

# [***New Geology Research from University of Maryland Discussed (Thinking about soil health: A conceptual framework)***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BJ1-P6N1-JBSP-1374-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

2024 MAR 12 (NewsRx) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at NewsRx Science Daily -- Investigators discuss new findings in geology. According to news originating from College Park, Maryland, by NewsRx correspondents, research stated, "This paper uses a dynamic economic model to take a holistic view of what constitutes ***soil health***."

The news journalists obtained a quote from the research from University of Maryland: "The model considers actions taken over multiple periods of time to maximize the combined value of crop production, environmental quality, and investments in ***soil*** characteristics net of the costs of those actions. The model makes it clear that how ***soil health*** is assessed depends on the set of services ***soils*** provide and on the value that society places on those services. The temporal and spatial variability of those services and their values implies that the characteristics defining healthy ***soils*** will be location-specific and time-dependent. An additional implication is that an index of ***soil health*** valid for all places and times is unlikely to be feasible, although a ***soil health*** index that is 'good enough' for specific locations at specific times may well be possible. Empirical evidence indicates that choices about managing ***soils*** generally involve tradeoffs, i.e., that 'win-win' actions that increase agricultural productivity, improve environmental quality, and build up stocks of desirable ***soil*** characteristics are unlikely to occur. Assessments of ***soil health*** are most productively conducted by focusing on aspects of agricultural productivity, environmental quality, and ***soil*** characteristics of primary importance while ignoring those of secondary importance."

According to the news reporters, the research concluded: "Greater interdisciplinary cooperation between economists, ***soil*** scientists, and environmental scientists is likely the most fruitful path for making progress in developing methods for measuring ***soil health***."

For more information on this research see: Thinking about ***soil health***: A conceptual framework. ***Soil*** Security, 2024,14():100130. The publisher for ***Soil*** Security is Elsevier.

A free version of this journal article is available at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soisec.2024.100130.

Our news editors report that additional information may be obtained by contacting Erik Lichtenberg, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, College Park MD, United States.

Keywords for this news article include: University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, United States, North and Central America, Agricultural, Agriculture, Geology, Science.

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