



SOIL HEALTH in Your District

America's conservation districts are well positioned to help lead one of the most important conservation movements of our time, and the West Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District is helping lead the way. The Soil Health Movement continues to grow across the country, and conservation districts are playing key roles. This overview of the Soil Health Movement and the West Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District answers some basic questions about soil health systems, what your conservation district is doing to encourage adoption of soil health practices and how we can work together to achieve economic and environmental goals.



What is soil health?

Soil health is: "The continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans."¹



Why the emphasis on soil health systems?

Soil health practices such as reduced tillage, cover crops, multi-species crop rotations and building soil organic matter can help achieve multiple economic and environmental goals.

A building body of research is showing that producers who employ soil health practices enjoy higher net returns and comparable or increased yields. Other benefits include better water infiltration, which reduces runoff and erosion and their impacts on water quality.

Soil health practices can also help build soil organic carbon. This "good carbon" stays in the ground, helping to reduce impacts on air quality. Soil health systems also help to mitigate the impacts of intense weather events ranging from floods to drought.

¹ According to USDA NRCS





How is West Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District engaged in soil health activities?

West Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) provides many services, such as: technical and financial assistance to adapting and implementing best management practices (bmps) and conservation practices; project planning; design and installation of conservation practices controlling soil erosion and reducing sedimentation. West Otter Tail SWCD can help walk you through the process, apply for funding, and be an ongoing resource for establishing conservation practices. The District also provides native grass seed sales, no-till drill rentals, custom grass and tree planting services.



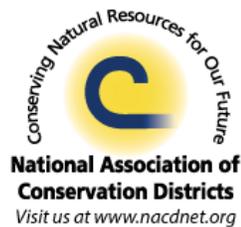
Where can you find more information on soil health practices and their benefits?

For more information please contact the West Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District at (218) 739-4694 ext. 4 or visit <http://wotswcd.org>. Make sure to check out the District's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wotswcd?ref=hl>

The National Association of Conservation Districts has compiled an array of soil health materials on its soil health web pages at <http://www.nacdnet.org/policy/healthy-soil/soil-health-home>. Included are tools and resources for conservation districts and partners, soil health news, webinars, videos, links and other information. NACD stresses that soil health practices can benefit all acres.



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Contact us at:
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#LoveYourSoil

