

Suzanne L. Shea

Technical Assistance Provider | Farmer | Soil Biology Consultant

Soil Life Stewardship LLC

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Professional Focus

Suzanne L. Shea is an Adams County, Pennsylvania farmer and private-sector agricultural technical assistance provider specializing in field-based soil biological assessment, direct microscopy, biologically active compost systems, soil health education, and farmer consultation.

Her work focuses on connecting below-ground biological function with practical field management and measurable outcomes, including nutrient cycling, water infiltration, soil structure, compaction, plant performance, and soil resilience.

Qualifications and Experience

- Certified Soil Food Web Lab Technician
- Certified Soil Food Web Consultant
- Field-based soil biology assessment and direct microscopy
- Soil, compost, and biological amendment evaluation
- Biologically active compost production and application systems
- Farmer consultation and soil-health education
- Technical training and mentoring of soil biology laboratory technicians
- Agricultural education and public speaking
- Working-farm experience in Adams County, Pennsylvania

Areas of Interest Relevant to the Agriculture Workgroup

- Soil health BMP development
- Agricultural technical assistance
- Soil biological and functional indicators
- BMP effectiveness and verification
- Outcome-based conservation measurement
- Nutrient cycling and soil-water relationships
- Compost systems
- Farmer-centered conservation implementation
- Agricultural workforce development
- Integration of emerging technical approaches with established conservation programs

Perspective I Would Bring to the AgWG

I would approach an at-large Technical Assistance Provider position as a representative of the broader technical-assistance community rather than as an advocate for a single business or methodology.

My goal would be to help connect three areas that are sometimes considered separately:

what conservation programs prescribe → what farmers can practically implement → what can be measured in the field afterward.

I am particularly interested in helping the partnership evaluate scientifically defensible ways to connect soil-health practices with measurable soil function and water-quality-related outcomes.