Healthy soil is essential for maintaining efficient growth, fertility, and water quality in crop production. SARE has supported advances by producers, researchers, and educators as they examine the on-farm benefits of using cover crops, crop rotation, manure amendments, composting, and more.

**NCR-SARE Project**

To view SARE's entire soil health portfolio, or just the North Central Region's projects, visit [https://projects.sare.org](https://projects.sare.org). For selected NCR-SARE soil health grants, see the reverse side of this sheet.

A farmer in Minnesota studied the effects of planting cover crops on soil erosion, drainage, and filtration. The cover crop mixture included annual rye, tillage radish, and winter wheat. Results indicated soil quality was improved by using cover crops. See [https://projects.sare.org](https://projects.sare.org) and search for project number FNC16-1063.

The Sustainable Farming Association’s Networking for Soil Health Project worked to build the skills, knowledge, and experience of USDA-NRCS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Ag Extension professionals. See [https://projects.sare.org](https://projects.sare.org) and search for project number ENC17-158.

Anaerobic soil disinfestation (ASD) is a promising tactic to manage soilborne diseases. Researchers in Ohio worked with area producers to learn more about ASD and integrated soilborne disease management strategies. See [https://projects.sare.org](https://projects.sare.org) and search for project number LNC17-393.
NCR-SARE’s Soil Health Portfolio

Farmer and Rancher Grants

Soil Remediation Techniques in Urban Agriculture
Casey Sabatka, Dirty Boots Flowers, Illinois, FNC18-1141, $14,975

Training and Research on Compost and Compost Teas to Increase Soil Health and Microbiology on Southwest Missouri Farms
Ben Tegeler, Ozark Mountain Permaculture, Missouri, FNC18-1147, $15,000

Increasing Soil Health and Infiltration with Cover Crops
Vernon Uit De Flesch, Uit de Flesch Farms, Minnesota, FNC16-1063, $7,398

Comparing Measurable Indicators of Soil Health under Two Different Forage Harvesting Methods Four times During the Growing Season
Benjamin Bartlett, Log Cabin Livestock, Michigan, FNC14-943, $6,462

Professional Development Grants

SFA Networking for Soil Health
Theresa Keaveny, Sustainable Farming Association, Minnesota, ENC17-158, $75,000

Soil Health Education Resources for Teachers
Natalie Carroll, Purdue University, Indiana, ENC16-152, $72,701

Research and Education Grants

Optimizing Anaerobic Soil Disinfection to Manage Emerging Soilborne Diseases in Tomato Protected Culture Systems in the North Central Region
Sally Miller, Ohio State University, Ohio, LNC17-393, $149,349

Effects of Long-Term Integrated Crop and Livestock Systems on Forage Finishing, Soil Fertility, Nitrogen Mineralization, Carbon Sequestration, and Profitability
Douglas Landblom, North Dakota State University, North Dakota, LNC16-381, $199,998

Does Grazing or Harvesting of Cover Crops Affect Soils and Crop Production? Assessment in Different Soil Types and Management Scenarios
Humberto Blanco, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska, LNC15-366, $199,974

Youth Educator Grants

Sustainable Agriculture Internships Including Study of Compost Nutrient Cycling in Urban Agriculture
Cecelia Watkins, Spark-Y, Minnesota, YENC18-129, $2,000

Manos, Tierra, y Alimento (Hands, Soil, and Food)
Liz Whitehurst, Angelic Organics Learning Center, Illinois, YENC14-080, $2,000

Graduate Student Grants

Optimizing Between-Bed Management Strategies in Plasticulture Vegetables for Improved Crop Production and Soil Health
Alyssa Tarrant, Michigan State University, Michigan, GNC17-251, $12,000

The Effect of Best Management Practices on Soil Health in Wisconsin: A Comparison of Soil Biological Measurements Using Long-Term Trials
Greg Richardson, University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin, GNC17-249, $11,906

Interactive Effects of Cover Crops, Soil Health Practices, and Insect Community Dynamics on Corn Production
Claire LaCanne, South Dakota State University, South Dakota, GNC16-227, $9,998

Linking Soil Testing with Farmer Decision Making — An Interdisciplinary Approach
Brendan O’Neill, Michigan State University, Michigan, GNC14-192, $6,853

For information on many more SARE-funded soil health projects, search the SARE project database: https://projects.sare.org.

Updated 2018

This product was developed with support from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed within do not necessarily reflect the view of the SARE program or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.