



Soil Health Implementation Program

a.k.a., SHIP



COLORADO

KANSAS

MISSOURI

ARKANSAS

Boise City

Guymon

Wood

Enid

Bartlesville

Tulsa

Sapulpa

Guthrie

El Reno

Oklahoma City

Elk City

Clinton

Norman

Anadarko

Altus

Lawton

Ardmore

McAlester

Poteau

Hugo

Soil Health Team



Meg Greski



James Blom



Greg Kloxin



Blane Stacy



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Greg Scott



Marcus Long

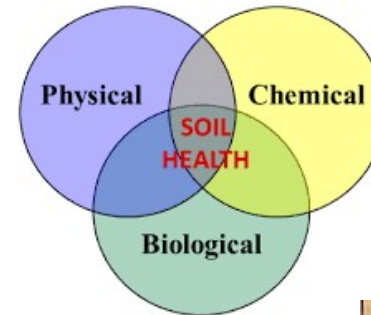


Josh Anderson

OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

What is Soil Health?

- Health - *a condition in which someone or something is thriving or doing well* (Merriam-Webster)
- Soil health = soil life
- It's not organic farming or some new-fangled approach to raising crops or livestock.
- Conservation was born out of focus on soil, so what's the big deal?
 - Focus on soil as a system and not a component (car vs. engine; soil vs. dirt)
 - Healthy Soil Program Act - *improve the health, yield, and profitability of the soils of the state.*
 - Build land and operation resilience to sustained challenges (e.g., weather, economy)



Soil Health Principles

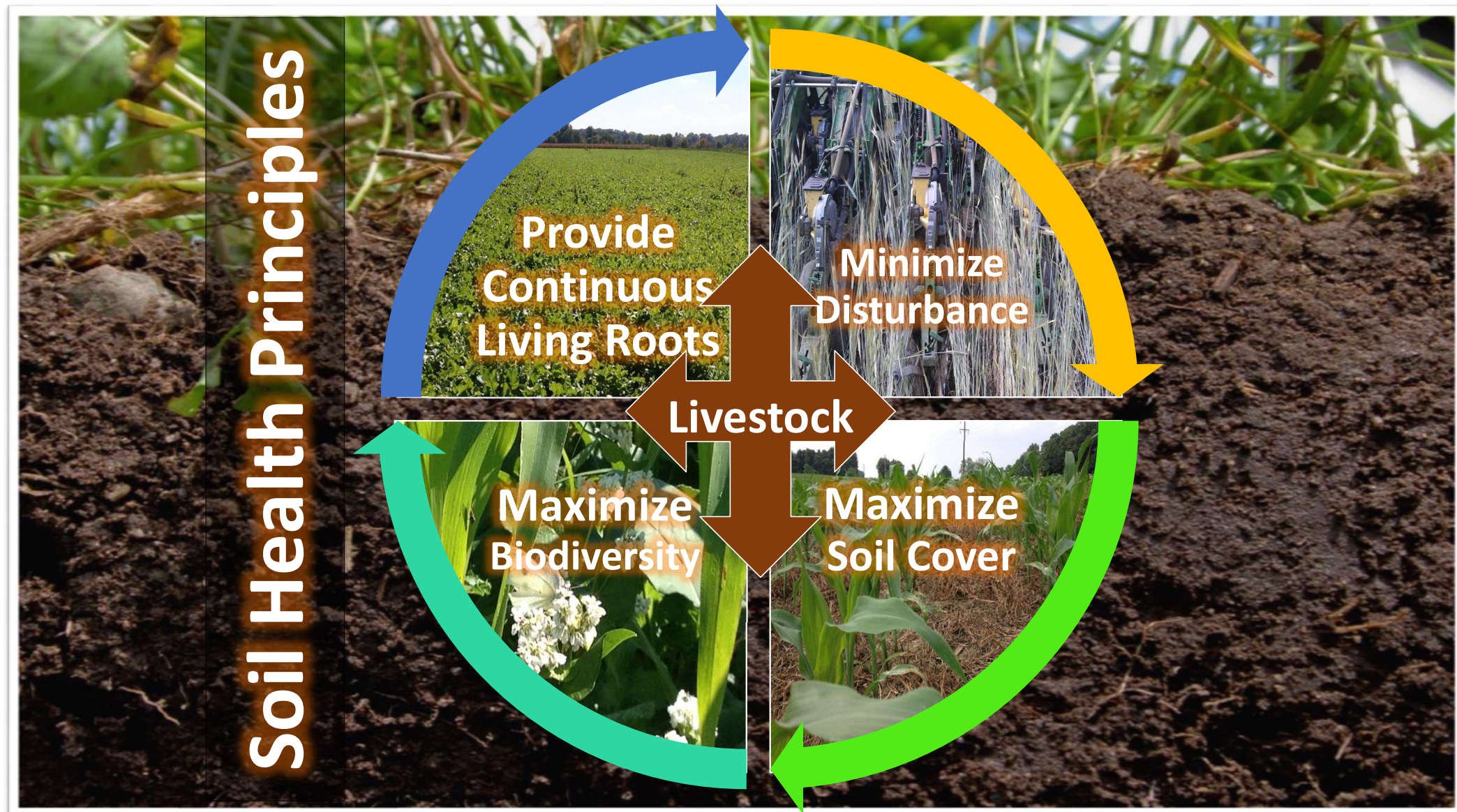
Provide
Continuous
Living Roots

Minimize
Disturbance

Livestock

Maximize
Biodiversity

Maximize
Soil Cover



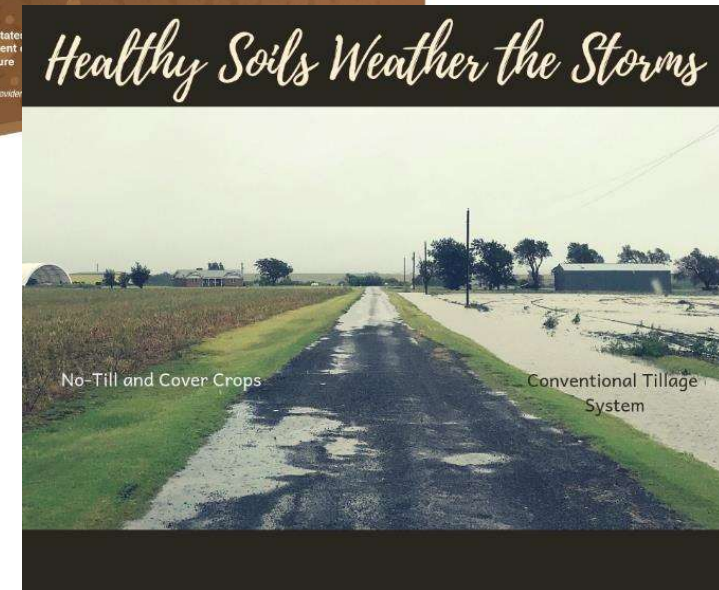
Why does it matter?

- Since settlement, Oklahoma soil organic matter levels have been reduced from 4% to about 1% in many places
- Loss of 75,000 gallons per acre storage
- 11.28 million acres cropland X 25,000 gallons = loss of **282 billion** gallons of water storage per 1% loss in soil organic matter
- 3% loss in organic matter= 846 billion gallons

USDA-NRCS SOIL HEALTH INFOGRAPHIC SERIES #002

what's underneath

unlock the
SECRETS
of the
SOIL



SHIP – A little context

- We've been here before, right?
 - Conservation Cost-Share Program Soil Health Initiative (SHI) – 2019-2021
- What's different?
 - Agency program
 - TA, planning, and practice cert delivered by OCC Soil Health Team
 - Multi year engagement
 - Implement practices to address a system

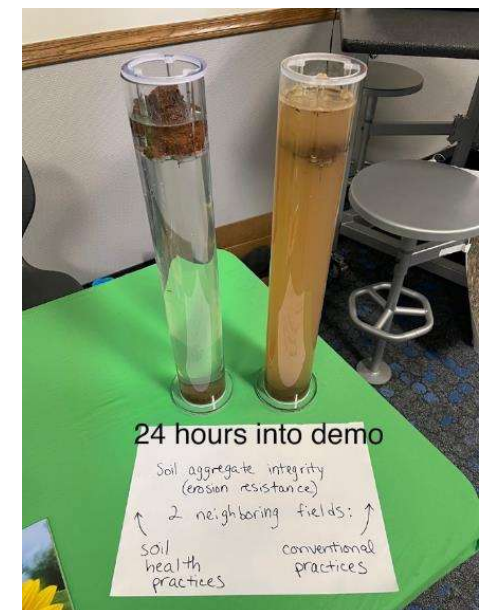


- Higher max program payment (\$40K) per producer
- Not just for cropland!
- Includes focus on urban producers



SHIP - Goals

- Deliver more significant effort in SH focused conservation
- Provide more substantial producer engagement
- Expand opportunities to livestock operations (i.e., welcome eastern OK!)
- Expand producer mentor network
- Grow baseline soil health data
- Develop capacity toward urban ag



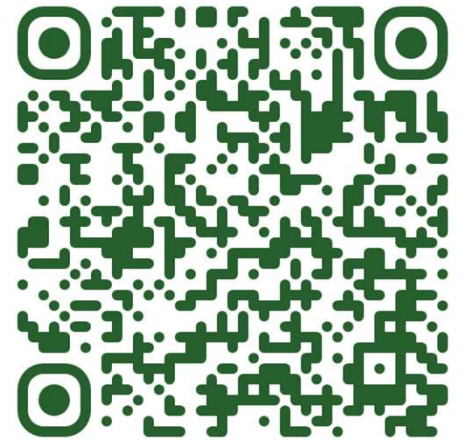
SHIP – Overview

- Program Allocation - \$1,000,000 total
- Program period
 - Begins with first application period
 - Indefinite depending upon funding and demand
- First application period – Jan 1 – Mar 1, 2024
- Participants eligible for up to \$40,000 over a three-year program engagement
- Program goal – represent all five areas
 - Example - Five producers from each area with at least two of the total comprising urban producers all obligated up to maximum allowable – $5 \times 5 \times \$40K = \$1,000,000$
 - Fulfillment - Depends upon applications!
- Thanks in advance for your patience!



SHIP Web Page

<https://conservation.ok.gov/soil-health-implementation-program/>



SHIP Delivery - Districts

- Districts
 - Consider participation in the program
 - [District Guide](#) - Indicate participation, email to Meg & Greg
 - Advertise program as necessary
 - SHIP flyer
 - Principal focus – producers you know who are open to soil health and would serve as a good example and mentor for others over a three-year commitment.
 - Take applications
 - [SHIP Application for Producers](#) – fillable, focused on interest and sustained commitment to SH.
 - Ensure applicant is or will be a district cooperator
 - Board member eligibility
 - We will work with them! Can be enrolled in other programs; won't pay to implement same practice on same land.
 - Not just for large acreage farms (urban ag example)
 - Email applications to Meg and Greg by March 1st



Districts

SHIP Delivery - Districts

- Districts – cont -
 - SH Team will notify districts of successful applicants
 - SH Team member will schedule consultation visit to draft SHIP conservation plan. You are invited!
 - SHIP Conservation Plan
 - Goal - Three-year plan to accomplish system of conservation focused on soil health
 - Must be signed and dated by producer and SH Team member before work begins
 - Assist in planning possible field day featuring producer
 - Assist in mentoring connections
 - Prepare an OSF₃ using info packet provided by the SH Team
 - Submit the claim to OCC (att. Greg Kloxin), receive funds, and pay the participant



Districts

SHIP Delivery - Producers

- Producers
 - Must demonstrate active interest in soil health
 - Must have an approved cooperator agreement with a district
 - Be willing to work with SH team to create a three-year plan that reaches producer's goals and addresses the most soil health concerns.
 - Agree to consultation and soil health testing conducted by the OCC Soil Health Team over the course of their program involvement
 - Become an active producer mentor and be open to planned field days (no more than one per year) throughout their program engagement.
 - Complete all practice implementation by the date specified within their SHIP conservation plan.



Producers

Districts

SHIP Delivery – Soil Health Team

- OCC Soil Health Team
 - Serve as the conservation district's technical representative
 - Receive and rank applications
 - Notify districts of approved applicants
 - Schedule consultations and develop SHIP conservation plan
 - Assist districts as necessary
 - Provide TA throughout to guide implementation per plan
 - Certify practice completions and submit all materials necessary for districts to file reimbursement claim



SHIP – Practices

- Practices
 - Selected NRCS conservation practices with strong soil health focus
 - Targeted implementation according to state standards and specifications unless otherwise authorized by an OCC Soil Health Team member
 - Planned payment per unit cost for practices based on Oklahoma NRCS EQIP payment rates



Priority Practices:

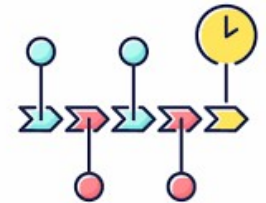
317 – Composting Facility
325 - High Tunnel System
327 - Conservation Cover
328- Conservation Crop Rotation
329 – Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
336 – Soil Carbon Amendment
338 – Prescribed Burning
340 – Cover Crop
382 - Fence
386 - Field Border
393 – Filter Strip
484 - Mulching
512 – Pasture and Hay Planting
516 – Livestock Pipeline
528 – Prescribed Grazing
533 – Pumping Plant
550 - Range Planting
570 – Stormwater Runoff Control
614 – Watering Facility
642 – Water Well



Ancillary practices (used only to facilitate priority practices above):

314 – Brush Management
342 - Critical Area Planting
355 - Groundwater testing
561- Heavy Use Protection

SHIP – Timeline



- Jan – Feb 2024 – Districts consider participation and submit forms.
- Jan 1 – Mar 1, 2024
 - Districts advertise program, take applications, and submit to OCC Soil Health Team throughout
 - OCC Soil Health Team begins scoring applications throughout
- March - April 2024 – OCC Soil Health Team completes scoring, ranks applications, and notifies districts
- April 2024 – ? - OCC Soil Health Team
 - Conducts consultations, develops plans, assists with district-producer agreements
 - Begins implementation plans
 - Continues consultations and certifies implementation for claims filing
- 2025 - ? – OCC Soil Health Team
 - Works with districts to plan field days at selected participant farms

Questions or comments

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- Meg Greski meg.greski@conservation.ok.gov or 580-827-5070

