



Pennsylvania
Association for
Sustainable Agriculture

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PRESS RELEASE

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A PLANT'S EYE VIEW OF COMPOST AND FOLIAR SPRAYS

The soil food web is a complex and fascinating community. Do you know that healthy soils house five million nematode worms for every vertebrate animal (birds, for example) that live on the surface? Bacteria and fungi are also part of the healthy soil biology. A healthy soil will contain two and a half tons of these microorganisms per acre. Have you stopped to ask what it is that soil microbes and plants really want?

Join PASA and the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) on Thursday and Friday, May 6 and 7, 2010 for a two-day intensive workshop. Mark Fulford will lead up on an exploration of soil and plant nutrition through an understanding of soil biology and its relationship with plants. This workshop is focused for both beginning and experienced livestock and crop farmers.

Mark Fulford is an internationally known farm consultant and educator whose range of expertise encompasses transitioning from conventional to organic and biological agriculture; soil, crop, and forage nutrition; and preparing agriculture for peak oil, climate change, and economic drift. Mark's knowledge and experience in biological agriculture includes project work in Australia, the Philippines, and China. He and his wife, Paula, own and operate Teltane Farm in Monroe, Maine.

The first day of the workshop will take place at the Chester County Economic Development Center in Exton. This is an indoor classroom day during which Mark will discuss the interactive life cycles that take place above ground and the complex functions of living soil systems below our feet. Participants will learn techniques for observing soil, seed, and plant quality through plant indicators and animal responses. There will also be demonstrations on soil chemistry and plant sap testing as well as practice making dry and liquid mineral blends.

The second day of the workshop will take place at Wyebrook Farm in Honey Brook. Folks will spend the day in the field and will have the opportunity to do more hands-on work, implementing techniques for determining soil and plant health and methods for increasing crop productivity. Learn how to identify plants as soil health indicators, make and apply dry, liquid, and foliar mineral applications, and assess the proper use of equipment for small-scale agriculture.

Special thanks to Lancaster Agriculture Products for their donation of minerals for this workshop

Both days run from 10 am until four pm and lunch will be provided. Registration fees are \$110 for PASA members and \$125 for all others.

To register online got to www.pasafarming.org or call the office at 814 349 9856, extension 11.

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