

Agriculture is not possible without land. This may sound simple, but it illustrates one of agriculture's most fundamental responsibilities: keeping the soil and the land on which crops are to thrive permanently, alive and fertile. Due to geological developments, Bavaria has had a broad variety of soil types for millions of years. Some areas were covered by glaciers, others were submerged by the sea. Soils never cease to change and evolve.

The importance soil health and vitality

Farmers know that soil fertility determines the success of their crops. Good soil vitality and the presence of earthworms that maintain a loose soil structure, are essential. The soils should be densified as little as possible. Only then can crops develop a good root structure. Climate change is causing an increase in torrential rainfall and droughts. This is why it is increasingly important to promote the soils potential to absorb and store water.

Agriculture has different ways to achieve this. Modern agricultural machine technology permits regulation of the air pressure in tyres helping to keep the pressure and consequently the densification of the soils to a minimum.

Soil protection and circular economy

Cultivation of catch crops also has a positive impact on soil structure and can reduce erosion from wind and heavy rain. Leaving harvest residues on the fields and the use of farmyard manure from livestock production and digestate from biogas plants allows farmers to maintain or increase the soil content of valuable humus.

Nutrient cycles keep soils fertile Agriculture works in cycles, because whatever is extracted by the crops has to be returned to the soil. Interaction between livestock farming and arable farming allows us to complete the nutrient cycle and sustainably maintain fertile soils to ensure future generations will also be able to farm successfully.

One important aspect of soil protection concerns not only agriculture but all of us: Every day, part of our soils are sealed off due to various types of construction. We must carefully consider to what extent this is necessary. Usually, these areas are lost forever for nature and agriculture.



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