

Discussion Topics

- Review 3 Soil Health measures for your fields (see field cards)
- Complete Soil Quality Worksheet for your field
- Which fields might benefit from addition of manure? Which fields will not? Add Happy and Sad Emojis to your field.
- What visual observations might you make about field that might suggest value of manure to a field?
- What alternative soil health measures might you consider for evaluating these fields? Why?

Manure's Benefits for Soil Quality/Health Scorecard (Activity 5)

Step 1: Below are some typical values for coarse, medium, and fine texture soils that would indicate High and Low soil quality. Review these values.

Step 2: Using the soil test information provided for each field (Field Information Card), indicate with an "X" on the axis under each field number to indicate where an individual field current soil health characteristic best fits (high to low quality) for each of the three soil quality characteristics.

Step 3: Which fields will benefit from an organic fertilizer (fields with lower quality soil characteristics).

Soil organic matter

Soil Quality:	Sand	Silt Loam	Clay	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4
High Quality	1.5%	5%	4.5%	X			X
Low Quality	0.8%	3%	2.5%			X	X

Example: Silt Loam soil with soil organic matter of 3.5%.

Permanganate Oxidizable Carbon (POxC)

Soil Quality	Sand	Silt Loam	Clay	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4
High Quality	550	700	650	X			
Low Quality	350	400	400		X	X	

Example: Silt Loam soil with POxC of 600.

Aggregate Stability

Soil Quality	Sand	Silt Loam	Clay	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4
High Quality	65%	70%	70%	X			
Low Quality	35%	50%	50%		X	X	X

Example: Silt Loam soil with aggregate stability of 70%.

These estimates are for the purpose of beginning discussions of soil quality/health characteristics. Value may vary based upon soil formation factors such as soil parent material and climate. You may want to visit with local experts about high and low quality ranges specific to your location.