



NACD Soil Health Champions Network



Bulletin #4, March 2016

NACD Annual Meeting Recap

This past January we were pleased to offer up to 25 stipends to the Soil Health Champions to attend the NACD Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada. The program allowed for many opportunities to network through sessions and through social gatherings.

On Sunday, January 31, we held a "Meet and Greet" with coffee and networking. NACD President Lee McDaniel and CEO Jeremy Peters gave a welcome and said a few words. Each attendee took a few moments to introduce themselves to the group and share a bit about their operation. Another opportunity for

engagement was available through the Soil Health Champions Network expo booth in the exhibit hall. The booth was a place where SHCs were able to gather, mingle and talk with other attendees about their operation, conservation practices, and some of the issues they face in their part of the country. All Champions were recognized at the Opening General Session and in the printed program as well.

To view videos, pictures and presentations from the annual meeting, please be sure to visit the NACD website by [clicking here](#). As presentations become available, they will be posted

online, so stay tuned!

Overall, fourteen Soil Health Champions were in attendance. Send us your national or regional events for posting and make plans to meet up with your fellow Network members!



Darwin Roberts from MN participated in the Share Fair on Monday, February 1 as a presenter.

NACD Soil Health Symposium

At the NACD Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada, there was a Soil Health Symposium which featured the following speakers: Rich Nichols, NRCS; Bill Buckner, Soil Health Institute; Ray McCormick, IN farmer; Tony DiLodovico, Ocean County Conservation District in NJ; and Beth Mason, NACD. This was the largest attended session with over 70 attendees – which illustrates how

important this topic is. Through each presentation, soil health programs and projects were highlighted and the symposium ended with a time of discussion as to "where do we go from here?"

Attendees each received a copy of "Building Soils for Better Crops, 3rd Edition" from Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education. This book is also available online as a [free download](#).

"My biggest insight was learning how many people from across the country are truly dedicated to promoting and implementing conservation programs, along with enhancing food production, all while preserving our Natural Resources."

~Darwin Roberts

SHCN Directory

Currently the Soil Health Champions Network (SHCN) has an email listserv soilhealthchampions@email.nacdnet.org that allows participants to email the entire group for networking purposes. As the Network develops and increases in size, we would like to make this of greater value to the participants. In response to multiple requests from Champions to do so, we are looking at various ways to connect you so you can truly function as a Network. We will be creating an NACD Soil Health Champions Network Directory to be a private email list, exclusively distributed to the network ONLY, allowing you to email individuals rather than the whole group. This distribution also includes the district contacts who work with the Champions. If you would NOT like to be a part of the directory, please be sure to contact Beth Mason, SHCN Project Coordinator, at beth-mason@nacdn.net, 317-946-4463 by April 15.

NACD Soil Health Champions go to Washington, D.C.

Soil Health Champions, Jimmy Emmons of Oklahoma and Dorn Cox of New Hampshire traveled to Washington, D.C. to speak at a congressional briefing on Monday, March 14 with a focus on Soil Health. Through visual presentations, Dorn and Jimmy illustrated the benefits of cover crops, no-till, and other conservation practices based on their personal experiences and information from their operations. Sarah Mine from the research group Datu also gave a presentation at the briefing, "[Documenting the Economic Benefits of Soil Health Management.](#)" In her presentation, Sarah expanded on both the

economic and physical benefits and results of conservation practices such as the use of cover crops and no-till management based on the research Datu is conducting on NACD's 4 case study farms.

CONFERENCE CALL

NACD will hold a conference call with the Network on Wednesday, April 13 at 9 a.m. EDT featuring Sarah from Datu who will share with the group the latest research through these case studies, followed by a time of Q&A and network discussion. Join us by dialing toll-free 1-888-537-7715, then enter passcode 8942129#.



Left to right: Dorn Cox, Sarah Mine, and Jimmy Emmons

NACD Soil Health Champions on Facebook

This past month we have been preparing a special opportunity for the Network in the establishment of a closed (private) group called "NACD Soil Health Champions" on Facebook. This is a great opportunity for the Network to not only share with each other, but learn from each other.

This group will only be available to those in the Network who would like to be a part. Please be sure, if you have a Facebook account, send Beth Mason (beth-mason@nacdn.net) the email address that is associated with your Facebook account and she will send you an invitation to join the group. We will only accept requests to join from Network members and

their district contacts.

This is also an ideal place to share upcoming events with the group and potentially connect with each other onsite. Currently we have the 2017 No-Till Conference in St. Louis on our events calendar, and we would welcome many more!

So, start now, think about the things you'd like to share with your peers — pictures, videos, podcasts, events, websites, articles, successes, challenges, celebrations, etc., and send in your email for your special invitation to join the Soil Health Champions on Facebook!



"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

~ Nelson Henderson

Upcoming Events

Send us your upcoming national or regional events

2016

July 15—18: [NACD Summer Meeting and Tour](#), Minneapolis, MN

July 24—27: [Soil and Water Conservation Society International Annual Conference](#), Louisville, KY

2017

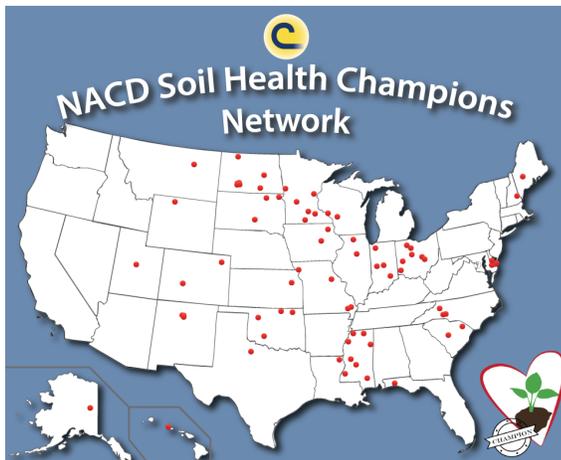
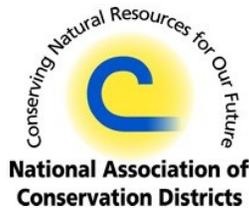
Jan. 10—13: [National No-Till Conference](#), St. Louis, MO

Jan. 28—Feb. 2: NACD Annual Meeting, Denver, CO



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Publications

Here is a list of publications you may want to sign up to receive:

eResource—NACD weekly publication. Subscribe online [here](#).

Forestry Notes—NACD monthly publication. Subscribe [here](#).

Did You Know—NACD monthly publication. Subscribe [here](#).

The Resource—NACD quarterly publication. View online [here](#).

NRCS Soil Health Update—NRCS monthly publication. Subscribe by emailing ron.nichols@wdc.usda.gov.

Grazing Lands News—The National Grazing Lands Coalition publication. Subscribe by emailing grazinglands@verizon.net.

To add publications to this list, please email beth-mason@nacdnet.org.



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on [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#)!

Connecting with NACD

We have a great team of staff working on this initiative. You may be contacted by your Field Rep or the Communications staff as we gather and share information. Additionally, Beth Mason has transitioned to the Soil Health Champions Network Coordinator, allowing Deb Bogar to start up another project for NACD. Please feel free to contact any one or all of us at any time.

NACD Field Representatives (check out the region map at www.nacdnet.org/about/districts/directory)

Northeast Region—Katie Stump, Washington, DC, katie-stump@nacdnet.org, 202-547-6223

Southeast Region—Phylis Vandevere, Mississippi, phylis-vandevere@nacdnet.org, 601-941-8251

North Central Region—Beth Mason, Indiana, beth-mason@nacdnet.org, 317-946-4463

South Central Region—Tamara Daniel, Texas, tamara-daniel@nacdnet.org, 512-869-4986

Northern Plains Region—Debra Bogar, Colorado, deb-bogar@nacdnet.org, 303-988-1893

Southwest Region—Jeff Burwell, Colorado, jeff-burwell@nacdnet.org, 970-413-1454

Pacific Region—Jeff Burwell, Colorado, jeff-burwell@nacdnet.org, 970-413-1454

Communications Staff

Director—Mary Price, Washington, DC, mary-price@nacdnet.org, 202-547-6223

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