The Foundation of Sustainable Agriculture – The Soil.

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Farm Foundation Forum: Soil Renaissance
July 16, 2014
“Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.”
1937 – President Roosevelt sends out model conservation district law
Brown Creek, N.C., becomes first conservation district
1946 – NACD founded
Today:

- 3,000 conservation districts
- 17,000 elected or appointed district officials
- 50-plus state and territorial associations.
- Work closely with NRCS, other nonprofits and corporate sector
9 billion people by 2050

Dramatic increases in food production

How will we do that...and protect air, soil, water, wildlife?
THE KEY =
Voluntary, locally-led, incentives-based approach to conservation
Our Role:

Conservation districts are working at the local level to help implement sustainable conservation measures helping landowners reduce their carbon footprint and conserve the resource that is the foundation of sustainable agriculture – the soil.
SOIL HEALTH

• Erosion and Sediment Control
  o Partnering with NRCS on Soil Health Initiative

• Promotion of key principles of soil health
  o Using plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil
  o Managing soils more by disturbing them less
  o Growing a living root throughout the year
  o Keeping the soil covered as much as possible
Cover Crops

• Proactively supporting national sodsaver amendment
• Promotion of CRP, EQIP, and other NRCS funds to increase cover crop use
Hosting the NACD Soil Health Forum and Conservation Tours in Indianapolis, IN - July 21 & 22

- Soil health industry panel
- Leaders in NRCS, EPA, IN Dept. of Agriculture
- Soil Health Networking Event (20 organizations/companies represented)
- Tours of 3 farms operated by Indiana farmers leading in soil health
QUESTIONS?

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