

Farmers Learn about Soil Health Testing at Evening Meeting

During the evening of June 24, 2026, the Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) invited local farmers to learn about soil health testing. This second of many “Farming for the Future Meeting Series” gatherings was a chance to learn from agricultural experts, share experiences, and connect with other local farmers who are passionate about sustainable and successful farming. Six farmers sat in the discussion.



Sadie Borger, Agricultural Team Leader, Union County Conservation District, and Jeremiah Zimmerman, Owner, Zimmerman Ag Consulting, led the group to discuss their experiences with soil health testing on Union County farms, types of soil health testing services available, and what these tests measure (i.e.: soil biology CO₂ respiration, microbially active carbon). The group also discussed cover cropping recommendations, crop rotations, and soil fertility.

During the meeting, it was announced that the Union County Conservation District (UCCD) will be holding a Field Day on the Bossert Farm near West Milton on September 3, 2026. Scheduled topics include biochar, soil health testing, no-till planter technology, biologicals for crop production, and livestock mortality composting. For more information, either call the UCCD's office 9570-524-3860) or email UCCD's Sade Borger (sborger@unionco.org).



Barry Spangler, SCCD Agricultural Conservation Technician, passed out a brief description of its “Soil Health” bucket service being offered. At this time, participants would have to pay for the soil health test fees. Contact him (agtech@snydercd.org) at 570-837-3000, extension 5, for more information.

The SCCD’s hope is to hold meetings periodically in which soil health and sustainable farming practices are discussed where farmers can ask questions and learn from each other in a less formal setting. Farmers in nearby counties have been holding similar meetings for some time, and the SCCD would like to help “plant the seed” to do the same.

If you would like to know when the next “Farming for the Future” meeting will be held, contact Barry Spangler at 570-837-3000, extension 5, or agtech@snydercd.org.

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For more information about various soil health testing services, check these websites:

- Cornell Soil Health Test, Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ithica NY:
<https://soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu>
- Ward Laboratories, Inc., Kearney, NE: <https://www.wardlab.com/services/soil-health-analysis>

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