

Soil Association - National Soil Symposium Agenda

For full details on this event, please visit http://www.soilassociation.org/farmersgrowers/events/nationalsoilsymposium

<u>Thursday 15th November</u>

9.00 Coffee and Registration

9.30 Welcome Address

Helen Browning - Chief Executive, Soil Association (10 mins)

Luca Marmo - Head of Soil Sector, European Commission (15 mins)

Professor Carlo Leifert - Nafferton Ecological Farming Group (15 mins)

Chair: Ben Raskin - Soil Association

10.30 Soil Innovation and Research

This session focus on the latest research and innovation in relation to soil. Speakers include:

Dr Elizabeth Stockdale – Newcastle University (35 mins)

Dan Carpenter – Natural History Museum (20 mins)

Chair: Tom McMillan – Soil Association

12.00 Organic lunch and time to network and visit trade stands.

13.30 – 15.00 This session will be split into a grower and a livestock session.

The **grower** session will focus on Biochar fertility and sequestration, potential and practicalities and, examine some of the latest research from UK applications.

Speakers include:

Craig Sams -Carbon Gold (15 mins)

Dr Saran Sohi - UK Biochar Research Centre (15mins)

Jim Hammond - UK Biochar Research Centre (15 mins)

Pete Dollimore - Hankham Organics (10 mins)

Chair: Peter Melchett - Soil Association

The **livestock** session will look at optimising soil management for livestock, maximising trace element nutrition in soil, management techniques as well as covering some novel approaches including growing buckwheat..

Speakers include:

Ulf Ullring – Savory Institute, Sweden (20 mins)

James Bretherton – Agscope (20 mins)

John Newman - Abbey Home Farm (20 mins)

Chair : Dr Elizabeth Stockdale – Newcastle University

15.00 - 15.15 Tea and Coffee

15.15 - 16.45 Low Carbon Farming and launch of new management tool

This session will look at public goods from soils, the broad principles of low carbon farming tools as well launching the Soil Association's low carbon tool (FCAT).

The impact of traffic on soils and crops will be considered along with the profitability of farms adopting controlled traffic systems.

Speakers include:

Peter Melchett - Soil Association (20 mins)

Tim Chamen - Controlled Traffic Farming (20 mins)

Sam Adams - Low Carbon Farming Project (20 mins)

Chair: Martin Davies - Soil Association

16:45 Session Close

17:30 - 19:00 There will be a number of activities taking place which include:

- Interactive session identifying worms using microscopes
- Interactive session demonstrating the Farm Carbon Assessment Tool
- Identification of subjects that would benefit from further investigation or research for growers and farmers – Organic Research Centre
- Free access to the museum to view the World's largest collection of British road transport
- Art exhibition including portraits of the Soil Association's organic farm network
- A cash bar will open from 17.30pm

18:00 - 19.15: Screening of Symphony of the Soil

19:30 3 course evening meal using fresh local and organic ingredients.

20:45 After dinner speech (Peter Seggar OBE)

21:15 Music from Susanna Waters

23.00pm Close

Friday 16th November

9.00 Overview of the Organic Market (20 mins)

James Twine (Soil Association) will provide a brief overview of the organic market.

Chair: Ben Raskin - Soil Association

9.30 - 11.00 This session will be split into a grower and a livestock session.

9.30 <u>Livestock Session</u>: Anaerobic Digestion

This session will clarify Soil Association standards in relation to anaerobic digestion, types of digestate and different applications, as well as associated costs of setting up a digestor on a small to medium scale. Speakers include:

Martin Davies - Soil Association (10 mins)

Anna Becvar - Earthcare Technical (30 mins)

Will Llewellyn - Evergreen Gas (30 mins)

Chair: Euan Brierley - Soil Association

9.30 Grower Session: Making the best compost for your soil

This session will include results from the Royal Horticultural Society trials from compost additions, experiences of incorporating the Albert Howard approach into modern day practice as well as the benefits to soil of using a large scale composting approach. Speakers include:

Professor Michael Raviv - Agricultural Research Organisation of Israel (20 mins)

Dr Paul Alexander - Royal Horticultural Society (20 mins)

Richard Higgins - New Directions Foundation (20 mins)

Chair : Alan Schofield - Organic Growers Alliance

11.00 Tea and Coffee

11.30 Farming, Water and Trees

This session will explore the benefits to planting trees on farms as well as the tackling water issues including a review of the Royal Bank of Canada Blue Water Project and Catchment Sensitive Farming project. Speakers include:

John Tucker - Woodland Trust (20 mins)

Stephen Briggs - Abacus Organic Associates (20 mins)

James Grischeff – Natural England (20 mins)

Chair: Jim Twine - Soil Association

13.00 Formal Close

13.15 Refreshments and a light organic lunch with time to visit trade stands.

Our Sponsors and Contributors.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for supporting this event. Without their kind support, we would have been unable to offer the current ticket price to delegates.























Supported by the Duchy Originals Future Farming Programme.

We would like to extend our thanks to Particle Productions who have offered to film some of the event proceedings.



We would also like to thank Suzanna Waters for her musical contribution at the event.

www.reverberation.com/susannawaters

For further information: Please contact Astrid Toner on 0117 914 2400 or via email at atoner@soilassociation.org with any queries regarding this event.