



# Department of Agriculture and Land Soil Health Improvement Plan

## What is a Soil Health Improvement Plan?

A Soil Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) is a new advisory service being developed to help producers understand their current soil health status and set goals to support soil health.

Qualified soil and water engineers will work with agricultural producers to develop a plan that outlines beneficial management practices being implemented on farm.

## Soil Health Principles

1. Keep soil in its place
2. Maximize soil cover
3. Maintain living roots
4. Use crops with increased residue
5. Minimize tillage
6. Add manure and soil amendments

## Overarching Goal

To preserve and improve the health and quality of Island soils.

The following indicators will be used in the development of a SHIP:

### Indicator # 1 : Soil Health Results



Soil health is a term used to define the ability of your soil to function. The PEI Analytical Laboratories offer a suite of soil health indicator tests that will be required to complete a SHIP:

Soil Organic Matter, Active Carbon, Soil Respiration, Aggregate Stability Biological Nitrogen Availability

### Indicator # 2 :



#### RUSLE2 Soil Loss Prediction Model

The Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE2) is a software model that predicts long term, average annual erosion by water. Our soil and water engineers use the model to work with producers on reducing soil loss.

### Indicator #3 :



#### RUSLE2 Soil Conditioning Index

RUSLE2 Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) predicts the effect of cropping systems and tillage on soil organic matter. It considers crops, tillage practices, operations, topography, rainfall intensity and soil type.

## Contact

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