

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

# Texas Soil Health Short Course

*building a functioning foundation*



**February 22-23, 2017**

**Region 9 Education Center**

**301 Loop 11**

**Wichita Falls, TX**

Join us in learning how to improve your operation thru increased soil function and management techniques used to accomplish those beneficial functions for greater water, nutrient, and energy efficiency.

The Short Course will provide:

- Leading soil health research
- Practical approach to implementation
- Producer, researcher, and agency Panel
- Field tour with soil pits
- Conservation demonstrations



[www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov)

Call: 817-550-7738 for more info

# WHY SOIL HEALTH?

Whether you drive a tractor, ride a horse, or a hunting UTV, your success depends on the ability of your soil to produce the commodity or experience that you desire. Join us in learning about soil management strategies from farmers and researchers across the country on methods to improve the health of your soil at the first annual Texas soil health short course. This will be an educational experience that will give you new insight about your own operation.

## 5 Functions of Healthy Soil

1. Regulate Water through available water holding capacity, porosity, and infiltration
2. Provide plants and animals a functioning habitat
3. Filter pollutants through biological and chemical processes
4. Cycle nutrients using carbon : nitrogen ratios and a biological predator /prey relationship
5. Provide stability and strength for greater resilience to adverse weather conditions.



How do you answer these questions for your operation?

- Concerned about rising cost of inputs?
- Worried about degraded soil function? It takes more to make less.
- Concerned about water quality/quantity?
- Dissatisfied with part of your operation?
- Interested in trying something new?

If “yes” to any of these the Texas Soil Health Short Course will address these concerns by providing greater understanding of the following:

- Water Cycle and movement in Soils
- Nutrient Cycle and timing
- Harvesting Solar Energy to power the soil system
- Partnering with Soil Biology to gain efficiency
- Build resilience in extreme climatic areas

The Texas Soil Health Short Course has been designed to provide leading dynamic soil properties research and technical information with producer’s practical approaches to implementing a system to improve their soil health. TSHSC will also provide conservation demonstrations that focus on Water and how important soil function is in the ability to capture and hold that water for production systems. The course will also provide insight into how other water users are banking on soil health to provide greater sustainability of water in an arid environment.

# FEATURED SPEAKERS



**B.A. "Bob" Stewart, Ph.D.**  
Distinguished Professor of Agriculture and Director of the Dryland Agriculture Institute at West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas.



**Nathan Haile**  
Soil Health Specialist for Texas NRCS. His 21 years with the NRCS has given him the opportunity to evaluate soils across the state and regions of the U.S. For the past 10 years he has focused his efforts in improving his knowledge of soil quality in Texas.



**Clay Pope**  
Loyal, OK rancher. Served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1994-2004 and as Exec. Director of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts from 2004-2014. He and his wife, Sarah, now facilitates the work of the USDA Southern Plains Climate Hub.



**Paul Delaun, Ph.D**  
Associate Professor and Environmental Soil Scientist at Texas A&M AgriLife Research in Vernon, TX. Dr. DeLaune's research has focused on protecting water resources while maintaining agricultural production goals. Research topics include evaluating tillage and water management strategies in various cropping systems.



**Jim Johnson, CCA, CAIS**  
Johnson serves as a soils and crops consultant with Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in the Agricultural Division's consultation program. Johnson has more than 20 years of experience in plant and soil sciences and runs a small cow-calf operation in south central Oklahoma.



**Steve Marten**  
Graduated from Texas Tech University in 1976 with a degree in agronomy. A no-till farmer near Archer City, TX, Marten is a major proponent of no till and has included cover crops and multi species forage crops on his operation to enhance soil health.



**John Sackett**  
Resource Soil Scientist for NRCS in Weatherford Texas for Zone 5, which covers about 50 counties in North-Central Texas. He not only looks at the physical and chemical properties of the soil, he also studies the biological component to help landowners improve their soil resource.



**Terry McAllister**  
Raises wheat, cotton, hay, canola, sesame and beardless barley, along with cover crops, and cattle. McAllister was among the first in his part of the Rolling Plains to experiment with no-till and now incorporating multi-species companion cover crops to increase the value of no-till and boost crop yields.



**Jimmy Emmons**  
Emmons and his wife, Ginger, are no-till farmers from Leedy, OK with a diverse operation growing wheat, soybeans, cover crops, irrigated dairy alfalfa hay, wheat canola rotation and a cow calf operation. He has been implementing cover crops and monitoring soil health since 2012.

**Jason Warren, Ph.D**  
Dr. Warren's research and extension program focuses on soil conservation management practices aimed at reducing environmental impacts of agricultural land management while maintaining or increasing economic viability.

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

\* PLEASE NOTE: Presentation topics, times and dates will be adjusted in final program. Topics mentioned are but a sample of those to be presented!

## Wednesday, February 22

9:30-10 am *Welcome and Overview  
Partnership and Purpose  
NRCS, TSSWCB, and ATSWCDs*

-Hear from the conference partners about the importance of soil health

### 10 -12:30pm **Morning Session Understanding Soil Function**

*Speaking for the Resource*

*Enhancement of water resources with intensified cropping systems*  
-The phrase “cover crops can make water” has been used more than once. What does that mean and is that possible?

*Managing moisture effectively on McAlister Farms*

### 12:30–1:15pm **Conference Luncheon**

### 1:15- 3:30pm **Afternoon Session Building Resiliency in the Soil**

*Diversity: Who needs it, what is it, where and how do you get it, why does it matter?*

Jim Johnson

*Increasing diversity on Emmons Farm*

*The Secret is in the Soil*  
-Ag producers can improve their bottom lines, better weather droughts and floods and protect the environment all while feeding a growing world

### 3:30- 4:30 **Break to Hotels before Evening**

### 5:30 -7:30 pm **Evening Session From My Land to your Tap**

*“The Watering Hole” Social Hour*

*Increase the Water on your Operation  
(H2O simulator Demonstration)*

## Thursday, February 23

### 8-12:00 pm **Morning Session Managing Dynamic Environments**

*Understanding your Environments-  
Soils, Plant, Weather, and  
Management Capabilities*

*Fundamental Principles for  
Successful No-till in the Southern  
Plains*

*Reason for Starting No Till and  
What I’ve Learned*

*Building a Soil Health Management  
System on Your Farm*

*All Speaker Panel to Close out  
Short Course*

### 12:30- 3:30 **Field Tour** Sandwich lunch on Bus

*Soil Pit and Field Demonstration*

Survey participants- Draw for Door Prize from Completed Surveys and Adjourn

# SHORT COURSE REGISTRATION

Texas Soil Health Short Course \* Febraury 22 & 23, 2017

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization you are representing: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION: Early Bird Registrations and payment MUST be received by FEBRUARY 1.

## SHORT COURSE

No. of attendees \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75 (\$100 after February 1) = Total \_\_\_\_\_

Short course registration includes admission to all conference sessions through 12:00 on Feb. 23, refreshment breaks, Watering Hole social, one lunch, and one copy of the conference packet.

## FIELD TOUR

No. of attendees \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 (\$40 after February 1) = Total \_\_\_\_\_

Field tour registration includes sack lunch with field tour including soil pit and site demonstration.

GRAND TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Please make checks and money orders payable in U.S. dollars to: ATSWCD

CHECK #: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Check: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CREDIT CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card type:            Visa            Mastercard            Am Express            Discover

CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Send paid pre-registrations to:**

**Mail:** Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
C/O Stacy Wilson, P.O. Box 548, Archer City, TX 76351

**Call:** 940-574-4612 x 101 (credit card registrations can be taken by phone)

Cancellation policy: No cancellations or refunds will be given after Feb. 1. All cancellations subject to a \$25 processing fee.

### **Sponsorships Available**

The following three levels of sponsorship are available.

**Bronze Level** - \$50 to \$149

**Silver Level** - \$150 to \$499

**Gold Level** - \$500 and above.

Sponsorship forms and checks should be made out to the ATSWCD with soil health sponsorship in the memo line or made by credit card to Stacy Wilson at 940-574-4612 x 101. If you have any questions or need further information about the sponsorship program you can contact Charlie Upchurch at 254-216-1473 or Nathan Haile at 817-550-7738.

**SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE: JANUARY 13**

### **Hotel Information**

The Host Hotel is the Baymont Inn and Suites. Special rates available for "Soil Health Short Course"



Baymont Inn & Suites  
4510 Kell Blvd  
Wichita Falls, TX 76309  
940-691-7500 (office)