Using Manure to Improve Soil Health

March 1, 2019

2:30 pm (eastern), 1:30 pm (central), 12:30 pm (mountain), 11:30 am (pacific)

Manure provides tremendous benefits to the soil health when compared to synthetic fertilizer. Soil organic carbon, water infiltration and pH are increased while bulk density is decreased. Manure applications according to crop nutrient requirements and the use of soil testing are very important tools used for environmental protection. This webinar will take a look at current practical research in South Dakota and Michigan related to manure use as it relates to soil health. It will focus on principles and practices that enhance soil organic matter formation, including quality of manure and using other organic matter sources in combination to improve soil health. An application for continuing education credit for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) and members of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) will be submitted.

Anthony Bly is a Soils Field Specialist with SDSU Extension and assists crop producers and agronomist with soil issues through education activities developed from soil and crop research. Anthony’s knowledge areas include soil fertility management, soil testing, soil health and other factors that influence soil properties and crop productivity. Previously, Anthony was employed by the SDSU Plant Science Department as a Research and Extension Associate from 1992 to 2011. Between 2011 and 2013, Anthony provided the technical expertise in helping launch a soil, plant tissue and manure testing lab located in Sioux Falls (AgLab Express). Anthony holds a Master of Science degree in Agronomy with a soils emphasis from SDSU. Anthony is excited to be working with SDSU Extension helping stakeholders with soil questions and problems. Phone: (605) 782-3290; Email: anthony.bly@sdstate.edu

Sieg Snapp is a professor of soils and cropping systems at Michigan State University, where she has worked with potato, vegetable, and field crop producers since 1999. She was made an Agronomy Fellow in 2010 and MSU’s Beal Outstanding Faculty award in 2019. Her research is in the field, with farmers, developing new tools to understand soil health and monitoring in the field to find practical (and profitable) ways to improve soil health. Understanding soil organic matter is the key, which requires attention to keeping fields green, adding the right browns, including a diversity of manure, compost, cover crops, small grains and judicious tillage. Sieg has developed new ways to measure soil organic matter and is learning which types of organic matter fractions help crop establishment, and are related to early plant health and vigor, to jumpstart yields. Phone: (517) 282-5644; Email: snapp@msu.edu

How Do I Participate?
On the day of the webinar, go to www.extension.org/58813 to download the speaker’s power point presentations and connect to the virtual meeting room. First time viewers should also follow the steps at: www.extension.org/8924.

For More Information
- South Dakota Soil Health Coalition sdsoilhealthcoalition.org
- Soil Health articles by Anthony Bly extension.sdstate.edu/about/our-experts/anthony-bly

The LPE Learning Community is a project dedicated to the vision that individuals involved in public policy issues, animal production, and delivery of technical services for confined animal systems should have on-demand access to the nation’s best science-based resources. See our website at: lpelc.org.