

PROFILES IN soil health



Atto Assi (right) and Neena Ramel (left)

Hilo, Hawaii

Operation : piggery

Practices: mulching and composting

Local Farmers Prosper with Soil Health

For as long as she can recall, Neena Ramel made composting a way of life. As organic farmers, she and her partner Atto Assi use the natural fertility from their pigs and chickens to provide for their other crops such as palm and fruit trees.

Making the Change

Atto and Neena want others to know how soil health benefits them and their land. In the same way that soil health is crucial to them, it also can impact the water, air, and the planet as a whole. It's what is basic for health and encouraging a sustainable life style. Their goal has always been to provide high quality food on an eco-friendly farm in a sustainable and healthy manner.

"Soil health means reproductivity and using biodynamic methods to be self sustaining on our land."

- Neena Ramel, Hawaii Farmer

The Practices

With a conservation plan in place, Atto and Neena have championed the best management practices for preserving the soil, water, air, plants, and animals. Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), they are able to construct a deep-litter piggery system that includes mechanisms that will protect the environment.



Healthy Results

As a result of their healthy soil, everything prospered on their organic farm. Neena said that was the most solvent observable outcome. All of their fruit and palm trees, livestock, and chickens are healthy and productive. For Neena, soil health encourages prosperity of her animals and everything growing on her land. Without soil health, the land and everything growing on it would be compromised.



Chickens at the organic operation did not smell nor were there any flies or disease.

They are very excited about the piggery construction where the first substrate will have six layers. The microbic action will promote an aerobic system which digests all the pig manure and minimizes pathogens. It will also encourage a stress-free environment for the pigs, providing optimum space to roto-till and compost with deep litter. Atto says that their stress-free animals are happy and healthy.



Fruit at the base of the palm will produce oil extracts.

Contact

Kori Hisashima, NRCS District Conservationist in Hilo at (808) 933-8359 or Kori.Hisashima@hi.usda.gov.

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