WE'RE GROWING HEALTHY SOIL. HERE'S PROOF.

We're participating in a research project that is measuring soil health on farms in our region. By closely monitoring the health of our soil over time, we're learning how we can continuously improve our farming methods to leave our land better than we found it.

Take a look at our farm's latest results.

SOIL HEALTH SCORE

Compiling results from decades of research, Cornell University's Soil Health Lab developed a soil health rating scale. The scale measures a comprehensive array of chemical, physical, and biological features that indicate how healthy a soil is.

Healthy soil **feeds nutrients** to plants naturally and **makes our food more nutritious.**

It also fosters a thriving community of **beneficial organisms** that naturally defend crops from pests and diseases.

OUR FARM	AVERAGE FARM*
74 ON A SCALE OF 0–100	50

* Calculated by Cornell University's Soil Health Lab for similar soil types.

ORGANIC MATTER LEVEL

Organic matter is formed when plant debris and animal manure decay over time. Small increases in organic matter have significant implications for improving soil health.

Organic matter rapidly absorbs water during heavy rains, and slowly releases water during dry spells, helping crops **withstand damage** from severe weather.

And it helps **mitigate climate change** by securely storing carbon in the soil.

OUR FARM	AVERAGE FARM*
3.9%	2.4%

* Compared with data from Natural Resources Conservation Service for similar soil types.

DAYS OF LIVING COVER

Days of living cover refers to the number of days farmers keep live plants growing in their fields – or, in other words, the number of days fields are not left bare.

Keeping fields in living cover **protects nutrient-rich topsoil** we rely on for our food from erosion.

Also, living cover **keeps waterways and drinking water clean** by helping fields better absorb and filter stormwater.

OUR FARM	AVERAGE FARM*
247 DAYS PER YEAR	156

* Pennsylvania benchmark for corn and soybean farms planted without cover crops, estimated with National Agricultural Statistics Service data.