

# Michigan Chapter Soil & Water Conservation Society Webinar

## *A Systems Approach for the Future of Soil Health and Water Quality*

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Dr. Eileen Kladvko**, Professor of Agronomy  
College of Agriculture, Purdue University  
West Lafayette, Indiana

Dr. Kladvko teaches and does research and extension work in soil conservation and management. Her research focus has been to identify soil management systems that improve environmental quality and promote agricultural sustainability. Specific research areas have included the impacts of tile drainage on crop yields and nitrate losses to surface waters; the interactions of earthworms, soil management, and soil physical properties; and cover crops and conservation tillage for soil health improvement. She was one of the Midwest Cover Crops Council's founding organizers. She serves in many leadership roles, including the Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) leadership team and the regional Transforming Drainage project. Dr. Kladvko is a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

**Kelly Goward**, Environmental Program Manager  
Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC)  
Holland, Michigan

Kelly has been with the MACC since August 2012, working with local stakeholders to improve the water quality of Lake Macatawa and the overall health of the Macatawa Watershed. Her work focuses on providing MS4 permit compliance assistance, securing grants for on-the-ground restoration, and conducting public education and outreach. Prior to working with the MACC, Kelly worked for the Ottawa and Allegan Conservation Districts for 8 years assisting landowners with forest and wildlife management, critical dunes issues, water quality, using native plants, and controlling invasive species. Kelly holds a B.S. in Biology from Grand Valley State University and a M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from Ball State University.

**Rob Vink**, Crop Consultant  
Nutrien Ag Solutions  
West Olive, Michigan

Rob grew up in the dairy country of California's Central Valley and moved to Michigan to attend Calvin University. Rob earned a bachelor's degree in environmental geology in 2007 and soon after began working at Green Valley Agricultural in Caledonia. Rob's time at Green Valley included working in the warehouse, loading liquid products, soil sampling, dispatch, and front desk customer service. Most recently Rob had been working as a Project Manager at the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council in Holland Michigan. Rob worked within the watershed program to promote no till, cover crops, and other agricultural conservation best management practices to area farmers and landowners.

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**Tim Boring**, President  
Michigan Agriculture Advancement  
Stockbridge, Michigan

Tim Boring is the President of Michigan Agriculture Advancement, an organization dedicated to improving the economic and environmental opportunities for Michigan farms, emphasizing soil health, diverse crop rotations, and farm resiliency. He operates his family's 6<sup>th</sup> generation farm in Stockbridge, MI, raising a variety corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, dry beans and other crops utilizing soil health and regenerative principles. His innovative farm practices have been the subject of national and international publications and invited presentations. Tim currently sits on the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development and previously served as the Vice President of the Michigan Agri-Business Association and Research Director of the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee. He holds an MS and a PhD in Crop and Soil Sciences from Michigan State University.

**Timothy Kruithoff**, Professional Agricultural Producer  
Kruithoff Farm's Beef & Pork  
Kent City, MI

Tim Kruithoff comes from a multi-generational farm in Western Michigan. The Kruithoff Family Farm has raised hogs, beef cattle, and a variety of crops in Kent and Ottawa Counties for more than 50 years. Tim Kruithoff and his wife Christine operate the farm full time with their children. Tim Kruithoff sits on several agricultural committees and is a respected leader in conservation.