Soil Health for Vegetable Farmers: Farmer-to-Farmer Conversations

Join innovative farmers, University of Minnesota Extension, and Land Stewardship Project for a series of virtual gatherings to discuss soil-building practices with fellow vegetable farmers who are caring for their soils and their communities. Gatherings will include a short video highlighting farmers who are leading the way with innovative soil health practices, followed by Q&A, and a series of breakout discussions where participants can share their expertise and brainstorm soil health ideas with fellow farmers. Hmong interpretation available upon request.

December 2, 2020  No till vegetables with Racing Heart Farm (12:00-1:30 pm)

December 16, 2020  Scaling-up soil health with Featherstone Farm (7:00-8:30 pm)

January 6, 2021  Building and navigating organic matter in various soil types with Tiffany LaShae (12:00-1:30 pm)

January 20, 2021  Cover crops with Cala Farm (7:00-8:30 pm)

Pre-registration is required to receive the link to participate: z.umn.edu/soilhealthchats

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DECEMBER 2: NO TILL VEGETABLES WITH RACING HEART FARM (12:00-1:30 PM)
Les Macare and Els Dobrick operate a 2 acre no-till vegetable farm near Menomonie Wisconsin. Join them to learn about the tools and techniques they use, and the lessons they’ve learned over the years, and bring your own insights and questions to share.

DECEMBER 16: SCALING-UP SOIL HEALTH WITH FEATHERSTONE FARM (7:00-8:30 PM)
Featherstone Farm is one of the largest, longest standing fresh market certified organic vegetable farms in MN. Join Jack Hedin and Abby Benson as they share insights they have learned over the years, and strategies they use to care for their soil. Come with ideas and questions about scaling-up soil health.

JANUARY 6: BUILDING AND NAVIGATING ORGANIC MATTER IN VARIOUS SOIL TYPES WITH TIFFANY LASHAE (12:00-1:30 PM)
Tiffany LaShae has farmed all around the world, from rural Wisconsin to St. Paul to Uganda and Ghana. She has worked with soils ranging from less than 1% to 8% organic matter, and has gained insight into growing vegetables successfully and sustainably in a wide variety of conditions. Join Tiffany to learn about her experiences, and to share your experiences growing vegetables in different types of soil.

JANUARY 20: COVER CROPS WITH CALA FARM (7:00-8:30 PM)
Rodrigo Cala has been innovating with cover crops for years. In addition to common winter cover crops he has experimented with a wide variety of summer cover crops between plantings and is trialing new systems to integrate grazing as a means of terminating. Join Rodrigo to learn about his current projects, and to share your own experiences with cover crops.

All sessions are participatory. Please come ready to discuss and to meet fellow farmers.

Register at z.umn.edu/soilhealthchats