

Monday - August 14 - Classroom

Time Topic

- 12:00 Introductions/Training Overview
- 12:15 Group Project - Introduction and Assignment
- 12:45 Demonstrating Properties of Soil Health in the Field
- 1:30 Soil Biology
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Soil Biology Review Activity
- 3:15 Soil Health Principles
- 4:15 Logistics/Group Project - Work Time
- 4:30 Adjourn

Tuesday, August 15 - Farm (am), Classroom (pm)

- 8:00 Welcome/Review
- 8:15 Demonstrating the Importance of Soil Health/Soil Health Practices
- 9:15 Resource Concerns and Soil Health Indicators
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 IFSHA Importance and Use
 - ...Implementation of the IFSHA (when, where, why, how)
 - ...Field and sample site selection for IFSHA (what is the "right" field?)
- 11:30 First Elevator Speech
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:15 Reassemble/Overview
- 1:30 The Climate Smart/Soil Health Connection
 - ...General trends for WI, Definitions - mitigation vs adaptation, carbon storage vs carbon sequestration, etc, overlap of climate smart and soil health, climate smart program practices
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Strategizing a Soil Health Management System
- 3:30 Group Project - Work Time
- 4:15 Logistics
- 4:30 Adjourn

Wednesday, August 16 - Farm (am), Classroom (pm)

- 8:00 Welcome/Review
- 8:15 Talking and Learning from our Clients
 - ...Facilitated discussion - farm overview, big picture resource concerns and conservation goals, current management and future management goals, conservation/practice successes (what went right and why), conservation/practice less than successes (what went wrong and why), challenges/limitations to practice adoption (soil, climate, resource, economic, social, etc), ideal qualities in an NRCS partner
- 9:30 Break
- 9:45 Power of Observations - Seeing like a Soil Scientist
 - ...What should you know before coming to the field? Local landscape assessment/discussion (geologic history, common resource challenges, how to "scan the horizon")
 - ...Inherent vs dynamic soil properties and impact on soil health (what we can't change and how it impacts what we can) ...Key things to look at on an OSD
 - ...Soil pit (what are the plants, soils, and animals telling us?)

...Alternative excavation methods (I can't have a pit, but I can...)

- 11:45 Lunch
- 1:00 Reassemble/Overview
- 1:15 Ecological Management
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Cover Crop Management
- 4:00 Group Project - Work Time
- 4:15 Logistics
- 4:30 Adjourn

Thursday, August 17 - Farm (all day)

- 8:00 Welcome/Review
- 8:15 IFSHA Stations
 - Soil Chemistry - EC, pH, test strips, infiltration, soil texture, soil temperature
 - Soil Physics - Penetration resistance, soil structure, water stable aggregates, crusting, ponding
 - Soil Biology - Soil cover, residue, soil color, plant roots, biological diversity, biopores, rhizosheaths
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 Guided IFSHA Group Activity
 - ...evaluate multiple sites, develop interpretations, basic recommendations, report out
- 11:15 Advanced Soil Health Assessment Tools
 - ...analytical tools in our toolbox, situation where they're used
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:30 Talking and Learning from Clients
 - ...Facilitated discussion - farm overview, big picture resource concerns and conservation goals, current management and future management goals, conservation/practice successes (what went right and why), conservation/practice less than successes (what went wrong and why), challenges/limitations to practice adoption (soil, climate, resource, economic, social, etc), ideal qualities in an NRCS partner
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Independent IFSHA Group Activity
 - ...evaluate multiple sites, develop interpretations, basic recommendations, report out
- 4:00 Presentation of Final Elevator Speech
- 4:30 Adjourn

Friday, August 18 - Classroom

- 8:00 Welcome/Review
- 8:15 Grazing Management
- 9:30 Break
- 9:45 Social and Economic Activity
- 10:15 Group Project - Work Time
- 10:45 Group Project - Report Out
- 12:00 Adjourn