Lara Ann Schenck

Staff Soil Scientist & Agronomist 2, PlanTierra LLC
lschenck@plantierra.com

Education and Training

M.S., Soil Science, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, 2016
B.S., Agronomy, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO, 2011

Professional Organizations

Soil Science Society of America
American Society of Agronomy

Distinguishing Qualifications

Expertise/specialization in the following areas:

- Environmental assessments, conservation plans
- Soil mapping and analysis

Relevant Experience

A Soil Scientist and Agronomist with PlanTierra, LLC, Lara Ann Schenck has experience with agricultural research, extension, and production; land management; and soil and water quality testing and analysis. As manager of a 440-acre family farm, she oversaw all aspects of land management, soil and water testing, animal husbandry, and financial planning for the farm operations. She brings experience in advising farmers on federal programs and developing, implementing, and revising conservation plans through working with the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. She also designed terraces and became proficient with the regulations and documentation required for a successful conservation program.

Ms. Schenck has technical lab experience with the Iowa State University Department of Agronomy where she performed lab and field activities for research projects regarding soil health in no-tillage environments, cover crops, and soil carbon analysis.

Representative Project Experience

Experience categories described include the following:

- Agricultural Research, Extension, and Production
- Land Management, Land Stabilization
- Conservation Management, Habitat Restoration
- Soil and Water Quality Testing and Analysis

United States Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Corning, IA. Advised farmers and landowners on federal programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, and the Conservation Stewardship Program. Performed more than 100 environmental assessments covering more than 25,000 total acres in a 1-year period. Developed more than 100 conservation plans, resolving issues such as sheet, rill, and gully erosion, habitat restoration, and resource availability and utilization. Collaborated with farmers to overcome limitations in equipment, funding, and cultural differences.

United States Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Maryville, MO. Assisted Soil Conservationists and Soil Technicians developing, implementing, and revising conservation plans. Designed terraces and became proficient with the regulations and documentation required for a successful conservation program. Advised and informed landowners, managed paper records, and collaborated with the Farm Service Agency.

Iowa State University, Department of Agronomy, Ames, IA. Performed lab and field activities for several on-going research projects regarding soil health in no-tillage environments, cover crops, and soil carbon analysis. Collected and analyzed oil and plant samples, measuring soil moisture content, soil infiltration, soil carbon content, plant emergence and plant growth stage. Assessed environmental and pest factors. Conducted extensive laboratory testing and analysis of soil and plant samples through sieving or grinding, and taking measurements such as: soil aggregate size, soil organic carbon content, soil carbon and nitrogen content, soil pH, soil moisture, bulk density, organic acids, and soil nitrate content.

Selected Publications and Manuscripts

Schenck, L.A., Kaspar, T.C., Loynachan, T.E., Moorman, T.M. (2015) Winter rye cover crop effect on corn seedling pathogens. 92 pages. Graduate Theses and Dissertations. Paper 14743 http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/etd/14743

Schenck, L.A. (2016) Cover crops and most appropriate land use. 2 pages. KMA Regional Radio bi-annual publication.

Schenck, L.A., Bakker, M.G., Kaspar, T.C. (2016) Effects of cover crop presence, cover crop species selection, and fungicide seed treatment on corn seedling growth. 25 pages. Submitted to "Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems."

Selected Posters and Presentations

Schenck, L.A., Winter rye cover crop effect on corn seedling pathogens. ASA, CSSA & SSSA International Annual Meeting, Nov. 15-18, 2015, Minneapolis, MN.

Schenck, L.A., Winter rye cover crop effect on corn seedling pathogens. ASA, CSSA & SSSA International Annual Meeting, Nov. 2-5, 2014, Long Beach, CA.