Soil Management Affects Farm Productivity & the Environment

Good Farm Practice supports Effective Supply Chains

Good soil management is a key part of making a farm productive

- It helps produce higher yields and quality of crops which can be sold or used to feed livestock on farm.
- It can reduce environmental issues such as erosion and eutrophication.

Maintaining good soil structure, soil organic matter content and drainage, as well as managing soil pH all help to maintain productivity and reduce environmental issues.

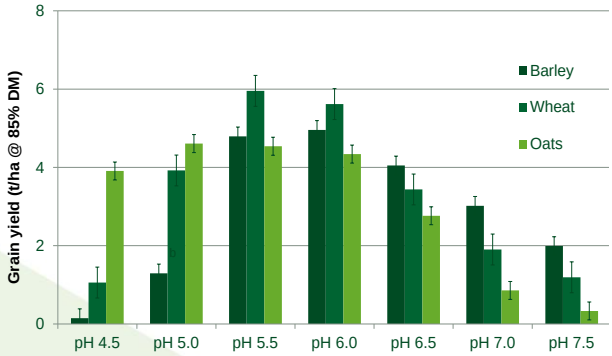
Good soil structure ...

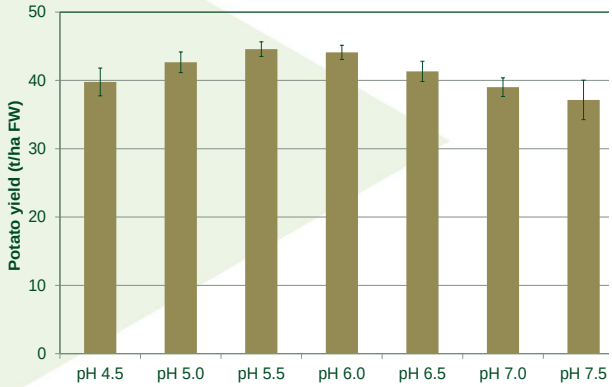
- Easy to break down
- Lots of soil life
- Lots of organic matter
- Enough nutrients for crops
- Not too wet
- Not too dry

Bad soil structure ...

- Difficult to break down
  - Like a brick!
- Not much soil life
- Lower organic matter
- Nutrients for crops **not** easy to access
- Can get too wet
- Can get too dry

Managing soil pH to around pH 6.0 ensures optimum levels of nutrient availability across a wide range of crops grown in Scotland, e.g. cereals, potatoes and grassland.





Any inputs applied to crops grown on poorly managed soils will:

- Cost the farmer money
- Be less effective at producing high crop yields and quality
- Potentially lead to environmental problems such as eutrophication.

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