

Day 3: Strategic Action Working Conference
Saturday, February 11, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
(Day three of the [Soil and Nutrition Conference](#),
February 9-11, 2012

As we prepare to gather at **Soil & Nutrition: An Education and Coalition Building Conference** in Northampton we wanted to take a brief moment to share our hopes for our discussion and work on Day 3 of the gathering.

As we survey the landscape related to food production in the Northeast we are aware of gaps in awareness, experience, knowledge, and skills related to realizing the true genetic potential of crops and high levels of bionutrients in the food supply.

We are compelled toward collective action so that we may actively expand our communities' awareness, build upon our collective knowledge, acquire new skills, and achieve improved production levels.

The Day 3 sessions will be facilitated to foster a spirit of collaboration and the continued development of collective knowledge. Through group discussions we aim to identify key strategies for action, identify leaders and community members committed to focusing on specific action items, and maintain a list of future possible connections. **In short we hope to decide the next steps we can take as a community committed to quality, and allow participants to identify what role they would like to play in the progression of this important work.**

By working together, we can achieve goals that could otherwise not be developed by just individuals or single organizations.

Topics included in our discussion on Day 3 (note: we may add or amend this list throughout Thursday and Friday as our discussion evolves)

1. Continued Development of Knowledge and Resources Related to "Better Growing Practices"
 - a. seed quality
 - b. tillage practices
 - c. bio-inoculation and soil biology
 - d. mineral supply (including emphasis on local development)
 - e. mentorship and farmer education
 - f. connecting with discussions, knowledge, and information beyond the Northeast
2. Focusing Research on Crop Quality and Nutrient Levels
 - a. what is in our food - metrics
 - b. "low hanging" fruit related to research and potential research questions
3. Connecting Bionutrient Rich Foods with our Communities - Strategies for Education and Outreach
 - a. capturing critical information and dissemination, expanding public understanding of soil health and crop quality

- b. building a broad & deep network of allies
- c. linking an understanding of soil health with institutions charged with caring for human health

Schedule

(note: we may amend our schedule for Saturday as our discussion evolves on Thursday & Friday)

8:30 - Introduction to the Day

9:00 - Topic 1 - Continued Development of Knowledge and Resources Related to "Better Growing Practices"

10:45 - Morning Break

11:00 - Topic 2 - Focusing Research on Crop Quality and Nutrient Levels

12:15 - Lunch

1:30 - Topic 3 - Connecting Bionutrient Rich Foods with our Communities - Strategies for Education and Outreach

3:00 - Adjournment