



United States Department of Agriculture

# Southern Agricultural Soil Health & Water Management Training Conference

*A forum for farmers to exchange information, discuss opportunities for collaboration and learn about new and successful practices related to soil health.*

**December 12-13, 2017  
Wyndham Riverfront  
North Little Rock, AR**

Sponsored by the  
Arkansas Soil Health Alliance,  
Arkansas Association of  
Conservation Districts and USDA  
Natural Resources Conservation  
Service

7:30 a.m.

**Registration Opens**

8:15 a.m.

**Welcome****Silver City 5, 6 & 7**

Robby Bevis, President, Arkansas Soil Health Alliance  
 Martha Manley, President, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts  
 Mike Sullivan, Arkansas NRCS State Conservationist

8:30 a.m.

**Soil Health**

Keith Scoggins, NRCS District Conservationist, Moderator

- **Dave Brandt, Farmer & Owner of Walnut Creek Seeds, LLC** – *Featured Speaker*  
Carroll, Ohio

9:30 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m.

- *The Transition to a Intensive Grazing System*  
Jeremy Huff, NRCS Grazing Specialist & Michael Dickey, Producer

Silver City 5

- *The Science Behind Soil Health*  
Dr. Steven Green, Professor of Soil & Water Conservation

10:00 a.m.

- *Sustainability and Profitability*  
Bill Robertson, U of A Division of Agriculture

Silver City 7

*Documenting the Benefits of Soil and Water Conservation*  
 Dr. Mike Daniels, U of A Division of Agriculture

11:45 a.m.

**Luncheon**

**Keynote Speaker: USDA Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue** (invited)

Participants load busses in front of the hotel for the field tour. Dress casual and wear comfortable walking shoes. The busses will not return until 6:30pm so bring whatever you need with you.

12:45 p.m.

**Soil Health Field Tour****Bevis Farm, Scott, AR**

*(Participants load busses in front of the hotel for the field tour. Dress casual and wear comfortable walking shoes)*

Four sites will be set up for training demonstrations for professionals and producers. Participants will rotate through each site on the hour.

- *A Close-Up Look at the Soil*  
Edgar Mersiovsky, NRCS State Soil Scientist
- *Cover Crop Updates for Southern Cash Crops*  
Tim Smith, Crop Consultant, Southern Soil Solutions
- *Rainfall Simulator Demonstration*  
Jeremy Huff, NRCS Grazing Specialist
- *Equipment Demonstration*  
Adam Chappell, Farmer and ASHA Board Member  
Bill Robertson, U of A Division of Agriculture Cotton Specialist  
Chris East, Vantage Mid-South

4:30pm

Bevis Family Barn for Dinner

5:00pm

**Catfish and Chicken Dinner** – Cajun Express

6:00 p.m.

**Soil Health Panel Discussion with Q & A Session**

Busses will begin leaving at 6:30pm for those wishing to return early. Last bus leaves at 7:30pm for the Wyndham Hotel.

8:30 a.m.

**Water Management**

Silver City 5, 6 & 7

*Selecting Cover Crops for Mid-South Crop Rotations*  
 Dr. Trenton Roberts, U of A Division of Agriculture

*Conservation Benefits Including the Bottom Line*  
 Dr. Mike Daniels, U of A Division of Agriculture and Steve Stevens, Desha County Producer

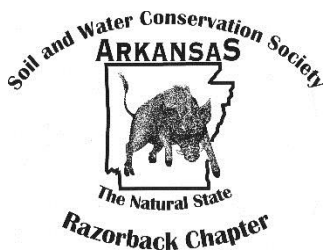
*Irrigation Scheduling, The Next Step in Water Management*  
 Leigh Nelson, Water Management Engineer, National Water Management Center

*Irrigating versus Watering: Yields Show the Difference*  
 Mike Hamilton, U of A Division of Agriculture & NRCS

11:30am

**Questions & Answers - Wrap Up**

**Our thanks to our Advisors, Speakers, and Sponsors**



**Lonoke County Conservation District**

**Bevis Family Farm**

**MONSANTO**

