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– Karen and Bret Seipold, Hastings, Iowa

“I plan on farming for a long while, and we have to be smarter as an industry how we do things. I can help bring about that change by adopting new practices and setting an example for others to follow.”
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An NCGA Initiative

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Healthy soils sustain optimal yields. Soil health also plays a crucial role in protecting water quality and other aspects of environmental stewardship. While the agriculture industry has seen massive innovation in many technologies, we haven’t seen a concentrated effort to aggregate and measure the effects of innovative soil management strategies. Until now.

“My grandparents used cover crops to control weeds and diseases. We are returning to that, innovating upon those earlier techniques, alongside no-till, because it builds our soil profile and our soil biology.”
– Mike Long, Warsaw, Indiana

Meet Our Farmers

Every Farmer Knows

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The Soil Health Partnership is a farmer-led initiative fostering transformation in agriculture through improved soil health, benefiting both farmer profitability and the environment.

Established in 2014, we’ve built a unique network of real working farms where we test, measure and share results of advanced farm management practices.

We believe our data will show these practices enhance sustainability and farm economics for generations to come.

Are you using innovative soil management strategies, or are you interested in getting involved?
Find out more by visiting soilhealthpartnership.org.

“Soil health” is the capacity of soil to function as a living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. We emphasize and measure the effectiveness of these primary practices:

• Growing cover crops to restore organic matter, and prevent erosion and nutrient loss;
• Implementing conservation tillage like no-till or strip-till; and
• Using advanced, science-based nutrient management techniques to improve efficiency and reduce loss.

Working with an SHP field manager and an agronomist, our enrolled farmers choose and implement the practices that work best for them. Using established research protocols, we measure the results over at least five years.

100 Farms Strong

Our network of real, working farms is more than 100 strong, enabling us to gather more data at a faster rate and provide locally specific information. We continue to grow into new regions and new cropping systems.

“We look forward to the SHP soil sampling to see how much change in the soil is occurring. We’re curious to learn about the impact of our management practices on soil health as well as yield and the bottom line.”
– Mike Shuter, Frankton, Indiana

“I am not losing soil. I’m building soil. I’m getting by with less labor, less equipment. And with this research, I expect we’ll see more proof of the benefits of cover crops.”
– Dave Moose, Auburn, Illinois

“We think it’s possible to marry the two ideas of soil conservation and crop production, and the Soil Health Partnership is the perfect group to do this.”
– Steve Berger, Wellman, Iowa

How Does SHP Achieve and Measure Improved Soil Health?

Cover Crop/No Cover Crop Trial
Nutrient Management Trial
Tillage Trial

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