



NEWS RELEASE

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Soil Health Summer Field Days to Help Illinois Farmers Advance Farming Businesses

Soil Health Partnership announces summer field day series

(Chesterfield, Mo.) – The groundswell continues to grow for soil health as an on-farm business and environmental strategy, with more Illinois farmers ready to take that first step. To help them learn from their peers and answer tough questions on adopting new ag practices, the Soil Health Partnership embarks on its fifth year of participating in dozens of field days across 12 states this summer and fall, including Illinois.

Practices that improve soil health are taking on elevated importance as a means to protect topsoil, helping farmers manage extreme weather, increase profitability, protect water quality and sequester carbon. These practices include reducing tillage, growing cover crops and adopting advanced nutrient management strategies.

Several of the field days will take place at one of the 30 Illinois farms enrolled in SHP. These farmers participate in the rigorous long-term, on-farm data collection project, and often adopt soil health practices beyond the test plots.

“The increased focus on soil health as a business strategy is only getting stronger,” said Jim Isermann, SHP field manager for northern Illinois. “Farmers tell us regularly they want to remain profitable and preserve their land for the future. Improving soil health is emerging as a leading strategy to do those things—and the first step is learning from local farmers.”

The 2018 Field Days in Illinois are:

- July 12, Decatur: “Strip-Till Demo Day”
- July 25, Hoopeston: “Strip-Till and Cover Crop Seeding Demo Day”
- July 26, Auburn: “Lake Springfield Soil Health Field Day”
- July 26, Chatsworth: “Strip-Till Systems and Soybean Cyst Nematode Management”
- Aug. 9, Golden: “Cover Crop Diversity and Soil Health”
- Sept. 4, Toluca: “Water Quality and Soil Health”
- Sept. 6, Decatur: “Cover Crops: Seeding Techniques and Soil Health”
- Sept. 14, Stockton: “Cover Crop Diversity and Soil Health”

For a list of field days in Illinois and other Midwestern states, and to register, visit www.soilhealthpartnership.org.



An initiative of the National Corn Growers Association, the [Soil Health Partnership](#) works closely with diverse organizations including commodity groups, industry, foundations, federal agencies, universities and well-known environmental groups toward common goals.

Editors: [Photos available for use https://www.flickr.com/photos/128119625@N06/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/128119625@N06/albums)

About the Soil Health Partnership

The Soil Health Partnership is a farmer-led initiative that fosters transformation in agriculture through improved soil health, benefiting both farmer profitability and the environment. With more than 100 working farms enrolled in more than 10 states the SHP tests, measures and advances progressive farm management practices that will enhance sustainability and farm economics for generations to come. SHP brings together diverse partners to work towards common goals. At least a ten-year scientific program administered by the National Corn Growers Association, the SHP's vision is driven by initial and continuing funding and guidance from NCGA, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, The General Mills Foundation, Midwest Row Crop Collaborative, Monsanto, National Wheat Foundation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pisces and the Walton Family Foundation, with technical support from The Nature Conservancy and the Environmental Defense Fund. For more, visit soilhealthpartnership.org.

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