Soil & Climate Initiative

Soil Testing Guidance & Methodology

Rapidly scaling regenerative agriculture through commitments and verification

Version 1.2

04/2025

Soil Testing Guidance & Methodology
Soil & Climate Initiative

The Soil & Climate Initiative Soil Testing Guidance & Methodology (Soil Methodology) is an accompanying Guidance document to the Soil & Climate Health Commitment & Verification Standard (Verification Standard), which took effect on September 12, 2023. The Verification Standard is a normative document under the Soil & Climate Initiative's Soil and Climate Health Commitment & Verification Program (Verification Program). English is the original and official language of this document. In case of any inconsistencies between this document and any translation, default to the official language version.

Soil & Climate Initiative
1612 K Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington DC 20006
USA

E-mail: verification@soilclimateinitiative.org
Website: https://www.soilclimateinitiative.org/

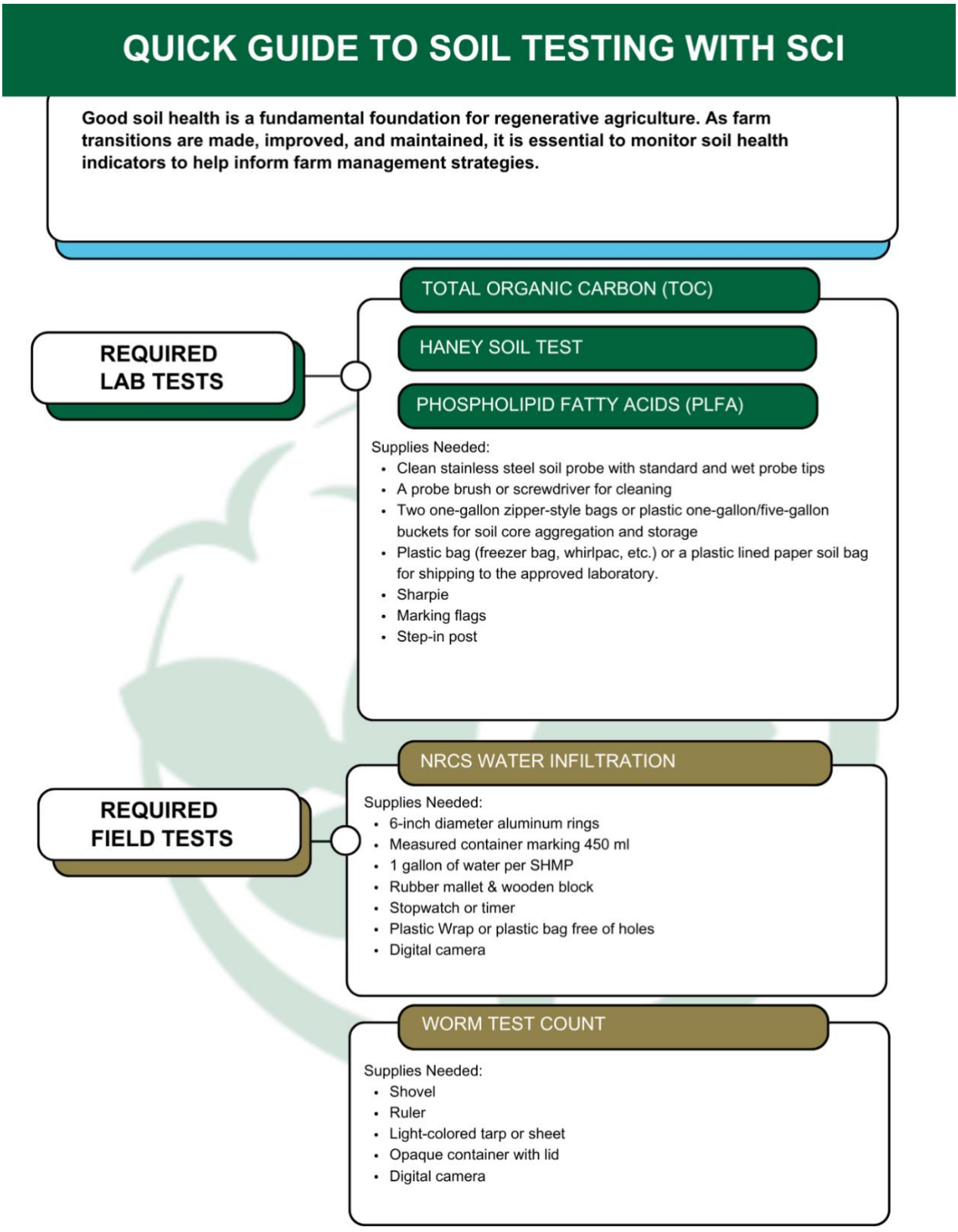
Social Media: @soilclimateinitiative
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/soilclimateinitiative
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/soilclimateinitiative/

Summary of Changes

Change	Description	Pages/Section
Water Infiltration Tests	Updated from four tests to two tests per Soil Health Monitoring Point.	15, Section 6.1
Small Farm Soil Testing Protocol	New addition to support smaller acreage systems	11, Section 5.2.2
Required Field Testing updates	Eliminated the VESS test from the protocol and made the other four Field Tests compulsory.	14, Section 6

1. Table of Contents

2. Quick Reference Materials List



QUICK GUIDE TO SOIL TESTING WITH SCI

The frequency, methods, and types of soil testing for Verification may vary from what is necessary for Farm management decisions. Farms are advised to conduct additional observations and tests for management purposes beyond what the Verification Program requires if it is deemed necessary for the Farm.

REQUIRED FIELD TESTS

SLAKE TEST

Supplies Needed:

- Two clear glass jars or containers
- Water to fill glass jars/containers
- Wire mesh or screens to fit inside jars to hold soil
- Digital camera

PENETROMETER COMPACTION

Supplies Needed:

- Soil compaction probe or penetrometer
- Digital camera

3. Document Use

This document provides an overview of the soil sampling methodology needed to comply with the Soil & Climate Health Commitment & Verification Standard (Verification Standard). It is important to note that this document does not supersede any requirements for soil testing outlined in the Verification Standard. The Soil & Climate Initiative Soil Testing Guidance & Methodology (Soil Methodology) provides Non-normative Guidance for soil sampling and Field Tests required to meet verification requirements for the Soil & Climate Initiative's Soil and Climate Health Commitment & Verification Program (Verification Program).

The document capitalizes key terms, and their definitions are in Section 7, Key Terms and Definitions.

4. Soil Testing

Good soil health is a fundamental foundation for regenerative agriculture. As Farm transitions are made, improved, and maintained, it is essential to monitor soil health indicators to help inform Farm management strategies. Three key areas are vital for monitoring: Soil Organic Matter (SOM), Soil Biology, and Soil Structure. SCI measures 21 indicators to track regenerative transition progress and to help inform Farm management. These indicators are detailed in the Verification Standard.

It is important to note that the frequency, methods, and types of soil testing for the Verification Program may vary from those necessary for Farm management decisions. Farms are advised to conduct additional observations and tests for management purposes beyond what the Verification Program requires.

A SCI-approved soil sampler must perform all soil sampling and testing. Producers must be present for at least one-third of the Field Tests. Soil sampling for Lab Tests occurs every three years, while Field Tests are conducted annually. Results must be documented in FarmLab, SCI's approved partner for Farm mapping, sampling, and data management. Soil sampling and field testing will be carried out using an approved soil sampling map displaying the coordinates for sampling and testing sites.

Soil testing for renewal must be conducted within 30 days prior to or after the initial baseline testing date, provided the weather conditions are similar. For example, if the baseline testing occurred on a sunny day with a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit on March 28th, the subsequent annual or triennial testing should occur on a sunny day within five degrees of the baseline testing temperature, and it cannot be conducted earlier than February 28th or later than April 28th. Producers who are unable to complete the soil testing within the specified timeframe due to weather-related events may request an exception by submitting a written approval request to SCI. All inquiries regarding exceptions should be directed to verification@soilclimateinitiative.org. Climatic conditions for the testing and sampling day must be documented.

5. Methodology and Process

SCI has one main soil testing protocol centered around Soil Health Monitoring Points (SHMP), which is required for Verification.

Soil Health Monitoring Points (SHMP) are representative areas used to understand how Farm management changes are progressing soil and ecosystem health over time.

The number of Enrolled Acres determines the number of SHMPs. SCI has determined acre ranges using a formula developed to ensure statistical relevance to the number of soil cores needed and the amount of soil volume needed to run the required Lab Tests.

- SCI Formula: Square root of the Enrolled Acres plus one rounded to the nearest whole
- SHMPs are geolocated in the Farm map and placed in the top two predominant soil types.
- SHMPs are preferably located in an area the Producer designates as having average production yields; however, SCI understands not all Producers may have this level of data.
- When an odd number of SHMPs are required, the allocation of SHMPs shall defer to the predominant soil type, which will have an odd number of SHMPs, and the secondary soil type will have an even number.

SHMP allocations for Enrolled Acres are in Table 1, Soil Health Monitoring Point Allocation. For Farms larger than 9,000 Acres, contact SCI for details.

Table 1 Soil Health Monitoring Point Allocation

Acre Ranges	SHMP Required	Predominant Soil Type Allocation	Secondary Soil Type Allocation
550 or less	2	1	1
> 550 - 1200	3	2	1
> 1200 - 2200	4	2	2
> 2200 - 3500	5	3	2
> 3500 - 5100	6	3	3
> 5100 - 6900	7	4	3
> 6900 - 9000	8	4	4
> 9000	Contact SCI		

Soil Health Monitoring Points (SHMP)

The SHMP sampling protocol centers around sampling zones. During SCI onboarding, the sampling locations are identified as part of the enrollment and field mapping processes.

- The Midpoint of the sampling zone is geolocated during testing to ensure accuracy and precision. The sampling map indicates the location of the SHMP Midpoint. Approved soil samplers will use the soil sampling map to identify the SHMP Midpoint, utilizing this point to determine the proper locations for the 12 soil cores and the field tests described below.
- From the Midpoint, a soil core will be extracted at 10, 20, and 30 meters in each direction, facing North, South, East, and West. Refer to the blue points labeled 1-12 in Figure 1, Soil Health Monitoring Points.
- Each soil core is taken at a depth of 12 inches and is divided in half to create two sample depths (0-6 inches and 6-12 inches).
- The 0–6 inch soil cores are combined into one sample, while the 6-12 inch soil cores are combined into a separate sample.
- Penetrometer readings for compaction should be taken within 0.5 meters or less of the soil cores. Refer to the red points labeled 1-12 in Figure 1, Soil Health Monitoring Points.

The Slake test is performed within the 10-meter center of the SHMP zone.

Water Infiltration Tests are performed at two separate points of the sampling zone as follows from the Midpoint:

- Site A, S 20 m, W 20 m
- Site B**,** N 20 m, E 20 m

For example, N 20 m, W 20 m means moving to a point 20 m North of the Midpoint and 20 m West of the Midpoint. To do this, start at the Midpoint and walk 20 meters North, then turn to face West and walk 20 meters West. This would be Point B for the Water Infiltration Test.

The Worm Count Test will be performed in quadrant Q1 of the SHMP. It is to be geolocated at the time of testing and not repeated in the exact location in subsequent testing years. These tests can be taken anywhere in the quadrant as long as the geolocated spot isn't repeated for at least six years.

Visual clarity is presented in Figure 1, Soil Health Monitoring Points, on the next page.

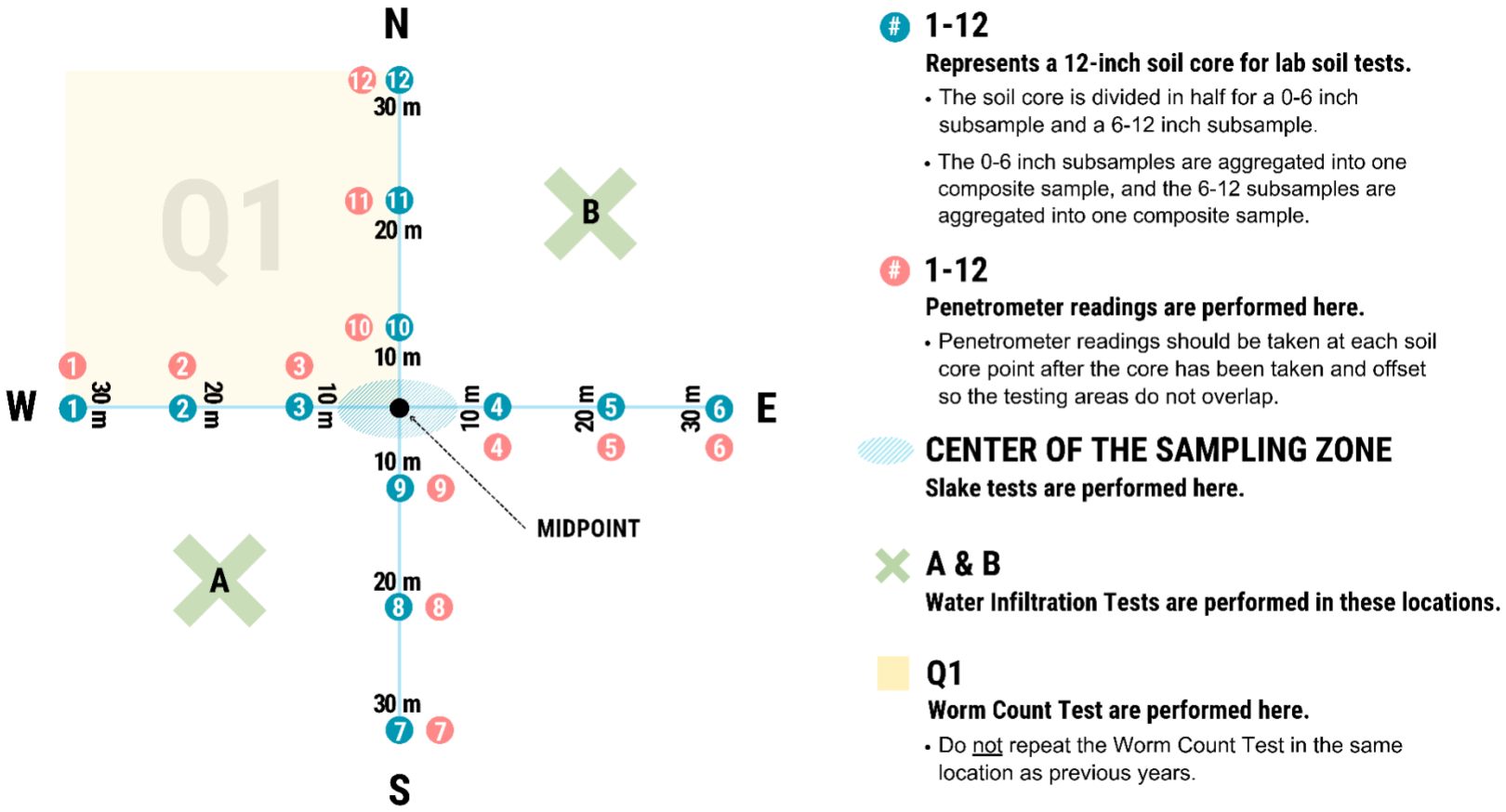


Figure 1. Soil Health Monitoring Points

5.1 Special Case Sampling Protocols

5.1.1 Farm Transition Support

Farm Transition Support is an optional testing protocol that creates stratified sampling plans across the Enrolled Acres. This level of testing provides information that informs fertility and cover crop programs. Producers may include this protocol in their soil testing at any time they deem helpful for their regenerative transition and remove it at any time they choose.

As a part of this protocol, Fields are classified by soil type, management practice, and, where applicable, slope. The maximum Field size is 100 acres. Lab Testing frequency can vary at the Producer's discretion with consultation from SCI's approved agronomy consultant(s). FTS can include soil testing necessary for agricultural-based carbon credit programs if desired. It is important to note that testing to satisfy carbon programs does not replace SCI soil testing; rather, it is done in addition to SCI soil testing.

Producers utilizing this protocol will obtain a Modified SHMP concentrated at a single sampling point (soil core) designated as the Midpoint. The core identified as the Midpoint offers Guidance and sets parameters for conducting the Field Tests per the guidelines in section 5.1, Soil Health Monitoring Points.

In cases where Producers remove this protocol, the Modified SHMP will become the full SHMP, and testing, as detailed in section 5.1, Soil Health Monitoring Points (SHMP), will begin.

5.1.2 Small Farm Protocol

This protocol leverages the FTS framework to support small-scale Producers and their production context. This protocol will utilize 12 cores, 11 sample points, and one Modified SHMP. Stratification will prioritize production areas/practices over soil typing.

5.2 Farm Mapping and Data Management

FarmLab is program designed to track and manage field maps and soil data. Before sampling begins, Producers will receive an invitation from FarmLab to create a FarmLab account.

FarmLab can be accessed both on desktop and as a mobile app. The invitation sent via email will direct to the desktop site, but Producer's will also need to download the mobile app for Field use. This app is essential for approved soil samplers, as it allows them to view Farm maps and geolocated SHMPs. Additionally, they will use the mobile app to enter climate data and Field Test results while conducting the tests.

5.3 Required Lab Tests

Lab Tests are laboratory analyses conducted by an SCI-approved laboratory using composite soil samples collected according to the sampling methodology described in this document.

Lab Tests are required every three years after the initial baseline test, as shown in Figure 2. Lab Testing Timeline Guidance.

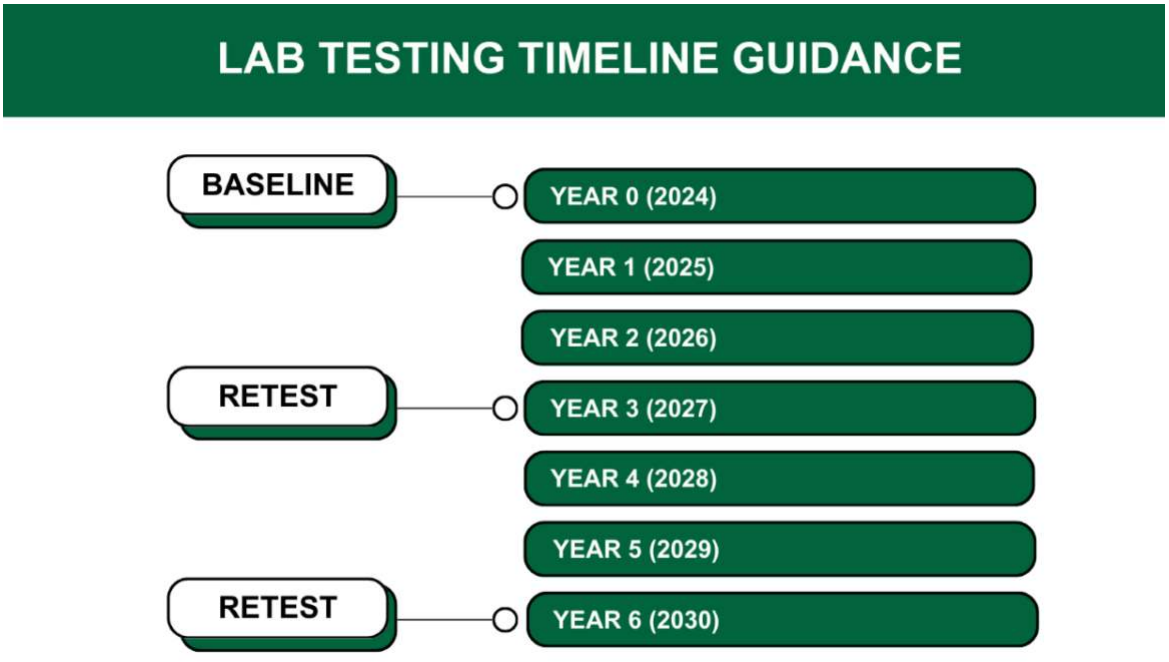


Figure 2. Lab Testing Timeline Guidance

Total Organic Carbon (TOC): Total organic carbon measures the amount of carbon stored in soil organic matter. The measurement of (TOC) is a crucial aspect of soil characterization and ecological assessment. It is the only accurate way to determine the amount of organic carbon present in the soil. Its presence or absence can significantly influence how chemicals will react in the soil.

Haney Soil Health Test: The Haney Soil Health Test is a comprehensive method of evaluating the overall health of the soil. It combines chemical and biological measurements to assess nutrient availability, microbial biomass, and other aspects of the microbial habitat. The test also suggests cover crops that can improve soil fertility and increase crop yield. The test is designed to simulate the natural process of nutrient availability in soil, making it a crucial tool for making informed decisions about improving soil fertility and productivity. A few of the metrics SCI utilizes from the Haney Test are listed below.

- Soil Health Score
- Water Extractable Organic Carbon
- Water Extractable Organic Nitrogen
- Organic Matter
- Organic C:N Ratio
- Soil Respiration CO2-C

For more information on the Haney Soil Health Test, refer to the Haney Test Interpretation Guide and the Haney Report Definition documents.

Phospholipid Fatty Acids (PLFA): The PLFA test is a technique that uses specific biomarkers of phospholipid fatty acids to identify the living microbial biomass in soil and recognize the different functional groups present or absent in the soil. Soil microbes are vital for important functions such as plant growth, nutrient cycling, and carbon sequestration. Changes in soil microbial communities due to processes such as tillage, planting cover crops, or manure applications can be detected by analyzing the microbial reaction using the PLFA test. This test is an effective tool to track the type of soil microbes and microbial community composition, which helps to monitor soil health over time. A few of the metrics SCI utilizes from the PLFA test are listed below.

- Total Living Microbial Biomass
- Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) Biomass
- Percentage of AMF in Total Biomass

5.4 Required Field Tests

Field Tests are annual in-field assessments of key soil-based indicators that do not require laboratory analysis. They can be conducted relatively rapidly and cost-effectively.

NRCS Water Infiltration: The infiltration rate measures how fast water enters the soil. Knowing the soil's water-holding capacity allows for informed cropping, irrigation, and conservation decisions.

Worm Count Test: This test provides an Indicator of the amount of organic matter and fertility of the soil. Earthworms play a vital role in soil health, fertility, and productivity and are responsible for breaking down organic matter, improving soil structure, and cycling nutrients. Earthworms can indicate the health of soil in many ways, including aeration, organic matter breakdown, nutrient availability, and soil structure. When earthworms are present in soil, it indicates that the soil is healthy and productive.

Slake Test: This test demonstrates the stability of soil aggregates when placed in water. It evaluates soil stability and susceptibility to erosion and measures the structural stability of soil aggregates. Stable soil structure with good aggregation is an important indicator of overall soil health.

Penetrometer Compaction: A soil penetrometer is used to test the compaction of the soil. A soil compaction test evaluates the density and penetration resistance of soil. Compacted soils have higher bulk density and require more force for roots or probes to penetrate. Compaction negatively impacts soil health, crop growth and Field trafficability. Annual compaction tests identify problems early before impacts worsen.

6. Field Testing Guidance

Guidance for all required Field Tests is detailed in the following sections.

6.1 NRCS Water Infiltration

Image credit

For verification purposes, required Field Tests, including this Infiltration Test, must be conducted annually in the designated locations within the SHMP notated as points A and B (see Figure 1). Below are instructions for conducting an Infiltration Test at your designated testing sites. Adapted from NRCS Soil Health – Infiltration testing guidance.

Why does SCI require an annual Infiltration Test?

A soil infiltration test measures how fast water enters and moves through the soil and is usually measured in inches per hour. Infiltration can affect the soil's ability to store and supply water, nutrients, and oxygen to plants and soil organisms. Infiltration tests can tell us about the health of a soil's:

- Porosity: the amount of pore space in the soil
- Permeability: the ease with which water can flow through the soil
- Structure: the arrangement of soil particles and aggregates
- Texture: the proportion of sand, silt, and clay in the soil
- Organic matter content: the amount of decomposed plant and animal material in the soil
- Biological activity: the presence and diversity of soil organisms

What do the results indicate?

A moderate to high infiltration rate indicates healthy soil, where water can infiltrate the soil quickly and evenly without causing runoff, erosion, or ponding. A low infiltration rate can indicate that the soil is compacted, crusted, or has a high clay or salt content. A very high infiltration rate can indicate that the soil is sandy, has low water-holding capacity, or is prone to leaching of nutrients and contaminants.

Steps:

1. Locate testing location A, geolocate and record the testing coordinates for future testing.
2. Clear all residue from the soil surface. Using the mallet and block of wood, drive the ring into the soil to a depth of 3". Drive the ring down evenly and vertically. Gently tamp down the soil inside the ring to eliminate gaps.
3. Cover the inside of the ring with a clean plastic bag with no holes and drape it over the rim.
4. Pour 450 mL water into the plastic-lined ring.
5. Gently and quickly pull the plastic wrap away. Record the time it takes for the water to infiltrate the soil. Stop the timer when the soil "glistens."
    a. Stop the test at 30 minutes if the water has not finished infiltrating the area.
    b. If the first reading takes 30 minutes or longer to infiltrate, there is no need to take a second reading (Step 7).
6. Take a photo from above the soil ring to show the inside of the ring, and position the timer in the photo to show the time.
7. Repeat Steps 2, 3, and 4 for a second reading.
    a. Stop the second reading at 30 minutes if the water has not finished infiltrating the area.
8. Record both results and the photo in the FarmLab app.
9. Repeat Steps 1-8 for testing site B.

Pictures are a reference of the process and not examples of the photos to be uploaded.

Supplies Needed:

- 6-inch diameter aluminum rings - (a resource to purchase infiltration rings)
- Measured container marking 450 ml
- ½ gallon of water per SHMP
- Rubber mallet - for driving the aluminum ring into the soil
- Wooden block – protects from damage to the infiltration ring when driving it into the soil
- Stopwatch or timer
- Clean plastic bag free of holes
- Device to access the FarmLab app

Considerations & Further Resources:

Avoid areas that are not typical, such as animal burrows.

- Read: NRCS, Soil Health Guides for Educators, Soil Infiltration
- Watch: CropWatch, Soil Infiltration Overview Video
- Watch: CropWatch, Soil Infiltration Test Video

6.2 Worm Count Test

For verification purposes, required Field Tests, including this Worm Count, must be conducted annually in the designated location within the SHMP notated as Q1 (see Figure 1). Below are instructions for conducting a Worm Count at your designated soil sampling area. Adapted from NRCS Soil Quality Test Kit Guide: Earthworms (page 22).

Image credit

Why does SCI require an annual Worm Count Test?

Earthworms are an important indicator of soil health, and their presence (or absence) is one way that SCI measures improvements in soil health.

Earthworms are a crucial component of soil ecosystems. They play a vital role in soil health, fertility, and productivity and are responsible for breaking down organic matter, improving soil structure, and cycling nutrients. Earthworms can indicate the health of soil in many ways, including aeration, organic matter breakdown, nutrient availability, and soil structure. When earthworms are present in soil, it is a good indication that the soil is healthy and productive. They provide valuable insight into the potential benefits for plant productivity and specific benefits like carbon cycling and nutrient mobilization. Counting earthworms can provide insight into the potential benefits for plant productivity and specific benefits like carbon cycling and nutrient mobilization. By counting earthworms, Producers can make informed decisions about soil management and improve soil conditions. So, it is important to take care of earthworms and promote their growth in soil for better productivity.

What do the results indicate?

The presence of earthworms in your soil can indicate the amount of organic matter it contains. A low or absent population of earthworms may suggest minimal or no organic residues in the soil. Additionally, high soil temperature and low soil moisture can cause stress to earthworms and, in some cases, reduce crop productivity.

Steps:

1. Take a worm count in quadrant Q1 of the SHMP. Geolocate each testing site and avoid replicating the spot in future years.
2. At Each testing site
    a. Measure out a 12" x 12" square area on soil.
    b. Dig up the soil 12" deep and place it on a tarp or sheet.
    c. Gently search through the soil and find worms (any type of worm, adult or juvenile).
    d. Put worms in a container as you find them.
    e. Count & record the total number of worms.
    f. Gently place the worms on the tarp or sheet and take a photo.
    g. Carefully return worms and soil to the hole.
    h. Record results and the photo in the FarmLab app.

Supplies Needed:

- Shovel
- Ruler
- Light-colored tarp or sheet
- Opaque container with lid
- Device to access the FarmLab app

Considerations and Additional Resources:

- Test when soil is moist, not dry.
- Test is best when taken in the spring or fall. A generalized range for earthworm activity is 32 – 86 degrees F.
- Work slowly and gently.
- Return worms to soil quickly.

6.3 Slake Test

Image Credit

For verification purposes, required Field Tests, including this Slake Test, must be conducted annually in the designated SHMP location, notated as the Midpoint (see Figure 1). Below are instructions for conducting a Slake Test. Adapted from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, The slake test – a simple way to evaluate soil structure.

SCI will also accept data from the Soil Health Institute's Slakes App to satisfy this Field Test.

Why perform an annual Slake Test?

A soil slake test evaluates soil stability and susceptibility to erosion. The slake test measures the structural stability of soil aggregates. Stable soil structure with good aggregation is an important indicator of overall soil health. Soils with poor structure are more vulnerable to erosion and surface crusting. It can identify soils that may need additional organic matter or changes in management to improve soil health and reduce erosion potential.

What do the results indicate?

A slake test can provide some useful insights into potential improvements in agronomic practices based on the soil's stability response:

- If soil aggregates quickly slake and disperse:
    - Boost soil organic matter - use cover crops, compost, manures
    - Add organic residues with lignin
    - Improve soil biology and microbial communities
    - Enhance drainage, reduce wet-dry cycles
- If soil aggregates remain intact and resilient:
    - Maintain practices that build aggregation like reduced tillage
    - Consider controlled traffic to prevent compaction
    - Reduce chemical inputs that may disrupt biology
    - Avoid over-saturation and plowing wet soils
    - Monitor soil organic matter and fertility

Steps:

1. Geolocate two locations within the Midpoint of the SHMP.
2. Take enough soil from each of these points to fit into your hand.
3. Place wire mesh screens into the top of each jar. These should be deep enough to allow the soil samples to be submerged in the water while being held within the top 1/3 of the jar.
4. Fill the jars with water.
5. Place each section of soil onto the wire mesh screens in each jar.
6. Record the time from immersion until complete slaking occurs. Longer times indicate higher stability.
7. Take a photo once each jar reaches complete slaking. Position the timer showing the final time in the photo.
8. Record results and the photo in the FarmLab app.

Supplies Needed:

- Two clear glass jars or containers
- Water to fill glass jars or containers
- Wire mesh or screens to fit inside jars to hold soil
- Device to access the FarmLab app

Considerations & Additional Resources:

There are no universally standardized metrics for quantifying or measuring results in the Slake test.

- Read: Healthy Soils Are: Well Structured

6.4 Penetrometer Compaction Test

Image credit

For verification purposes, required Field Tests, including this Soil Compaction Test, must be conducted annually in the designated locations within the SHMP notated within 0.5 meters of points 1-12 (see Figure 1). Below are instructions for conducting a basic compaction test. Adapted from Rutgers, Use of A Penetrometer to Assess Soil Compaction.

Why perform an annual Compaction Test?

A soil compaction test evaluates the density and penetration resistance of soil. Compacted soils have higher bulk density and require more force for roots or probes to penetrate through. Compaction negatively impacts soil health, crop growth and Field trafficability. Annual compaction tests identify problems early before impacts worsen.

What do the results indicate?

The results of a soil compaction test provide information about the density and strength of the soil at various depths. Overall, compaction test psi readings quantify the extent, severity and location of compacted zones. This helps identify issues requiring changes in Field practices to alleviate compaction and improve soil function.

Some key things that compaction test results indicate:

- Indicators of Compaction:
    - Higher psi readings than threshold values.
    - Visible plow pans or platy structures.
    - Poor water infiltration.
    - Poor root development.
    - Reduced crop growth/yields.

- Managing Compaction:
    - Reduce Field traffic and use controlled traffic patterns.
    - Addition of organic matter to improve soil structure.
    - Deep tillage such as subsoiling to fracture compacted layers.
    - Avoiding tilling wet soils.
    - Using cover crops with deep rooting systems.

Steps:

1. Take a penetrometer reading within 0.5 meters of each soil core point (1-12) on the SHMP. Do not overlap in the exact spots where the soil core was taken.
2. The indicator gauge should read “0” before sampling.
3. Prepare to take the reading by clearing the surface debris from the test area.
4. Insert the probe vertically into the soil, perpendicular to the surface.
5. The penetrometer is pushed into the soil within each test area until the gauge reads 300 psi.
6. The distance that the rod penetrates the soil up to the 300 psi reading is measured and recorded on the provided documentation form, with deeper penetrometer depths indicating less compact soils.
7. Take a photo showing the distance measurement of each point.
8. Repeat the process for all SHMP 1-12
9. Record results and photos in the FarmLab app.

Supplies Needed:

- Soil compaction probe or penetrometer
- Device to access the FarmLab app

Considerations & Additional Resources:

- Compaction is often higher in traversed areas.
- It can be useful to compare Field measurements with undisturbed reference areas like fence rows.
- Test when the soil is moist. If the soil is too dry or too wet, it can affect the penetrometer readings.
- Watch: Using a penetrometer to detect soil compaction

7. Key Terms and Definitions

Approved Laboratory: A laboratory identified by the standard operator as capable of providing soil testing services in alignment with the soil testing requirements of the Soil & Climate Health Commitment & Verification Standard.

Farm: One or more tracts of working lands under the control and management of a Producer.

Field: A set of Enrolled Acres with similar soil and production types and practices across those Acres. In certain situations, slope may be a factor in determining an appropriate Field organization.

Field Tests: The SCI Soil & Climate Health Commitment & Verification Standard requires in-field soil tests and methodologies, which provide a visual and tactile means of assessing the relative health of the soil.

Guidance: Within the Soil & Climate Health Commitment & Verification Standard, language providing additional interpretation or anecdotal information on a specific standard requirement for the purposes of clarification.

Lab Tests: Laboratory soil testing and methodologies required by the Soil & Climate Health Commitment & Verification Standard, which provide a means for assessing the health of the soil.

Midpoint: A geolocated spot on the soil sampling map that designates the center of the Soil Health Monitoring Point(s) and includes a 10-meter radius in the middle for performing the designated Field Tests.

Modified Soil Health Monitoring Point(s) are sampling points designated in the Farm Transition Support sampling protocol used to anchor the Field Tests. The soil core taken will serve as the Midpoint, and the Field Tests will be measured and performed according to this Guidance document.

Non-normative Guidance: The non-prescriptive, or 'descriptive', part of the program and aims to provide substantive direction for the scope, scale, and/or action required to meet the program's design intentions. This may include analogies, synonyms, explanations, illustrations, context, and examples. In the event that non-normative content contradicts normative content, the normative content is to be followed.

Producer: The working lands manager (farmers and ranchers) with primary responsibility for decisions related to management practices of crops or livestock and demonstrable authority to implement changes in management and to obligate a Farm to comply with the Soil & Climate Health Commitment & Verification Standard.

Soil & Climate Initiative (SCI): A commitment and verification program with an intent to scale the Acres under Regenerative Management in order to deliver regenerative outcomes: soil health, increased biodiversity, improved water quality and nutrient density, climate resiliency and greater Farm and rural prosperity.

Soil Methodology: The shortened term used to refer to the Soil & Climate Initiative Soil Testing Guidance & Methodology.

Soil Health Monitoring Point(s): Soil Health Monitoring Points are representative areas used to understand how Farm management changes are progressing soil and ecosystem health over time. Lab and Field Tests soil health testing are centered around these points.

Verification Program: The shortened term used to refer to the Soil & Climate Health Commitment & Verification Program.

Verification Standard: The shortened term used to refer to the Soil & Climate Health Commitment & Verification Standard

8. List of Figures and Tables