

Syllabus
SOCR 342 Organic Soil Fertility
Fall 2012

Catalog Statement

Organic soil fertility in the framework of holistic organic farming systems.

Course Format

This course will meet for 2 one-hour session per week for 8 weeks.

Course Objectives

Students enrolled in this course will:

- 1) Develop an appreciation of organic soil fertility management in holistic organic farming systems.
- 2) Become familiar with the means by which decisions are made to manage soil fertility.
- 3) Experience hands-on learning exercises through field work and interpretation.
- 4) Examine current research in scientific journals.

Course Specifics

Instructor: Adriane (Addy) Elliott
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Phone: 491-6984 Cell: (970) 218-8305
Email: Adriane.Elliott@ColoState.edu (**BEST WAY TO REACH ME!**)

Suggested (**not required**) Textbook: Sustainable Soils: The place of organic matter in sustaining soils and their productivity by Benjamin Wolf and George H. Snyder. ISBN# 978-1-56022-917-9

Other readings: Distributed in class.

Prerequisites: SOCR 240 (Intro to Soil Science) and SOCR 350 (Soil Fertility)

Grading: Homework (3): 30 points each = 90 points
Final presentation (1): 90 points = 90 points
Class participation: 20 points = 20 points
200 points total

Integrity: To further enhance the culture of integrity among CSU students I ask you to pledge the following: "I will not give, receive, or use any unauthorized assistance".

Date	Content
T, 8/21	Syllabus overview, National Organic Program Fertility Guidelines
Th, 8/23	Current fertilizer identification: conventional /organic, Handout – Commonly Used...
T, 8/28	Soil Sampling at PERC - 613 Lake Street. MEET AT THE GARDEN TO THE WEST OF BUILDINGS.
Th, 8/30	Foundation of Organic Farming, HW#1 assigned* , Handout: pH and factors affecting...
T, 9/4	Discuss Homework – Soil Fertility in Org. and Conv. – fundamentally different?
Th, 9/6	Managing Organic Matter for Maximum Benefit, Handout: Example Fertilizer Calc.
T, 9/11	Review/Discuss soil sample results from PERC/SUSDEV garden, HW#2 assigned*
Th, 9/13	Discuss Homework - Is the productivity of an organic farm limited by avail. N?
T, 9/18	Cover Crops: Nuts and Bolts, Assign Class Project
Th, 9/20	Cation Balance (Does this work in CO soils?), HW# 3 assigned*
T, 9/25	Discuss Homework - The Advisability of Using Cation Balance
Th, 9/27	GFF Long Term Fertility Assessment
T, 10/2	TBA
Th, 10/4	Class project presentations
T, 10/9	Class project presentations
Th, 10/11	Class project presentations

**** For each HW assignment please do the following: 1) read article prior to class and be prepared for class discussion, 2) bring 2-3 good questions/comments that you will share with the class to stimulate good conversation, 3) hand in your questions/comments at the end of the class period for a grade.**

HW#1 – Read Soil Use and Management (2002) 18, 301-308. Posted on Blackboard.

HW#2 – Read Soil Use and Management (2002) 18, 248-255. Posted on Blackboard.

HW#3 – Read Keeling and Peters, 2004. Posted on Blackboard.