



The Soil Health Paradigm: A Holistic Approach to Managing Manure in Agroecosystems March 25, 2011

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

Soil Health is the capacity of a specific kind of soil to function, within natural or managed ecosystem boundaries, to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and support human health and habitation". The soil health paradigm provides a holistic framework for managing manure which accounts for the soil biology. The soil biota greatly impacts soil function and predominately regulates nutrient loss pathways. The typical way of managing manure is crop removal rate or agronomic rate. These two predominately used methods rarely account for the function of the soil biology. *An application for continuing education credit for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) and members of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) has been submitted.*



William Boyd PE is the leader of the NRCS Manure Management Technology Development Team in Greensboro, NC. Prior to this position he was an Environmental Engineer at the NRCS Water Management Center, Leader of the NRCS Everglades Agricultural Area Project Office, and Regional Environmental Engineer for the NRCS Mid-west National Technology Center. Bill has over thirty years experience with SCS/NRCS working with manure, nutrient management, and water quality issues. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee.
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Ray Archuleta is a Conservation Agronomist at the Natural Resources Conservation Service East National Technology Center, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Ray has 24 years of work experience with (NRCS). He has worked for NRCS in New Mexico, Missouri, Oregon, and now lives in North Carolina. He is also a Certified Professional Soil Scientist with Soil Science Society of America. He also served two years in Guatemala working as Livestock Specialist in the Peace Corps. He received his B.S. in Agricultural Biology from New Mexico State University.
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Links For More Information:

- * Ray's Soil Health Page: <http://vimeo.com/channels/raythesoilguy>
- * Healthy Soils, Healthy Crops Video Series: <http://vimeo.com/channels/healthysoilshhealthycrops>
- * Innovative No-Till: Using Multi-Species Cover Crops to Improve Soil Health:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjI2zWf4uMI&feature=player_embedded#