Soil Organic Matter Management Guide

Guide to building and keeping soil organic matter through residue, rotation, tillage and amendments, with steps for tracking change field by field. Work through the steps in order and keep notes on what you find along the way.

Farm / unit: _____ Date: _____ By: _____

1. Record the field's current organic matter test
2. Review rotation and residue returned
3. Reduce tillage where practical
4. Add cover crops or perennial phases
5. Use manure or compost where suitable
6. Protect soil from erosion
7. Keep living roots in the ground longer
8. Retest on a regular schedule

YOUR NOTES

TIP Retest at the same time of year and depth, because organic matter changes slowly and sampling differences can hide real progress.