

Charitable Gift Giving

The Zea Mays Foundation operates as a 501c3 not for profit organization and contributions are tax deductible.

If you are interested in charitable gift giving to The Zea Mays Foundation for general use or for specific programs, please reach out to:

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Cover crop research and educational programs are vital part of promoting sustainable agriculture in Illinois.



**THE
ZEA MAYS
FOUNDATION**

CHARITABLE GIFT GIVING



The Zea Mays Foundation
*investing in scientific research and educational
outreach to promote sustainable agriculture*



The Zea Mays Foundation

The Zea Mays Foundation aims to improve global sustainability through leadership and legacy. Each year, farmers cultivate seeds with great care to sustain the global population. The Foundation cultivates people and land in ways that provides and flourishes sustainability through social, economic, environmental and ecological considerations.

The Zea Mays Foundation operates as a not for profit organization and undertakes activities which develop leaders to foster sustainability through a legacy of education, outreach, exchange and care.

SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH:

Leadership Development

Programs will focus on sculpting well-informed leaders in schools, on farms, and throughout communities to drive change.

Education

The foundation develops materials, curriculum, and activities for various age groups through a variety of media, including classroom and online resources.

Exchange

The foundation partners with countries and agencies to foster a global knowledge base for making sustainability decisions.

Awareness

The foundation leverages existing information to make consumers, farmers, and policy makers conscious decision makers based on sustainability values.

Care

The foundation applies the principles that honor the natural resources that support farming livelihoods, families, and communities.

PROGRAMS

Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP) www.ILSustainableAg.org

A coordinated effort of several sustainable ag programs and other partners in the state to provide:

- coordinated event calendar
- consistent messaging
- shared resources
- educational materials
- outreach guides and agendas
- a network of Soil Health Specialists
- training programs, a network of demonstration farm sites
- templates for social surveys

The Conservation Story Map www.conservationstorymap.com

Shares farmer success stories, and connects farmers to programs through the Precision Conservation Management farmer engagement platform.

Advanced Soil Health Training

An intensive, classroom and in-field training model to create teams of conservation practitioners and farmer advisors that will be connected to a network of experts and soil health resources. Topics will include:

- soil structure, chemistry, and biology
- cover crop selection, management, and termination
- planting and tillage equipment
- field day demonstrations training.

5 Year Soil Health Transition

This program GUIDES producers, on a one-on-one basis with Soil Health Specialists, through the intensive management changes while switching from a conventional cropping system to a soil health focused conservation cropping system (cover crops, reduced tillage, improved nutrient management). Farmers in the 5-year Transition Program begin with cover crops on a 40-acre field in year one, with a goal of sustained system change at the whole farm level by the end of year five. Cost share and technical support is phased out as the farmer finds success and gains confidence.

Precision Conservation Management (PCM) www.precisionconservation.org

The PCM platform is designed to capture and analyze agronomic and conservation information on a field-by-field basis.

This farmer-led effort provides:

- sustainability assessments
- conservation planning
- economic impact analysis
- technical support of practice implementation

Annual Risk Management Conference

A state-wide risk management conference featuring farmers and their advisors to talk about soil health and water management through presentations, discussion panels, and interactive conversations about weather, production resiliency, economics, risk management, business drivers and sustainability.