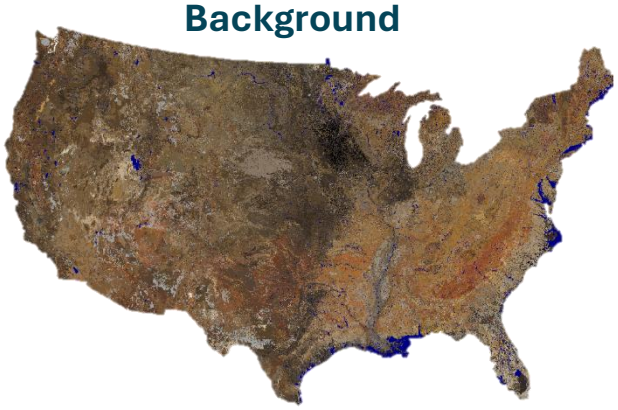
Probing Our Country's Soil Health

SHAPE: Soil Health Assessment Protocol and Evaluation

SHAPE is an online tool designed to interpret soil health measurements, monitor soil health change, and offer management practice alternatives for improving soil health. An initiative has been funded by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service to work with farmers to provide a more representative dataset to support SHAPE. To do so, diverse management practices and variable soils from across the U.S. are needed.

Background



The SHAPE tool is online, publicly available, and easy-to-use to score a wide selection of soil health indicators. The outcome is effective and meaningful soil health interpretation across the different soils and landscapes of the U.S.

Partnering With People

The initiative will foster innovative partnerships that are mutually beneficial for farmers and landowners and the public. The SHAPE tool is intended to lead to improved interpretations for soil management recommendations and increased adoption of conservation management practices. These improvements can lead to positive, long-term impacts on the environment, commerce, and quality of life.

Leading Partners

This initiative partners University of Missouri and USDA to work with farmers and landowners, public, and private institutions across the U.S (e.g., conservation districts and National Association of Conservation Districts, NRCS conservationists, commodity organizations, state extension, Certified Crop Advisors). The SHAPE tool prototype was first developed by a team of government and university scientists led by Dr. Kristen Veum at the USDA-ARS Cropping Systems and Water Quality Research Unit, Columbia MO.

SHAPE Project Goals

Probing Soil Health

Teams will collect over 13,000 soil samples across the U.S. (~6000 fields) from different soil, climate, and management conditions.

Soil Health Indicators

Expand and improve soil health measurements using SHAPE to custom-score soils for local and regional land-use interpretation.

Open Access Tool

SHAPE tool shared publicly with free web-based apps for easy soil health scoring.

Get Involved!

The SHAPE team is looking for farmers and landowners across the U.S. to collaborate with for obtaining management information and soil samples. If interested, contact Newell Kitchen at AGES.KitchenN@gmail.com.

Benefits for participation!

Soil Health Report and **Project Book** entitled "Probing Our Country's Soil Health"

Center for Regenerative Agriculture

AGES Agronomic, Geologic & Environmental Services

USDA Agricultural Research Service
Natural Resource Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Association of Conservation Districts