Program Goals:
The overall goal of the program is to “Improve Ohio’s Soil Health”. Following specific goals are identified:

(1) To bring together researchers, educators, farmers, 4-H youth, private and public agencies, and the general public through a multi-channel network

(2) To assimilate research-based knowledge related to soil health using short and long-term studies in Ohio and other neighboring states

(3) To develop educational material, and design curricula for dissemination of knowledge

(4) To organize and facilitate educational and outreach activities related to soil health

(5) To offer comprehensive soil health assessment services through OSU’s research lab framework

(6) To build partnerships and collaborations for seeking grants for innovative research, Extension and education projects related to soil health and sustainable agriculture

Program Highlights:
- Soil health education
- Soil health workshops
- Youth education Field Days
- Soil health newsletter
- Webinars

The Ohio State University Extension
Signature Program
Healthy Soil, Healthy Environment
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soilhealth.osu.edu

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.
Ohio’s Soil Health:

Healthy soils provide the essential framework for healthy food production. The quality and quantity of our food supply depends on a reliable source of essential nutrients, water, oxygen, and root support to plants from the soil. A healthy soil can increase farm productivity while reducing environmental impacts.

If the soil is exploited for intensive food production without considering soil health, then long-term productivity will be destroyed. Soils and the ecosystem services they provide (clean air and water) will be critical in supplying food for an expanding world population.

HEALTHY SOILS that are:

• High in organic matter and nutrients
• Have greater water infiltration and higher water holding capacity.
• Have improved soil structure and less soil compaction
• Have greater soil nutrient efficiency with less nutrient runoff
• More Productive and produce higher crop yields.
• Resilient to drought and environmental stresses
• Improve ecosystems services (clean air, soil, and water)

Healthy Soil — Healthy Water — Healthy Food — Healthy People

Soil Health for:

CONVENTIONAL AGRICULTURE

HEALTHY FARMS that are

• More Profitable due to less chemical and fertilizer inputs and higher quality food
• More Sustainable due to less water and nutrient loss

URBAN AGRICULTURE

• Promoting cover crops, testing soils for toxic contaminants, techniques for sustainable food production

YOUTH

• Aware of soil health concepts
• Increased knowledge of soil management and how manure can be managed through Quality Assurance training.
• Trained to understand the relationship between soil health, water quality, and healthy food production. 4-H students will be trained to demonstrate soil health tools at county fair.