

# Advanced Soil Health Training

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## OVERVIEW

American Farmland Trust is excited to launch our 2024/2025 **Advanced Soil Health Training (ASHT)**, a program funded by the USDA through the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities (PCSC) program. In partnership with Truterra/Land O' Lakes, AFT will **sponsor and train soil health advisors who will share their expertise with their communities**. This program is designed to deepen the soil health knowledge of experienced farmers and farm advisors, and give them the tools to bring this knowledge to a wider audience!

## Our Trainers

**Barry Fisher** worked for 39 years with the USDA-NRCS and served as Central Region Leader of the Soil Health Division. He was named the 2022 Certified Crop Advisor-Conservationist of the Year through the American Society of Agronomy.

**Brandon Smith** is a former State Agronomist and Grazing Specialist for NH NRCS, where he advanced the use of cover crops in the state and region. Brandon was a research professor of organic crop production at the University of TN and holds a Ph.D. in Horticulture & Agronomy from Cornell.

**Dennis Chessman**, based in Kentucky, also holds a PhD in agronomy and retired from serving as the Southeast Regional Team Leader with the NRCS Soil Health Division

Our training is **balanced between classroom and field education**, to train you on real-world applications of soil health concepts at visits to farms in your region.

## Curriculum Outline

The ASHT will strengthen your skills in 4 key areas:

1. The **science of soil health**
2. Soil health **practices in the field** (including cover crop management, no-till/strip-till/mulch-till and others)
3. How to **troubleshoot** and adapt management to a variety of conditions
4. How to effectively **communicate** about practice adoption and grow a supportive and engaged network

## Eligibility

### COMMODITIES

Wheat, Corn, Cotton, Soy, Dairy

### REGIONS

Midwest, Southeast, New England, New York State, Mid-Atlantic

### COST

If you are selected to be a participant, there is no fee! AFT will provide travel stipends for participating in the full course.

### DATES

Beginning in Summer 2024 and continuing through Summer 2025/2026.

## APPLY NOW

to secure your spot



To fill out the application, scan the QR code with your smart phone camera or visit: <https://farmland.org/asht> for more info