



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Two new field managers join Soil Health Partnership team** *Illinois, Indiana staff additions aid expansion of data collection program*

(ST. LOUIS) – Two new field managers have joined the Soil Health Partnership, a farmer-led initiative that fosters transformation in agriculture through improved soil health. Abigail Peterson and Alex Fiock will help manage the growing number of farmers enrolled in the program in Illinois and Indiana.

“As we have expanded to 111 farms in 12 states a year ahead of schedule, our need for additional staff has grown as well,” said SHP Director Nick Goeser. “We welcome Abigail and Alex to the partnership and look forward to their expertise and enthusiasm.”

SHP field managers help new farmers get started in the program with identifying the practices that will work best for them to improve soil health on their farms, and assist with implementation, soil sampling, and education. Common practices changed on the farm include the use of cover crops, conservation tillage and advanced nutrient management. Field managers also help organize, attend and offer presentations at field days. Their expertise and training are critical to the success of the long-term research to link economic and environmental gains.

Peterson, a Certified Crop Advisor, will work in Southern Illinois, and joins current Illinois field manager Jim Isermann in working with more than 30 farmers enrolled in that state. She joins SHP after two years with DuPont Pioneer, and is a graduate of Iowa State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Agronomy.

“From a young age on our farm, my dad always tried to show me that the time and care we put into our soil is just as important as the crop we take off,” said Abigail. “There are many differences in soil type and farming operations that require different solutions for soil improvement. I am excited to get started!”

Fiock will cover Northern Indiana. He grew up in Bluffton, Indiana with a love of farming, fostered by his grandfather. He joins current Indiana field manager Hans Kok in helping with the 30 farmers in the state. Prior to joining the partnership, he worked in seed sales covering 15 Indiana counties. A graduate of Purdue University, Alex majored in natural resource environmental science with a focus in agronomy and soil science. He will continue to help with his family’s farming operation in Bluffton.

“I have always been interested in soil health, and was an active participant and fan of soil judging growing up in Future Farmers of America,” said Alex. “I took that love to college, really focused in on soil science and how management practices can positively affect our yields on the farm.”

An initiative of the National Corn Growers Association, the [Soil Health Partnership](#) is a data-driven program working to quantify the benefits of practices that support soil health from an economic as well as environmental standpoint.

**About the Soil Health Partnership**

The Soil Health Partnership is a farmer-led initiative that fosters transformation in agriculture through improved soil health, benefiting both farmer profitability and the environment. With more than 100 working farms enrolled in more than 10 states the SHP tests, measures and advances progressive farm management practices that will enhance sustainability and farm economics for generations to come. SHP brings together diverse partners to work towards common goals. At least a ten-year scientific program administered by the National Corn Growers Association, the SHP's vision is driven by initial and continuing funding and guidance from NCGA, Monsanto, the Walton Family Foundation, the Midwest Row Crop Collaborative, General Mills and USDA, with technical support from The Nature Conservancy and the Environmental Defense Fund. For more, visit [soilhealthpartnership.org](http://soilhealthpartnership.org).

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