



*Partners in stewardship of land  
and water.*

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## **Building Soil and Cover Crop Workshop May 19 & 20**

VIROQUA, WI May 7, 2017 – Two cover crop field days will be held featuring nationally-known soil health expert Jay Fuhrer. Fuhrer, a NCRS District Conservationist in North Dakota, brings to our area twenty plus years of soil health experience. The events will cover many topics focused on building and improving a farm's soil. "Soil health is not a stand-alone practice. It is a systems approach," Fuhrer believes. From his perspective, "We have to stop conserving a degraded resource, we have to start building soils. The key is to allow soil to build itself naturally."



Photo of Jay Fuhrer by Vicki Johnson.

Featured topics include managing cover crops, different cover crop termination options, using grazing and livestock to improve the soil, and understanding more about the life in soil. A rainfall simulator and the new Roller-Crimper will be demonstrated as well. Local farmers Jay Aspenson and Eric Hammel will also share what they are doing and what they have learned. It is these lessons we learn that are so important according to Fuhrer, "We have to make a change between our ears, and that's a tough one to make."

The first event is Friday, May 19, at The Ark, 401 E. Jefferson St., Viroqua, from 6 to 9 p.m. The second is Saturday, May 20, at the Mt. Sterling Park Shelter, Highway 27 and Second St., Mt. Sterling, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Both events are FREE and include a meal. Farmers may attend either event, or both, but they will get more from the guest speaker if they are able to attend both. Crop consultants will earn CEU credits. Participants must register by calling Sarah at 608-637-5480 or by going online at [valleystewardshipnetwork.org/solutions/workshops/](http://valleystewardshipnetwork.org/solutions/workshops/).

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Valley Stewardship Network is celebrating 17 years of land and water stewardship in the Kickapoo Valley and adjacent watersheds. Best known for its water quality monitoring programs, VSN also offers outreach and education programs to help farmers, landowners, residents and visitors understand and support our local ecology for the health of our communities. More at

[www.valleystewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.valleystewardshipnetwork.org)