

Essentials of good soil management

Improve soils to optimise yield and enhance workability • Identify and alleviate structural issues • Understand soil characteristics



Designed for:

Individuals who wish to understand the essentials of good soil management and improve their on-farm cultivation decisions. The principles addressed are relevant across all crops including grass. Discussions will be adapted to the technical issues of most interest to participants

Entry requirement:

An entry level course best suited to individuals who have a basic **awareness** of the subject area

Price:

£225 + VAT

Duration:

A one day classroom and field-based course

CPD points:

CPD points to be awarded

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this course you will be able to:

- Investigate, describe and interpret soil structural conditions
- Use hand texturing to determine soil textures and understand the management opportunities and limitations associated with different soils
- Identify appropriate cultivation systems to suit soil types and circumstances to prevent structural issues
- Recognise how soil structure and fertility can be improved through the use of organic manures, cover crops (or green manures) and grass leys
- Assess the need for drainage and maintenance for different soil types and cropping situations
- Take practical measures to alleviate soil structure issues

Content:

Classroom module (half day)

The principles of good soil management:

- Identifying soil type by hand texturing
- Limitations of different soil types
- Cultivation systems to suite soil texture and condition
- The importance of soil organic matter and how to maintain/enhance levels through cultivation choice and use of organic and/ or cover crops
- The need for field drainage systems and secondary mole drainage

Field module (half day)

Practical soil assessment:

- Soil texture identification
- Visual soil evaluation of the soil structure using soil pits
- Assessing soil condition including porosity, colour and earthworm presence

Trainer:

Dr Nathan Morris, Farming Systems and Soils Specialist, NIAB TAG
Mel Holloway, Senior Farm Consultant, RSK ADAS UK Ltd
Milly Bowden, Farm Consultant, RSK ADAS UK Ltd



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Soil and Water