

GYA

## PROFITING FROM CARBON IN SOIL



### HOW CAN A CHANGE IN SOIL CARBON MANAGEMENT BENEFIT FARM BUSINESS?



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A pilot study in a range of farming systems showed that improvements in the management of soil organic matter typically led to better farm performance and significant financial benefits.

Examples of the benefits include improved workability, vehicle access and reduced fertiliser and irrigation costs. In addition, improved organic matter management may also help to lock away carbon in the soil helping to tackle global warming, and can also reduce diffuse pollution and enhance wildlife through its effect on soil structure and processes.

### THE STUDY

We need to confirm these findings in a wider range of situations and to explore ways of sharing farmer experiences of the benefits of improved organic matter management.



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## GETTING INVOLVED

### Explore opportunities to improve soil organic matter management on your farm

Work with us to assess your current organic matter management practices and identify options for improvement. We will provide “case study” examples describing how other farmers in similar situations to you changed organic matter management. We will help you assess the impact on your business of changing the way you manage organic matter, and conduct baseline soil tests to help you to assess the impact of any changes you make.

### Contribute a case study

You may have already changed your farm management in a way which has affected soil organic matter. If so, then we'd like to learn more about the changes you've made. During a short on-farm visit one of our staff will discuss your observations and take a soil sample to assess the impact of your changes on the soil and test our “Active C” indicator, which confirms the likely impact of a change on soil C. In return for your time, we'll provide a detailed economic assessment of the effects of your changes, and let you know how your soil organic matter compares to that in other similar soils.

## THE OUTCOME



Our experiences will help the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative\* to provide advice that is based on good science and a sound understanding of farmers' needs. It will also help to inform Defra policy."

\* The ECSFDI is delivered in partnership by Natural England, the Environment Agency and Defra

## HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Nicola Hall, GYA,  
32 Amenbury Lane,  
Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2DF  
01582 208663  
email: Nicola\_hall@gya.co.uk  
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