American Farmland Trust

Massachusetts

Regional Objectives: *High disturbance; Nutrient management*

Production system*: Vegetables*

Biochar producers: *White Feather Farm*

Mid-to-large scale vegetable farms in Massachusetts struggle to build soil health due to reliance on tillage and other high disturbance events to manage weed pressure and prepare soils for planting. Soil organic matter (SOM) levels of 1-2% are common, compared to pastures and corn silage fields on similar soils that receive regular manure applications, where SOM levels are typically of 4-7%. Most Massachusetts soil types used for vegetable production are well-drained, naturally acidic, sandy loams, and will likely be responsive to biochar applications. Adding biochar to highly disturbed soils may enhance water cycling by improving soil organism habitat and soil physical functioning (such as aggregation, infiltration, soil water holding capacity, and air exchange). It also provides clustered co-benefits, including improved cover crop and crop resilience, pH moderation, and nutrient retention.

Questions? Contact State Leads:

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