

Observing & Assessing Soil Health Indicators

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This presentation will discuss physical, chemical, and biological indicators of healthy soil. We will talk about indicator assessments that can be performed in a lab as well as indicator assessments that can be performed at your own home and farm and how to interpret the results. Finally, we will talk about what lies ahead for advancing the science of soil health.



Sharon is a New Jersey native who first became interested in agriculture while working for the Dickinson College Farm's inaugural summer crew in 2008. She earned her B.S. in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Italian studies in 2011 from the same school, after which she worked on a series of farms in Oregon prior to settling in Washington, D.C., to advocate for sustainable agriculture law and policy with a focus on soil health. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in Applied Plant Sciences at the University of Minnesota seeking to understand relationships between short-cycling soil health indicators and long-cycling soil physical characteristics at depth under different agricultural management systems. Her broader interest is to integrate science-based minimum-input conservation practices into national agricultural extension, outreach, and policy; specifically, to prioritize soil health enhancing practices that contribute to both high yield as well as effective and healthy land management.