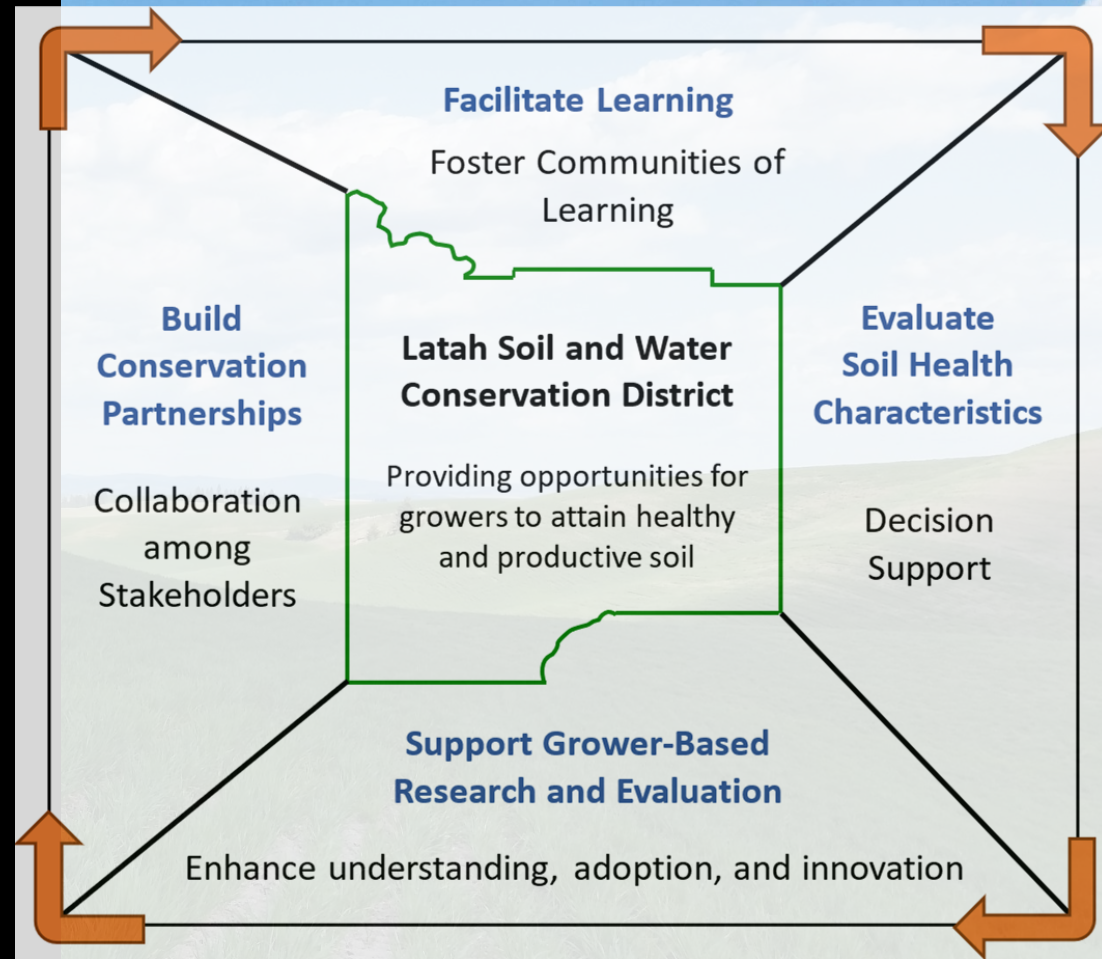


# SOIL HEALTH FROM THE GROUND UP

Promoting  
Locally-led  
Innovations in Soil  
Management

# LATAH SWCD SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM APPROACH

- Understand and solve on-farm soil health issues
- Advance the science and art of soil health
- Promote innovative grower-led solutions to soil health problems



# SOIL HEALTH CONCERNS PRIORITIZED

- ❖ Soil acidification, soil compaction, and declining soil organic matter levels
- ❖ Sustainability of long-term no-tillage
- ❖ More regenerative process to rebuild agricultural soils
- ❖ Lack understanding and/or confidence in soil testing





## Soil Health Indicator Testing

~

“Test the Tests”  
Key Indicators  
Directional  
Change

## Agricultural Liming

~

Soil Health  
Productivity  
Economics

## Cover Crops as Rotational Tool

~

Soil Health  
Benefits  
Agronomic  
Feasibility  
Ecosystem  
Services

# SOIL & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES MONITORING CRITERA

## ❖ Monitoring tools/systems:

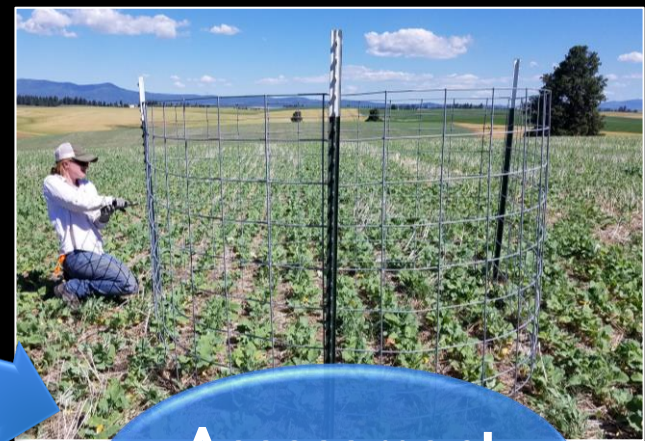
- Relevant
- Economical
- Technically Accessible

## ❖ Soil Health Indicators:

- Diagnostic
- Balance/integrate biological, chemical, & physical

## ❖ Learning at Pace of Agricultural Decision Making



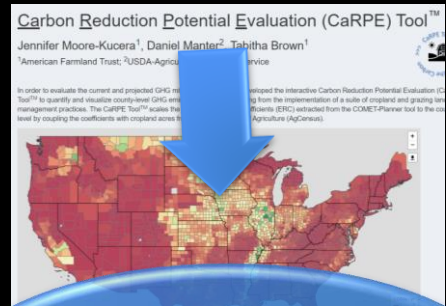
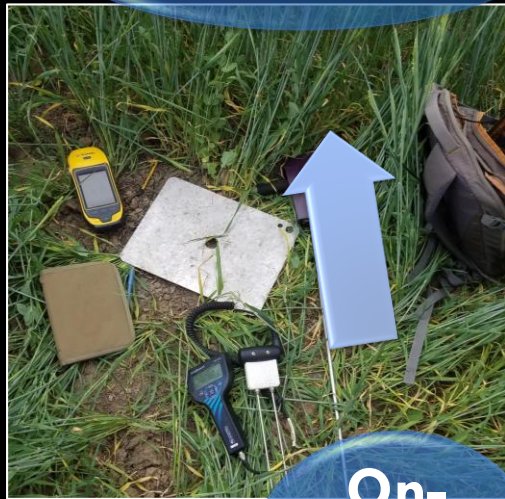


**Evaluation**

**Data Collection**

**Assessment Tool(s)**

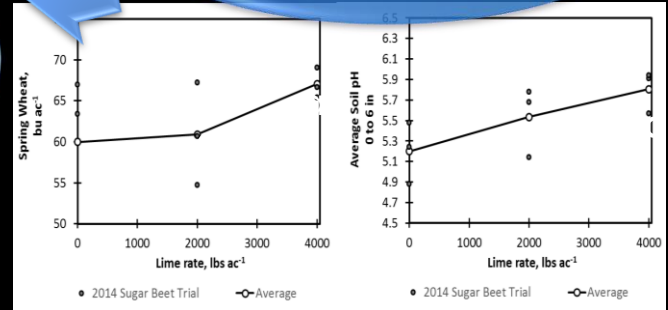
**Adoption limited by lack of specialized decision support**



**Analysis & Interpretation**

**On-Farm Action**

**Producer Decision Making**



# CONCEPTS ↔ FIELD OPERATIONS

What are guiding concepts?

Are concepts hard to adopt?

What guides management?



# RECENT FUNDING

## Northwest Climate Hub

- *Evaluating Sustainable Management Practices and Soil Health Assessment Tools to Support Decision-Making by Palouse Producers*

## Idaho NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant

- *Understanding Soil Health from a Management Perspective: From Concept to Field Operations*



Climate Hubs

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service