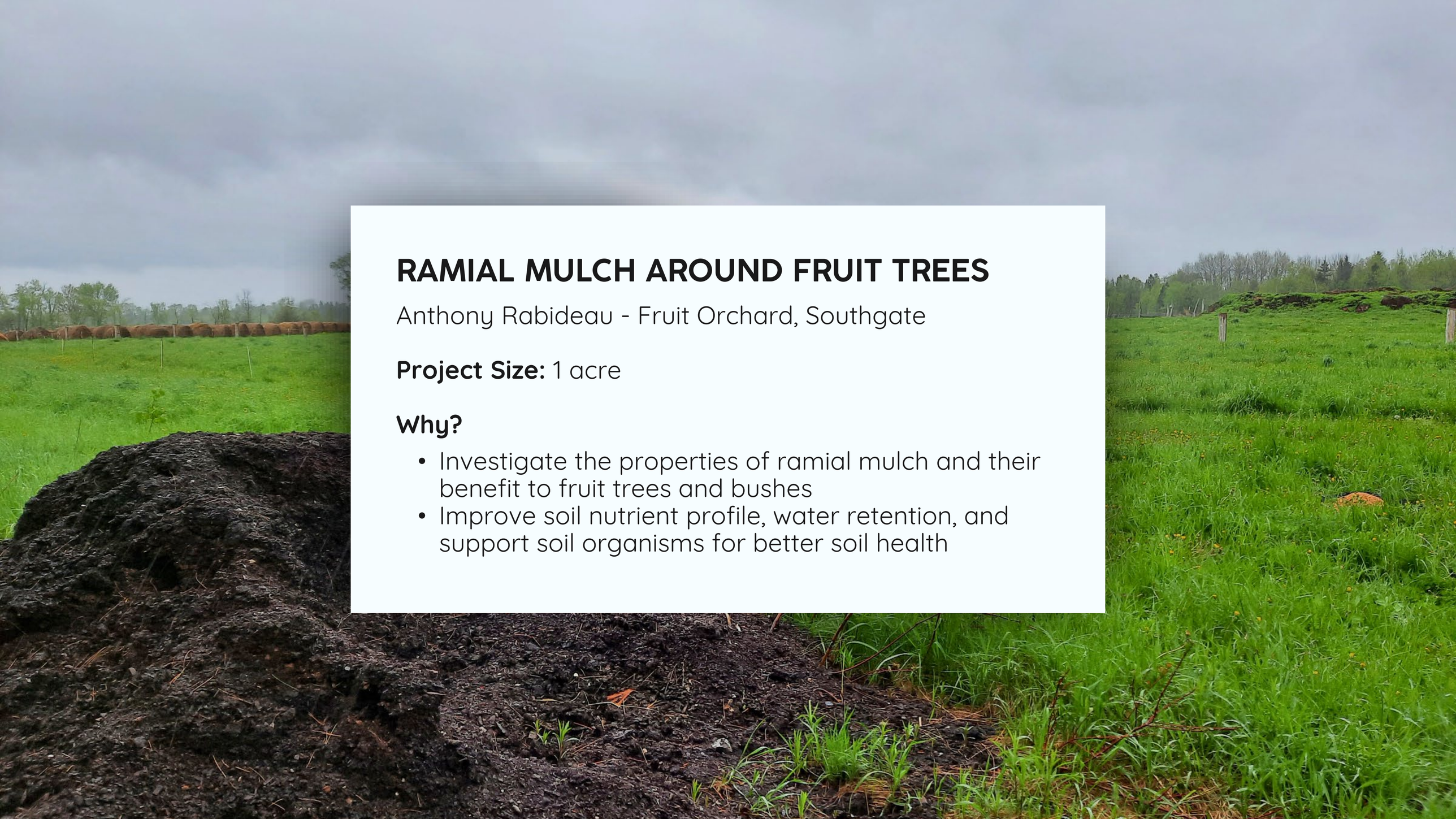
EXPERIMENTAL ACRES

2025 PROJECTS



RAMIAL MULCH AROUND FRUIT TREES

Anthony Rabideau - Fruit Orchard, Southgate

Project Size: 1 acre

Why?

- Investigate the properties of ramial mulch and their benefit to fruit trees and bushes
- Improve soil nutrient profile, water retention, and support soil organisms for better soil health

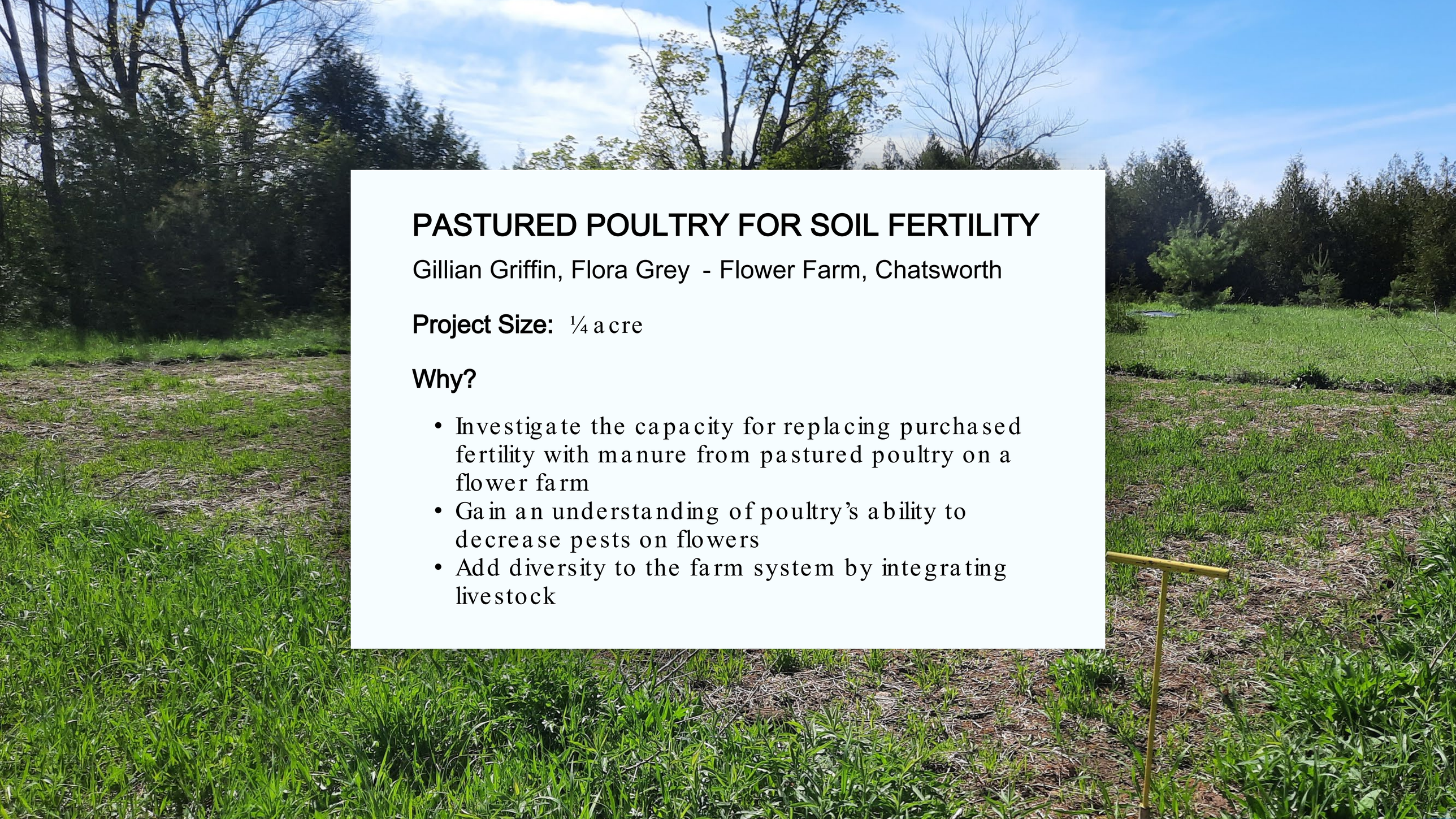
FORAGE TRIALS FOR STRIP GRAZING

Joshua Bye - Beef/Cash Crops, Meaford

Project Size: 15 acres

Why?

- Investigate alternative forage sources that can support cattle during hot & dry summer months
- Compare traits for annual and perennial seed mixtures
- Develop a system to fit rotations, cover cropping and feed needs



PASTURED POULTRY FOR SOIL FERTILITY

Gillian Griffin, Flora Grey - Flower Farm, Chatsworth

Project Size: ¼ acre

Why?

- Investigate the capacity for replacing purchased fertility with manure from pastured poultry on a flower farm
- Gain an understanding of poultry's ability to decrease pests on flowers
- Add diversity to the farm system by integrating livestock

OVERSEEDING TURNIP TO EXTEND FALL GRAZING

Peter Kotzeff - Beef/Cash Crops, Hanover

Project Size: Up to 230 acres

Why?

- Explore additional systems for integrating livestock into cropping systems
- Expand the months of the year that fields host living crops (benefiting soil life, and decreasing soil erosion)
- Demonstrate an efficient, cost effective seeding method in multiple crops under multiple conditions

LATE- SUMMER SEEDING HAY

Wade Deaken, Appinbrook Farms - Dairy/Cash Crop, West Grey

Project Size: 20 acres

Why?

- Improve the success of hay stands seeded following winter wheat harvest
- Test a system where hay after wheat can be standard practice allowing for:
  - Continuous living roots in the field throughout the farm's corn-wheat-hay rotation
  - Ground that stays covered for four or more years, reducing wind and water erosion
  - A more productive first year of hay establishment (if successful)

CREATION OF APPLE GUILDS

Dr. Cristina Allen - Fruit Orchard, Meaford

Project Size: ½ - 1 acre

Why?

- Investigate soil and plant health benefits in response to growing practices that maximize biodiversity
- Investigate whether there are nutritional benefits to increasing the biodiversity of a plant's immediate environment
- Produce many products in tandem on a small acreage