon)

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge
W4279 Headquarters Rd
Mayville, WI 53050

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Public Dashboards



New Inflation Reduction Act Data Visualization Tool available

Public Dashboards can be found

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/data-and-reports/rca-data-viewer>



NEW – Inflation Reduction Act Data Visualization Tool

This tool provides state-by-state data showing investments for Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act funding. Final data are available for fiscal year 2023, with year-to-date data available for fiscal year 2024.

[ACCESS THE VISUALIZATION TOOL](#)



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RCPP 2024 NFO



NFO was emailed to all on 4/4/2024 (from Brandon Gingher)

Upcoming Webinars for Applicants

- April 23rd
- May 30th

Times and links to register are on the How to Apply to RCPP webpage

[How to Apply to RCPP | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/nrcs/programs/rcpp)

An easement specific webinar is yet to be determined

If interested in applying or have questions contact:

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Jenn Chakravorty jennifer.chakravorty@usda.gov





Questions

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Brandi Richter

RCPP Coordinator

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- **CPS 336 Soil Carbon Amendment**
- **CEMA 221 –
Soil Carbon Stock Monitoring**



Kristin Foehringer, State Working Lands Climate Smart Specialist

Incentivizing Biochar & Compost Application



United States Department of Agriculture

336-CPS-1

Natural Resources Conservation Service
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
SOIL CARBON AMENDMENT

CODE 336

(ac)

DEFINITION

Application of carbon-based amendments derived from plant materials or treated animal byproducts.

PURPOSE

Use this practice to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

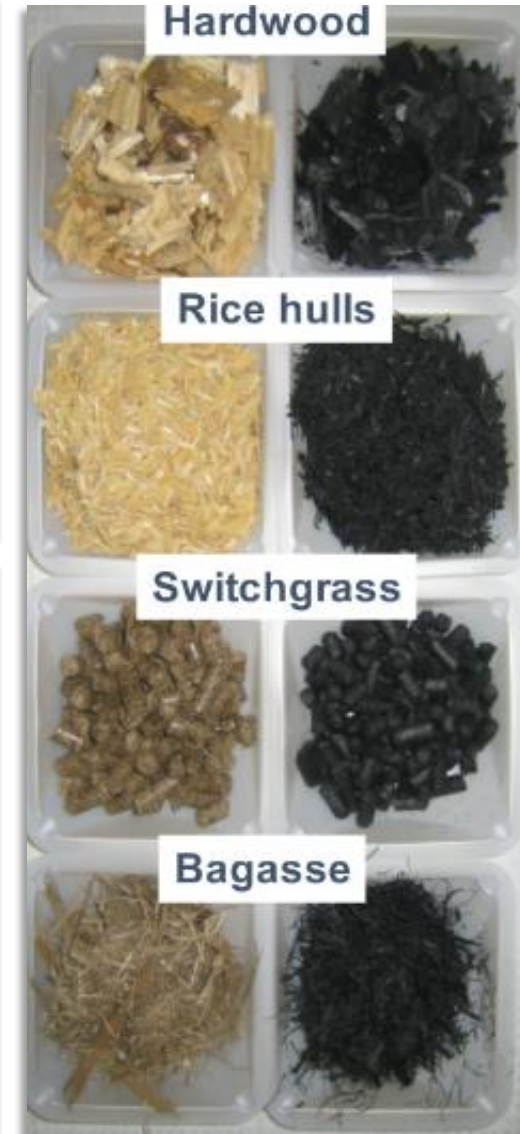
- Improve or maintain soil organic matter.
- Sequester carbon and enhance soil carbon (C) stocks.
- Improve soil aggregate stability.
- Improve habitat for soil organisms.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to areas of Crop, Pasture, Forest, Associated Agriculture Lands, Developed Land, and Farmstead where organic carbon amendment applications will improve soil conditions.

What is Biochar?

- Charcoal
- Native soil constituent
- Historic soil amendment
- Carbonized biomass
Produced via pyrolysis from plant or animal residue/waste = “feedstock”



<https://biochar.international/the-biochar-opportunity/what-is-biochar/>

Climate Mitigation

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List for FY2024



Highlighted activities have been added to the list in FY2024.
*Noted activities are added to the list as "provisional."⁽¹⁾

Mitigation Categories ⁽¹⁾	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ (practice unit)	Code	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Enhancement Activities
Soil Health	327	Conservation Cover (acres)	E327A	Conservation cover for pollinators and beneficial insects; ⁽²⁾
			E327B	Establish Monarch butterfly habitat
	328	Conservation Crop Rotation (acres)	E328A	Resource conserving crop rotation
			E328B	Improved resource conserving crop rotation
			E328E	Soil health crop rotation
			E328F	Modifications to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			E328N	Intercropping to improve soil health
			E328O	Perennial grain crop conservation rotation
	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (acres)	E329A	No till to reduce soil erosion
			E329B	No till to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			E329C	No till to increase plant-available moisture
			E329D	No till system to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E329E	No till to reduce energy
	332	Contour Buffer Strips (acres)	None Available	
	336	Soil Carbon Amendment (acres)*	None Available	
	340	Cover Crop (acres)	E340A	Cover crop to reduce soil erosion
			E340B	Intensive cover cropping to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E340C	Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil

Characteristics Important for Agriculture



...some biochars have the potential to immobilize heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, and hormones; prevent nitrate leaching and fecal bacteria from entering into groundwater and waterways; act as sorbent for PFAS, enhance odor mitigation, reduce enteric CH₄ emissions, and reduce N₂O and CH₄ emissions from soils...

Test Your Amendment

Document:

- Origin of biochar and production method (e.g., verification of feedstock, production temperature and limited oxygen conditions).
- Parameters for All Carbon Amendments in **Table 1**.
- Parameters for Biochar Amendments in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Parameters for Biochar Amendments

Parameter	Range	Unit
Total Ash	Report ₁	% of total mass, dry basis
Liming equivalent	Report	% CaCO ₃
Organic Carbon (C _{org})	>10	%DW
H:C _{org}	<0.7	Molar ratio
Chromium	<1200	mg/kg DW

₁Report = Required results only, no threshold or range needs to be met.

Use laboratories successfully meeting the current requirements and performance standards of the International Biochar Initiative (IBI) Seal (<https://biochar-international.org/testing-laboratories-for-ibi-biochar-certification/#list>), or use an alternative State-approved certification program that considers laboratory performance and proficiency to ensure accuracy of laboratory analyses.

Test Your Amendment

International BioChar Initiative (IBI) Laboratory Tests for Certification Program

	Dry Basis Unless Stated: Range	Units	Method
Moisture (time of analysis)	31.6	% wet wt.	ASTM D1762-84 (105c)
Bulk Density	8.3	lb/cu ft	
Organic Carbon	92.7	% of total dry mass	Dry Combust-ASTM D 4373
Hydrogen/Carbon (H:C)	0.18 0.7 Max	Molar Ratio	H dry combustion/C(above)
Total Ash	2.3	% of total dry mass	ASTM D-1762-84
Total Nitrogen	0.83	% of total dry mass	Dry Combustion
pH value	9.82	units	4.11USCC:dil. Rajkovich
Electrical Conductivity (EC20 w/w)	0.332	dS/m	4.10USCC:dil. Rajkovich
Liming (neut. Value as-CaCO3)	12.3	%CaCO3	AOAC 955.01
Carbonates (as-CaCO3)	4.6	%CaCO3	ASTM D 4373
Butane Act.	2.4	g/100g dry	ASTM D 5742-95
Surface Area Correlation	210	m2/g dry	G

* "How to interpret a biochar analysis report" factsheet is currently being developed by USBI and partners

All units mg/kg dry unless stated:					Particle Size Distribution		
	Results	Range of Max. Levels	Reporting Limit (ppm)	Method	Results	Units	Method
Arsenic (As)	ND	13 to 100	0.40	J	< 0.5mm	1.4 percent	F
Cadmium (Cd)	ND	1.4 to 39	0.16	J	0.5-1mm	0.2 percent	F
Chromium (Cr)	87.3	93 to 1200	0.40	J	1-2mm	1.5 percent	F
Cobalt (Co)	1.2	34 to 100	0.40	J	2-4mm	15.5 percent	F
Copper (Cu)	4.8	143 to 6000	0.40	J	4-8mm	53.4 percent	F
Lead (Pb)	0.20	121 to 300	0.16	J	8-16mm	28.0 percent	F
Molybdenum (Mo)	0.40	5 to 75	0.40	J	16-25mm	0.0 percent	F
Mercury (Hg)	ND	1 to 17	0.001	EPA 7471	25-50mm	0.0 percent	F
Nickel (Ni)	34.3	47 to 420	0.40	J	>50mm	0.0 percent	F
Selenium (Se)	ND	2 to 200	0.79	J	Basic Soil Enhancement Properties		
Zinc (Zn)	6.9	416 to 7400	0.79	J	Total (K)	4939 mg/kg	E
Boron (B)	34.6	Declaration	4.0	TMECC	Total (P)	161 mg/kg	E
Chlorine (Cl)	300	Declaration	20.0	TMECC	Ammonia (NH4-N)	3.7 mg/kg	A
Sodium (Na)	396	Declaration	395	E	Nitrate (NO3-N)	2.3 mg/kg	A
Iron (Fe)	483	Declaration	19.8	E	Organic (Org-N)	8275 mg/kg	Calc.
Manganese (Mn)	251	Declaration	0.40	J	Volatile Matter	12.6 percent dw	D

NRCS Payment Scenario Development

Application of carbon-based amendments derived from plant materials or treated animal byproducts.

FY 2024*

Compost On-Site (acre)

Compost Off-Site (acre – assumes 3 tons per acre)

100% Biochar (acre –assumes application of 4 cubic yards per acre)

~~Other Carbon Amendment (acre – such as wood chips, ash, bagasse)~~

Compost – Small Areas (square feet)

Compost + Biochar (square feet)

20% Biochar + 80% Compost

40% Biochar + 60% Compost

60% Biochar + 40% Compost

80% Biochar + 20% Compost



Biochar at Menoken Farm, ND

How Do I Know If Biochar is Appropriate?

Area of Interest (AOI) | Soil Map | **Soil Data Explorer** | Download Soils Data | Shopping Cart (Free)

View Soil Information By Use: All Uses | Printable Version | Add to Shopping Cart

Intro to Soils | **Suitabilities and Limitations for Use** | Soil Properties and Qualities | Ecological Sites | Soil Reports

Search

Suitabilities and Limitations Ratings

Open All | Close All

- Building Site Development
- Construction Materials
- Disaster Recovery Planning
- Land Classifications
- Land Management
- Military Operations
- Recreational Development
- Sanitary Facilities

Soil Health

- Agricultural Organic Soil Subsidence

Dynamic Soil Properties Response to Biochar

View Description | View Rating

View Options

- Map
- Table
- Component Breakdown and Rating Reasons
- Numeric Values
- Description of Rating
- Rating Options Detailed Description

Advanced Options

Map — Dynamic Soil Properties Response to Biochar

Scale: (not to scale)

Map showing soil suitability zones: BrC, M=O, GgB, GgA, GgC, GgD, GgE, GgF, GgG, GgH, GgI, GgJ, GgK, GgL, GgM, GgN, GgO, GgP, GgQ, GgR, GgS, GgT, GgU, GgV, GgW, GgX, GgY, GgZ.

WSS Interpretation

CEMA 221 – Soil Organic Carbon Stock Monitoring



- **Why?**

- Baseline Assessment & Step 9 of the planning process
- Part of National Program for Carbon Monitoring

- **Definition**

Used to estimate C stocks and track trends when data are aggregated across many producers. Soil organic C storage should be measured before and after the implementation of a conservation practice, system, or activity. Evaluation and monitoring of change usually requires sever years (e.g., >5 yrs)

CEMA 221 – Soil Organic Carbon Stock Monitoring



- **Why?**

- Baseline Assessment & Step 9 of the planning process

- **Where?**

- All land uses where there is a change in management or vegetation

- **Who are QIs?**

- CCA, CPAg, CPSS
- BSc in ag/soils with 2 yrs experience
- TSP for CPS 590, DIA & CPA 162
- Working under guidance of Qualified Individual (QI)

ARSS must be contacted before planning

Payment Scenarios

CEMA	Activity Name in CEMA	Payment Scenario Name in PSA
221 Soil Organic Carbon Stock Measurement	Soil Carbon Stock Sampling Strategy/Soil Carbon Stock Monitoring Sampling Strategy General assessment of conservation practice treatment effectiveness on Soil Organic Carbon Analysis of soil carbon and bulk density. 6 cores.	Carbon Stock Monitoring
221 Soil Organic Carbon Stock Measurement		Carbon Stock Monitoring- Intensive Data Collection Carbon Stock Monitoring Intensive sampling and data collection 27 Cores *This is for special projects and SH NDL must be contacted.
221 Soil Organic Carbon Stock Measurement	Citizen Science/Soil Carbon Monitoring Network Sampling Strategy Analysis of soil carbon and bulk density and data collection. 9 Cores	Intensive Data Collection Carbon Monitoring 9 soil cores* Method is aligned with the USDA National Carbon Monitoring Network Strategy. *expected to be the preferred intensity for samples
221 Soil Organic Carbon Stock Measurement		Carbon Stock Monitoring Intensive sampling and data collection Analysis of soil carbon and bulk density 12 Cores Intensive Data Collection 12 Carbon Samples *This is for special projects and SH NDL must be contacted.

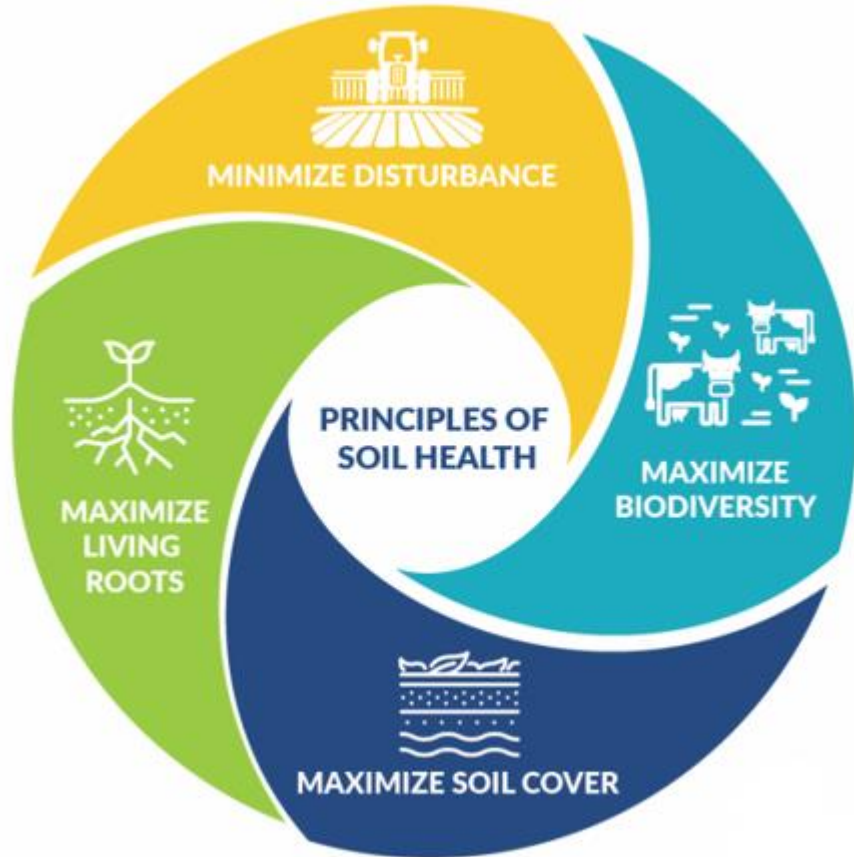
\$1,783 | \$2,140

\$7,429

\$3,424 | \$4109

\$4,424





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