



An Oregon-Grown Campaign to Raise Public Interest in Soil Health

Healthy soil contains billions of microscopic organisms. Just one teaspoon of healthy soil contains more microbes than there are people on the planet! Soil microbes are constantly feeding on organic matter, like cotton underwear. So the more your undies break down, the healthier your soil is!

How Healthy is Your Soil? Take the Challenge to Find Out!

Whether you're on crop, range or forestland, the quick and dirty way to test your soil health is by "planting" a pair of new, cotton underwear in the site you're curious about. Follow these quick and easy steps and take the challenge!



1. Plant a pair of new, cotton underwear horizontally about 3 inches deep in the site you're curious about. Don't forget to mark the spot you planted!



2. Wait at least **60** days. This gives your soil microbes time to do their magic! Then dig the undies back up.



3. Share your results by sending us a photo of your "harvest" and a little info off-site link image about your operation to orinfo@nrcs.usda.gov.

THEY TOOK THE CHALLENGE: ARE YOU READY?



Gayle Goschie of Goschie Farms in Silverton is a nationally known hop grower in Marion County. She and her brothers

were the first hop growers to practice micro-irrigation and to earn a Salmon-Safe certification. She is a true leader in soil and water conservation, and soil health is critical to this farm's success. After 63 days in the ground, the tattered remains of her briefs prove her dedication to the soil.



Alan Klage's undies didn't stand a chance in his healthy hay field in Wallowa County. Klage's Ranch has been using cover crops for six years, which has benefited the health of the soil and cattle.

Alan's undies were planted on April Fool's Day 2018 and harvested 122 days later.



THEY TOOK THE CHALLENGE: ARE YOU READY?



Joanne Ross is the premier Miniature Horse breeder of the Pacific Northwest. Joanne is confident in the health of her pastureland in Marion

County. After burying her underwear on May 7, 2019, Joanne exclaimed, "I didn't know if I was going to find them!" Fortunately, she unearthed them several months later, although just barely. The tattered remains are a testament to how well she cares for her soil.



There's not much left of **Corey Miller's** briefs. His no till-wheat farm in Morrow County is clearly home to many happy and healthy soil microbes, which not only benefits his soil, but also his bottom line.



JOIN THE CHALLENGE TAKING ROOT ACROSS OREGON



Students from Monument High School in Grant County show off the varying results achieved by burying underwear in different terrain. The underwear on the left was buried on rangeland, whereas the underwear in the middle was planted in Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) land and finally the underwear on the right was buried on a spring site.

Since this campaign launched in December of 2018, more than 100 Oregon farmers, ranchers and other agricultural enthusiasts have stepped up to the challenge. The "Soil Your Undies" challenge was created by Oregon farmers, working with their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and NRCS, as a fun way to build public interest in soil health.

The NRCS Oregon Soil Health Committee capitalized on what farmers and SWCDs were doing and gave "Soil Your Undies" a visual brand to expand the reach of this campaign, through developing custom graphics, handouts, and informational materials to recruit new challengers. The campaign also includes media outreach to local newspapers, radio and TV stations across Oregon's agricultural communities, as well as special events with farmers and ranchers.

Fill out the info card below and snap a picture along with your unearthed undies. Send photos to orinfo@nrcs.usd.agov.



Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Town and County: _____

Undie Planting Date: _____ Undie Harvest Date: _____

Land Management: _____
(example: direct seed
cropland for 12 years /
irrigated pasture for 8 years)

Amount of rain or irrigation
during challenge: _____

Describe your results and
thoughts on what you found: _____

*Send us a photo of your soiled undies and a photo of this completed sheet to orinfo@nrcs.usda.gov