Press Release

Take the Soil Health Survey to give your input to the Action Plan to Preserve the Soils in Connecticut

The Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation is launching an online survey to be taken by agriculture/forestry and other providers to assess the current landscape of Soil Health initiatives in the state. The results of this survey will serve as a baseline to understand the gaps and identify resources and partners as the Council's Soil Health Committee drafts a Soil Health Action Plan for the state. The Soil Health Committee's membership includes agencies and non-profits that are part of the Connecticut Conservation Partnership: Conservation Districts, CT Resource Conservation & Development Council (CT RC&D), USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), Department of Agriculture (CT DOAG), CT Agricultural Experiment Station and UConn Extension.

The link to the online survey can be found here, and we encourage agencies, nonprofits and service providers to fill it out by the end of November 2021. Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Agricultural Program Director with the CT RC&D has developed the survey, to be filled out entirely online. "Connecticut needs a state-wide soil health program that is specific to our needs and to the various landscapes in our state. We are taking inventory of all the current initiatives so we can have a targeted action plan", she stated.

Thomas Morgart, State Conservationist with the NRCS in CT has been voicing his support for the establishment of a program in CT to work in conjunction with the federal programs offered by the NRCS: "A Soil Health Action Plan for Connecticut will further advance the adoption of best management practices specific to promoting soil health on agricultural, forest and urban land to preserve our soils in the face of climate change". Healthy soils are pivotal in meeting the state's water quality and quantity goals, and the goals for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Healthy soils are essential for food security and public health, and compensate for greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering atmospheric carbon back into its structure.

Newly formed, the Council's Soil Health Committee has championed the approval of legislation that will move Connecticut forward in protecting soil health, with an update to the Soil Conservation statute. "In 2021 Connecticut has joined the rest of the nation in its efforts to preserve and enhance the health of the soils as a means to guarantee food security and fight climate change. Now we need a Soil Health Program that will bring solutions to all landscapes, expanding and complementing the reach of federal programs for soil health, such as NRCS programs" states Lilian Ruiz, Executive Director for the CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation.

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For more information on Soil Health in Connecticut and the Soil Health Action Plan, go to the Connecticut's Council on Soil and Water Conservation soil health page:
http://www.ctcouncilonsoilandwater.org/soil-health/

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