Organic Intensives

Saturday, January 7, 2023

High Costs and Supply Scares of Nutrients: Strategies for Overcoming Organic Crop Fertility Challenges

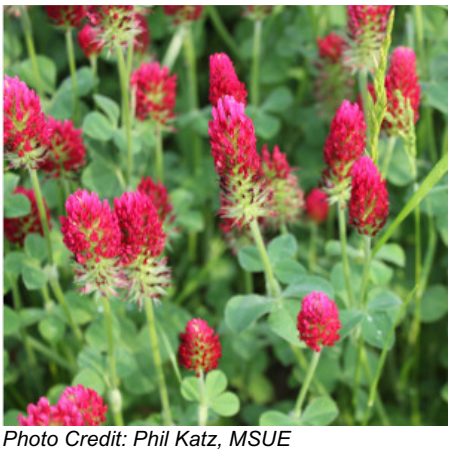

Photo Credit: Phil Katz, MSUE

In 2022, farmers and producers across the country saw the price of conventional fertilizers skyrocketing. Looking for alternatives, many turned to fertility sources that organic farmers had traditionally relied on, driving the price of these materials up as well as causing shortages for everyone. If this trend continues many are considering how they are going to be able to provide the necessary fertility for crops in the future. This session will look at the problems being encountered, general soil needs, and alternative strategies and systems. The session will include information from researchers working on this problem and producers will share their experiences as they seek alternative strategies to obtain nutrients that their crops need.

Time	Topics
9:00	Welcome & Introductions
9:15	Nutrient needs of common Midwest organic crops Can we continue to rely heavily on poultry manure? What problems are we encountering? Dan Rossman- Organic farmer and retired MSUE educator Zachary Hayden, MSU Horticulture Assistant Professor
10:30	Break
10:45	Strategies/plans we might consider to be more sustainable Experiences of organic producers Mark Vollmar, organic farmer Paul Treiber, organic farmer
12:15	Lunch

Time	Topics
1:30	Research discussion on impact of cover crops and mixes to improve organic production and soil health Vicki Morrone-MSU Organic farming specialist Rabin KC-MSU field crop graduate student
2:30	Break
2:45	Producer Round Table Discussions Facilitated by Dan Rossman and Vicki Morrone
4:45	Wrap-up and Evaluation
5:00	Adjourn to Reception in Head House

The MOFFA Organic Intensives is a day long workshop including an organic lunch, breaks, a few booths to browse (including the MOFFA book table), and time to meet up with old friends and make new ones. Find more information about Organic Intensives, scholarships, and how to register at http://moffa.net/oi-2023.html.