



# Foundations in Soil: *Building Knowledge from the Ground Up*

**Location:** Twin Orchard Farm, Southampton, MA  
**Date:** 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, Tuesday, May 20, 2025  
(Rain Dates: June 3 or June 5)  
**Fee:** \$250 per participant



## Why Attend?

Gain foundational knowledge in soil properties, hydrology, and classification essential for health agents assessing onsite wastewater treatment systems. Learn from experts in an interactive field setting.

## Agenda:

9:00 AM – Check-in & Welcome

- Overview of soil science in onsite wastewater treatment

10:00 AM – Understanding Soil Properties

- Texture, structure, permeability
- Hands-on soil pit examination

11:30 AM – Identifying Site Hydrology & Seasonal High Water Tables

- Regulatory considerations and field indicators
- Continue soil pit examination
- Discuss soil limitations for onsite wastewater systems

12:30 PM – Lunch Break

1:30 PM – Field Practicum: Soil Morphology & Classification

- Identifying soil limitations in real-world applications

3:00 PM – Q&A and Wrap-Up

- Open discussion and networking

## Who Should Attend?

- ✓ New health agents & regulators
- ✓ Environmental professionals
- ✓ Anyone interested in soil science & onsite wastewater management
- ✦ Join us for a day of hands-on learning in the field!

**REGISTRATION &  
MORE INFO**



## **Instructor Bios**



Dave Zimmermann, a certified professional soil scientist, has over 20 years of experience in natural resources with federal agencies. He is the acting State Soil Scientist for NRCS in Massachusetts and Vermont, leading soils programs, supporting conservation planning, and conducting wetland determinations. His past roles include mapping soils in multiple states and providing technical oversight to soil survey offices in the Northeast.

Morgan McKee has been a Resource Soil Scientist since 2022, starting in Connecticut and moving to Massachusetts in 2024. Previously, she spent seven years as an NRCS Soil Conservationist in multiple states, assisting farmers and forest landowners. She now provides soil science training, technical guidance, wetland determinations, and on-site soil assessments. Before NRCS, she conducted wetland inventory studies in coastal Louisiana as a consultant.

Rebekah Novak is a civil engineer with experience in surveying, wastewater operations, and septic system design. She holds Soil Evaluator, Grade 5 Wastewater Operator, and System Inspector licenses. At RCAP Solutions, she supports small Massachusetts communities with technical assistance and training to improve water and wastewater systems.

Daniel Ottenheimer, PE, founded Mill River Consulting in 1997, driven by his passion for wastewater engineering. With degrees in environmental engineering and water resource management, he previously worked for the City of Gloucester Health Department and MassDEP. Dan has grown Mill River into a diverse team of specialists and is known for his dedication to client service and project success. He is a licensed soil evaluator, system inspector, and sanitarian, and teaches the certification class for septic system inspectors. Dan is active in the industry, holding leadership roles in NEWEA, YOWA, and MEHA, and serves on several committees, including MassDEP's Title 5 Advisory Committee.

Alyssa Rusiecki is the Past President of the Yankee Onsite Wastewater Association (YOWA) and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Environmental Health at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Department of Environmental Health & Safety. She holds a Master's degree in Soil Science and is the Principal of Site Design Associates. Alyssa brings a diverse background to her work, including previous experience as a Health Agent, and continues to contribute her expertise to advancing environmental health and onsite wastewater management.