

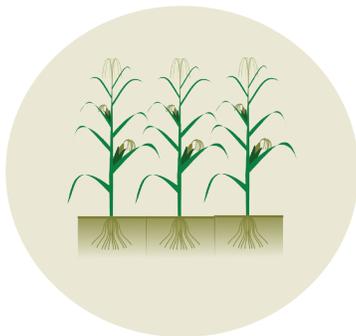


Supporting Dairy Ohio & Kansas Soil Health Initiative

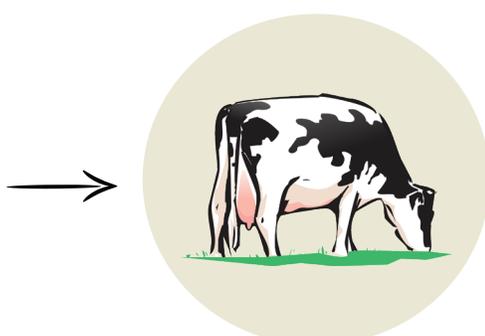
American Farmland Trust seeks to work with the dairy supply chain of Danone North America to expand its Soil Health Initiative. This project aims to help crop farmers who supply feed to Danone's North American dairies build holistic soil health management systems across the project area. Focusing on Mercer, Paulding, Van Wert, Allen, Auglaize, Logan, and Hardin counties in western Ohio and the entirety of western Kansas, AFT will conduct one-on-one farmer engagement, benchmarking of farm practices, development of continuous improvement plans, and implementation of improved soil health management practices.

Direct corporate engagement with farms in supply chains offer a unique opportunity to involve more farms and deliver more conservation on the ground. A feed-shed analysis will be conducted to identify where these priority farmers are located. Together, we hope to better understand the impact combinations of conservation practices within farm management systems has on overall soil health, as well as on water quality and greenhouse emissions.

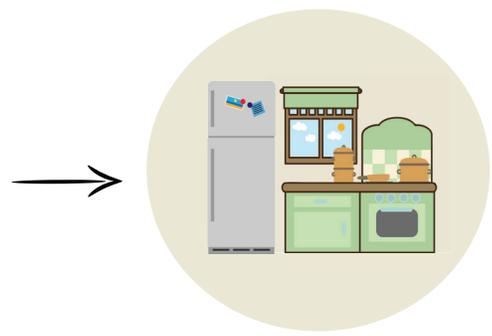
Farm to Fridge: Sustainability Starts with Soil Health



Sustainable farming practices, such as cover crops and reduced tillage, when used within a management system can improve the overall resilience of crops. Crops grown in a sustainable system require fewer inputs; including fertilizers and additional water.



Conservation cropping systems result in higher grain yields with increased nutritional values, lowering overall costs.



Purchasing sustainably sourced products supports the continued implementation of conservation cropping systems; promoting the utilization of such practices in farms and dairies.



Why Does Soil Health Matter for the Dairy Industry?

Replenishing and sustaining life in our soil can improve the resiliency and profitability of dairy supply chain operations while reducing their environmental footprint.

- Sustainable Environmental Consultants, or SEC, and Danone North America support working with farmers, landowners, agricultural and conservation agencies to help farmers adopt conservation cropping systems to restore soil health.
- AFT will better understand the economic and environmental impacts of soil health systems. We hope that this understanding will increase farmer productivity and profitability, improve resiliency to climate change, and provide environmental benefits.

PROJECT GOALS

#1

Outreach & Education

Organize local Farmer Workshops featuring experts in implementation of soil health systems. Assist state and local resource providers through train-the-trainer events to better assess and implement soil health practices throughout the feed shed.

#2

Evaluation and Assessment

Manage and analyze farm and field data to assess profitability and key environmental outcomes related to soil health.

#3

Targeted 1:1 Technical Support

Bring new farms into this project for benchmarking through the EcoPractices platform, develop continuous improvement of conservation planning, and implement and facilitate cost-share sign up.