

Agenda

Monday, 16 March 2015

- 9.30 am *Arrival and coffee/tea*
- 10 am **Introductions**
Background of workshop
Plans for practical trials
Participants experiences
Identification of trial hosts
- 1 pm *Organic lunch (£ 12)*
- 2 pm **Field walk**
Demonstration/discussion
of soil assessment tools
- 4 pm *End of the workshop*

Field labs are at the heart of the Duchy Originals Future Farming Programme - events where farmers and growers test new approaches, share existing best practice and sharpen their problem-solving skills. The field labs are on-farm events, open to all - organic and otherwise.

Book your place now!

At [www. http://tinyurl.com/soilsFL](http://www.tinyurl.com/soilsFL)

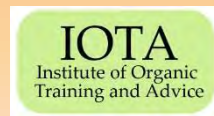
Or contact Astrid Toner
email: AToner@soilassociation.org
phone: 0117 314 5100

The field lab will be free,
lunch: £12

How to get there:

Location address:
West Lodge, Hardwick
Whitchurch on Thames
Pangbourne
RG8 7RA

Funded by the Duchy Originals
Future Farming Programme,
a collaboration of:



Soil analysis

It's use and interpretation

Field Lab



at Hardwick Gardens,
South Oxfordshire
Monday 16th March 2015



Aims of this field lab

Farmers and growers today have a number of options to assess the fertility and health of their soils, ranging from spade diagnosis and earthworm counts to measuring respiration rates of soil life etc. A number of commercial laboratories offer various tests to assess soil fertility and health, often using different techniques and methods.

This workshop aims to **compare different approaches in practice.**

Farmers and growers will speak about **their experience in soil analysis**, which methods they use and why, and **how the results can be interpreted**. The workshop will be followed by a field visit to demonstrate and discuss different soil health assessments.

Follow-up trials

This workshop can be followed-up by two field days during the summer:

These aim to directly compare soil analysis methods on a number of farms, using for example the same soil to compare different approaches of assessment. During the workshop on the 16th of March, we will identify **who is able to participate and contribute:** soil sampling and lab analysis. If 4-5 farms can be identified, the field days will then be set-up during the summer/autumn of 2015.

These follow-up events will involve the **demonstration and direct comparison** of different soil assessment methods, various lab analyses and programmes. The field events will **highlight most effective, practical and reliable strategies for soil fertility and health assessment in practice.**

Join in and share!

Get involved!

We invite you to **join this workshop and contribute to the trials later in the year!** Either by sharing your own experiences and soil analysis results in the group, or by testing and evaluating different methods and lab tests if they are suitable for your specific needs!

Results and experiences will be shared and discussed in the field lab group, where you can profit from various opinions, input and feedback to evaluate your own methods.

