

## **Soil Health Benchmark Study:**

### **Field Record Sample Narrative**

**The following is an example narrative based on Field Management Records submitted for a Diversified Vegetable farm. This is meant to show you how the sequence of events in your field will be transferred into our record spreadsheet.**

Farmer Sarah has 3 fields in the Soil Health Benchmark Study. One of her fields is Field X, with an area of 0.24 acres. Field X has 3 ft wide beds, 2 ft wide aisles and 150 ft long rows.

A cover crop of wheat and winter peas was planted on the whole field last fall and overwintered into this year. The whole field was turned over with a flail chopper and disc on May 5th. Sarah did not apply compost in the spring, as some was added in the fall.

In mid-May Sarah was ready to plant 50% of the field (7 beds) in tomatoes and peppers. A perfecta went through the whole field on May 12 and plastic was laid on half of the field by tractor with a plastic layer attached on May 13. Fertilizer was applied on the bed at the time of plastic laying. 23 lbs of Ohio Earth Food Revita Pro 5-4-5 was added per bed for a total of 161 lbs. There was no danger of frost so teff was hand broadcast in the aisles on May 15. Three beds of peppers and four beds of tomatoes were hand transplanted on May 22. The teff had a semi-successful germination. It and the weeds that grew up in the aisles between the tomatoes and peppers were mowed every 2 weeks starting June 10th and ending September 15th.

The other 50% of the field was seeded with buckwheat on May 18 using a grain drill. Due to the gap in time, this part of the field unfortunately needed another pass with the perfecta right before seeding. This buckwheat grew very quickly due to especially hot June temperatures. By July it was ready to be terminated. Sarah flailed it on July 10. On July 14, the residue was easily incorporated using a spader. She was able to seed carrots with a Jang seeder on July 15. Sarah flame weeded the carrots seven days later on July 22 and then cultivated with a tine weeder (two passes on each bed) two weeks after that on August 5. Cultivator shovels went through at 5

weeks after planting on August 26. A quick hand pulling of weeds was necessary at 7 weeks after planting on September 10.

50% of the carrots were harvested on October 15 with a broadfork. 50% were harvested a week later on October 22. With a few surprise frosts by the end of October, the peppers and tomatoes were done for the year and the teff died off as well. The plants were mown down and plastic mulch was removed with a plastic lifter on October 30. On the same day, the field was spaded one more time and the whole field was seeded with winter rye using a grain drill even though it was a bit late in the season.

## Fields

Field Name	Field Area (acres)	Center to Center Bed Width, inches	Edge to Edge Bed Width, inches	Aisle Width, inches	Additional Notes
Field X	0.24	36	60	24	

## Plantings

Field Name *	Planting Date *	Crop(s) *	Crop Type * Cash Crop Cover Crop Pasture Aisle Planting	Area Planted * use units of: - % of field - acres	Planting Implement *	Disturbance Depth * None (0") Shallow (0.1 - 4") Med (4.1" - 8") Deep (> 8")	Speed * Slow (< 2mph) Med (2 - 5mph) Fast (> 5mph)	Overwintered into 2025? * (Y/N)	Termination Date	Notes
Field X	9/15/2023	winter wheat, peas	Cover Crop	100% of field	grain drill	shallow	med	N	5/5/2024	
Field X	5/15/2024	teff	Aisle Planting	900 bedft	hand broadcast	none	slow	N	10/31/2024	frost killed
Field X	5/22/2024	tomatoes	Cash Crop	600 bedft	hand transplant	shallow	slow	N	10/31/2024	frost killed
Field X	5/22/2024	peppers	Cash Crop	450 bedft	hand transplant	shallow	slow	N	10/31/2024	frost killed
Field X	5/18/2024	buckwheat	Cover Crop	50% of field	grain drill	shallow	med	N	7/10/2024	
Field X	7/15/2024	carrots	Cash Crop	50% of field	Jang seeder	shallow	slow	N	10/19/2024	
Field X	10/30/2024	winter rye	Cover Crop	100% of field	grain drill	shallow	med	Y		

## Fertilizer

Field Name *	Date *	Product Name and Brand *	Area Covered *	Quantity * (before dilution)	Implement *	Disturbance Depth * None (0") Shallow (0.1 - 4") Medium (4.1" - 8") Deep (> 8")	Speed * Slow (< 2mph) Med (2 - 5mph) Fast (> 5mph)	Additional Notes
Field X	5/13/2024	Ohio Earth Food Revita Pro 5-4-5	1050 bedft	161 lbs	drop spreader	none	slow	

## Soil Coverings

Field Name *	Cover Start Date *	Cover End Date *	Cover Type *	Area Covered *	Mulch Laying Implement *	Disturbance Depth * None (0") Shallow (0.1 - 4") Medium (4.1" - 8") Deep (> 8")	Speed * Slow (< 2mph) Med (2 - 5mph) Fast (> 5mph)	Additional Notes
Field X	5/13/2024	10/30/2024	plastic mulch	50% of field	plastic layer	medium	medium	

## Disturbance

Field Name *	Date *	Implement *	Disturbance Depth * None (0") Shallow (0.1 - 4") Medium (4.1" - 8") Deep (> 8")	Speed * Slow (< 2mph) Med (2 - 5mph) Fast (> 5mph)	Area Covered *	Additional Notes
Field X	5/5/2024	flail mower	none	med	100% of field	
Field X	5/5/2024	disc	medium	med	100% of field	
Field X	5/12/2024	perfecta	medium	fast	100% of field	
Field X	5/18/2024	perfecta	medium	fast	50% of field	
Field X	7/10/2024	flail mower	none	med	50% of field	
Field X	7/14/2024	spader	deep	med	50% of field	
Field X	7/22/2024	flame weeder	none	slow	50% of field	
Field X	8/5/2024	tine weeder	shallow	med	50% of field	
Field X	8/5/2024	tine weeder	shallow	med	50% of field	
Field X	8/26/2024	cultivator with chests	shallow	med	50% of field	
Field X	10/10/2024	hand weeding	shallow	slow	50% of field	
Field X	10/15/2024	broadfork	medium	slow	25% of field	for carrot harvest
Field X	10/22/2024	broadfork	medium	slow	25% of field	for carrot harvest
Field X	10/30/2024	mower	none	medium	50% of field	
Field X	10/30/2024	plastic lifter	medium	slow	50% of field	
Field X	10/30/2024	spader	deep	med	100% of field	

## Repeated Disturbances

Field Name *	First Disturbance Date *	Last Disturbance Date	Disturbance Frequency *	Average Passes per Event *	Implement *	Disturbance Depth * None (0") Shallow (0.1 - 4") Medium (4.1" - 8") Deep (> 8")	Speed * Slow (< 2mph) Med (2 - 5mph) Fast (> 5mph)	Area Covered *
Field X	6/10/2024	9/15/24	biweekly	1	mulching mower	none	slow	1800 sq ft