

1. Leadership and incorporation into NRCS Business Plan
 - Increase numbers of highly trained employees and partners to provide training and high-level customer service
 - State and/or Area Soil Health Teams and or Points of contact will be maintained and fully supported
 - [Include partner groups in Soil Health Team to share ideas, programs, strategies, successes, and struggles](#)
 - [IE Cash rent lease addendums found on FarmDoc – specific addendum for Soil Health](#)
 - Leadership establishes soil health management performance measures for NRCS staff throughout the state of Illinois
 - [Increase county level support for farmers to assist in implementing plans such as CSP & EQIP and provide the needed technical assistance.](#)
2. Enhance Technical Excellence
 - Leadership Team will make soil health a priority in training/travel decisions
 - Increase soil health training availability and quality to agency staff with consideration for partner attendance to build true expertise
 - Support advanced knowledge and understanding of soil health management systems through mastery-level, specialized continuing education opportunities
 - [ISAP -Advanced Soil Health Training used to create regional groups of soil health experts that can be used as a local resource. ISAP Specialists page](#)
3. Increase Soil Health Management System Implementation
 - Science and Technology Development & Integration: Soil Health Science & Technology used by agency is up to date and relevant for our customers
 - Planning and Program Delivery: Soil Health is an integral part of conservation planning with soil health principles integrated throughout the planning and application process
4. Expand Education and Outreach
 - Leadership communicates soil health as an agency priority
 - NRCS and Partner employees use education and outreach opportunities to promote soil health
 - [Increased farmer awareness of available programs](#)
5. Maintain current partnerships and make new partnerships
 - List of Partners
 - Link to Websites and Partner Strategies
 - List of Agreements related to Soil Health?
 - List of Potential Funding Opportunities or Agreement Opportunities?
6. Analyze for current baselines, Evaluate and Quantify Benefits and Outcomes
 - Develop mechanisms for quantifying Soil Health outcomes with agency tools - assess soil health benefits
 - [Utilize the current CIG starting between SHP & PCM that will be using many of the current NRCS metrics used on soils and economics](#)
 - NRCS will seek to quantify the benefits of soil health related to:
 - Water quality across all land uses;
 - Economics;
 - Increased resilience to weather extremes such as droughts and excessive rainfall and flooding;
 - Livestock integration into soil health management systems.
 - Pasturelands, forestlands, wildlife and reclaimed mine lands.

- Baseline conditions, during transition, and fully-functional systems
- Develop mechanisms for quantifying Soil Health outcomes with agency tools - assess soil health benefits.
- Outcomes and links to data related to agreements and other data sources.
- List of Data Sources
- List of or link to analysis

Suggested Partners:

- Soil Health Partnership
- Precision Conservation Management
- Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership
- Nutrient Research Education Council
- SWCDs
- American Farmland Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- IL EPA - NLRs

Additional Comments:

- Clear definition of soil health
 - Continuous improvement
- Soil Health should include the economics surrounding implementing practices and long term goals associated with those practices and shift in management
- Guidelines and practices should recognize needs and characteristics to Illinois agriculture
 - % of tile drainage, primary corn and soybean rotation