



April 21, 2015

SOIL HEALTH MATTERS: 30 INCHES OF ROOTS AND GROWING

Planning for the 2nd Western North Carolina Soil Health Field Day is underway with partnerships from JRH Grain Farms LLC, USDA-NRCS, Catawba County Soil and Water District, and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Services. The event will be held on Friday May 1st from 9:00 a.m. till 1:30 p.m., in the field at 1761 Southfork drive, Newton, 28658.

The purpose of the Field Day is to educate farmers on best management practices in cropping systems to reduce the negative impact on local water quality and soil ecology.

A local grain farmer, Russell Hedrick, started the field day last year. He is a 1st generation farmer and has been in production since 2011.

“It’s important to recognize the value of our natural resources and not only conserve but build and enhance them for future generations” Hedrick said during a recent conversation about the importance of soil health.

Speakers will include Jay Fuhrer, North Dakota State Soil Health Specialist. Fuhrer will be talking about practical integration of multi-species cover crops in his presentation “Soil Health Matters: Design For What You Don’t Have.”

Other topics for the Field Day include: soil temperature and water infiltration demos, Basal/Carbon Burst Tests, multiple purposes of cover crops, and incorporating cover crops into your grazing systems.

The field day will showcase different blends of mixed species cover crops to utilize on your farm. Hedrick will be doing a live demonstration on how to plant directly into cover crops, if weather permits.

Lunch is provided but you must register to attend. The field day is free to all participants. Participants can register at <http://2015westernsoilhealth.eventbrite.com> or call Catawba County Soil and Water Conservation District at 828-465-8950. Deadline to register for the field day is April 27th, 2015.

For more information, please visit the [Cooperative Extension website](#).