

FINAL REPORT

TITLE: COMBINED SOILS AND HIGH RESIDUE FARMING WORKSHOP AND SUMMARY PUBLICATION

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ABSTRACT

An increasing number of Columbia Basin farmers and crop consultants are interested in building soil quality and high residue farming in irrigated cropping systems (2015 survey results). Since 2007, we have held several successful Building Soils for Better Crops workshops, as well as a series of high residue farming workshops starting in 2004. Both efforts have stressed soil quality. We continued these efforts by through a one-day workshop on Nov. 29th, 2016 in Moses Lake, WA. The topics were: nutrient placement, emerging soil amendments, humic substances, soil organic matter, soil acidification, soil health at NRCS, the economics of soil building, and soil improvement practices in the Columbia Basin. 124 people attended the conference. We summarized the take-home messages and visuals from each presentation and included those in a quickly scannable, on-line publication.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

OUTPUTS

- Overview of Work Completed and in Progress:
 - ✓ One-day workshop held on November 29th at the Advanced Technologies Education Center of Big Bend Community College, in Moses Lake, WA
 - ✓ Speakers cover the following topics: nutrient placement, emerging soil amendments, humic substances, soil organic matter, soil acidification, soil health at NRCS, the economics of soil building, and soil improvement practices in the Columbia Basin.
 - ✓ Talks were recorded (slides with audio) and summarized in an online publication
 - ✓ Approximately 124 people attended.
 - ✓ We surveyed participants and received 49 responses including 26 from farmers and 17 from crop consultants. Here are the primary results:
 - 70% of respondents did not attend our 2014 conference
 - 51% said that the talk on humic substances will cause them to change their practices.
 - 50% said that they plan to use more soil amendments as a result of attending the conference, 65% plan to increase use of cover crops, 38% plan to increase green manure use, 46% plan to increase high residue farming, 40% plan to increase soil health testing, and 56% plan to increase use of humic substances.
 - Estimated economic returns from soil building practices (% of respondents):

	Low return	Mod. return	High return	Don't know
Soil amendments	10	54	19	17
Cover crops	18	38	20	23
Green manures	21	32	8	39
High residue farming	16	39	8	37
Soil testing	13	5	13	69
Humic substances	8	31	10	51
- Publications, Handouts, Other Text & Web Products:
 - ✓ Summary publication (pdf) to be posted online on the CSANR website.

IMPACTS

- Short-Term: 124 attendees increased their awareness of various soil building topics.

- Intermediate-Term: Depending on the practice, from 38-56% of attendees plan to increase their use of soil building practices as a result of attending the conference.
- Long-Term: NA

ADDITIONAL FUNDING APPLIED FOR / SECURED

None

GRADUATE STUDENTS FUNDED

None

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

None