

Soil Health Tools to Support Michigan Farmers



Healthy soils are the foundation of productive, resilient farming systems. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) Regenerative Agriculture Program (RAP) gives Michigan farmers access to practical tools and technical support to better understand soil function and identify opportunities to improve soil health through best management practices.

Soil Health Assessments:

Soil Health Assessments are hands-on evaluations to help farmers understand how their current field management is impacting soil health on their farm. Assessments are available to farms across Michigan and are conducted by trained, local Conservation Technicians.

What to Expect During a Soil Health Assessment:

Each soil health assessment starts with a discussion about your farm, including management practices, current conditions, and your goals for the future. From there, we conduct a series of in-field tests to evaluate:

- Water infiltration
- Soil aggregation & structure
- Soil temperature comparisons
- Compaction & hardness
- Residue & plant cover



The information gathered helps farmers establish a baseline for their soil health and provides real-time insights that support informed field management decisions.

Soil Sampling for Lab Analysis:

In addition to in-field assessments, MDARD offers free Soil Health Sampling with samples analyzed by Cornell University's Soil Health Lab. Results include objective soil data and detailed reports that highlight opportunities to improve soil function.



Next Steps & More Information:

Completed Soil Health Assessments and Soil Health Sampling results are then used to create a personalized Soil Health Management Plan to improve soil health on farms. The program is implemented in partnership with local conservation districts, which receive grant funding through MDARD to provide these assessments free of charge to local farmers. To learn more or schedule an evaluation at your farm, contact your local conservation district.

Learn more about MDARD's Regenerative Agriculture Program



Conservation Technician Contact Map

