

Highlights

Use of Expiring Funds

Meetings with Purdue Ag Center Director, Assistant Director, and Superintendents yielded insight into the breadth of soil health related research and demonstrations projects across Indiana.

Projects were prioritized and provided to CCSI with detailed information on potential use of funds. Requests include equipment modifications necessary to enable planting into high-residue conditions, including “planting green” as well as variety-specific cover crop seed.

CCSI will work with the PACs to ensure the best use of funds for highest long-term impact of soil health demonstrations.

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

• Innovative and Visionary Farmers

Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)

Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.

- June 14 – Dave Brandt (D)
- June 17 – Mike Shuter (D)
- June 17 – Ray McCormick (D)
- June 22 – Cameron Mills (D)
- June 23 – Rick Clark (D)

• Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers

Meetings and other opportunities for listening sessions to gain perspective on adoption issues/concerns of soil health practices. Use to help develop outreach topics and tactics.

Quarterly Targets: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)

• Farmer Influencers

Quarterly Targets: 1 LLP per region adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (Each - NPM, SPM)

Continued work with W4tL, IANA, and other influencer groups.

- June 2 – Caleb Smith, Yara Carbon Credit Program (A)
- June 3 – Betsy Bower and Sina Parks, Ceres (A)
- June 9 – Field Visit with Liz Maynard, Purdue (A)
- June 10 – Dan Quinn, Purdue Corn Specialist (D)
- June 18, 25 Purdue Ag Center Director, Assistant Director and Superintendent re use of CCSI funds for demonstrations (D, A)
- June 22 – Don Villwock (D)
- June 23-24 Emerging Professionals Leadership Program (A)
- June 11 – Caleb Smith and Jon Shanahan, Yara Carbon Credit Program (D)

- June 17 – Emily Thatcher, Wilbur-Ellis (D)
- June 23 - Purdue Cover Crop Networking Meeting w/ AGRY, HORT, AGECE, BTNY, ABE staff (A)
- June 28 – Risa DeMasi, Grassland Oregon (D)
- June 29 – Sustainable Food Lab – Economic Tools Development (D)
- June 30 John Obermeyer, Purdue IPM Specialist (A)
- **Presentations**
 - Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)
 - June 15 – Early Season Purdue Diagnostic Training Center “In-field Soil Health Diagnostics”, approx. 25 farmers and advisors (A)
 - June 22 – Huntington County PARP “Cover Crops and Nutrient Management” – approx. 50 farmers and advisors (A)
 - June 30 – Johnson County PARP “Soil Health Diagnostics” – approx. farmers and advisors (A)

G2. Local Level Partnership Support

1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership’s Outreach and Education

Quarterly Target: CCSI as a group materially participate in / support average of 15 LLP Outreach Efforts groups (CCSI Team Goal)

Workshops Completed

- June – 4H Sustainable Ag Day
- June 22 and 24 - Summer Webinar Series – Farming for the Future (C Markets)

Workshops in Progress:

- 2021 CCSI Webinar and Virtual Shop/Field Visit Series
 - July 13 – Precision Cover Crops Redux – John Pike, IL
- POSTPONED July 8 – Hoosier Chapter SWCS
- July 14 Morgan/Owen County Round Table
- July 15 – Cover Crop Cookout; SW SWCDs; Vanderburg Co Fairgrounds
- July 21-22 – TNC Advanced Soil Health Training
- July 27 – Warrick County Cover Crop Field Day
- July 27 – Pence Group / Wea Orchard
- July 28 – DeKalb County Agronomy Field Day
- July 29 – FFA Students from 41 states
- July 29 – Carroll County Strip Till / Technology Workshop
- July 29 – Posey/Gibson County Farmer Round Table
- August 17 – Roger Wenning Round Table
- August 18 – Decatur Co Field Day (Roger Wenning)
- August 24 - Park / Vermillion SWCD Field Day
- Late August – Rush/Shelby Co Cover Crop Field Day
- September 8 – Adams/Wells/Huntington County Workshop
- September 8 – Roemke Field Day
- November 6 – Regional Ag Forum; Posey County.
- November 16 – Spencer/Perry Workshop with Rick Clark and Wayne Fredericks
- Daviess Co – Soil Health Field Day, TBD 2021
- 2021 Clay Co Soil Health Field Day (tentative)

- December 10, 2021 Howard-Tipton County SWCD with Dr. Kris Nichols

2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Foundational Soil Health Trainings / Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding of Soil Health Trainings Completed:

- June 17 NRCS Soil Health Division – Soil Health video shoots at Clark Land and Cattle and Morgan Brothers LLC (A)

Trainings in Progress:

- July 21-22 – TNC Advanced Soil Health Training
- August 31-Sept 2 – “3-Day Soil Health Training”
- September 15-16 – TNC Advanced Soil Health Training
- ICP “Bucket Training” / In-field Soil Health Diagnostics
- September 2021 Soil Health Nexus In-Service (A)
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review (A)
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (A)
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program Development (A)

3. Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills

Trainings in Progress:

- 2021 Soil Health Training Curriculum / Adaptation Planning
- 2021 SARE PDP – Cover Crop in Vegetable Production – PAC Demonstrations
- Date / Topic TBD: Advanced CCSI-SARE Trainings
- Date TBD: Pilot Social Science Training
- Date(s) TBD: CCSI-SARE Livestock Integration Trainings (A)
- Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program (A)
- Specialty Crop Field Demos (A)
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program (A)

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

Monthly Targets: 2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NPM, SPM)

- June 1 - Purdue AGRY Extension Group Meeting (A)
- June 2 – NW Clean Water Indiana Networking session (NPM)
- June 8 – NW IASWCD Region Meeting (NPM)
- June 10 – SE IASWCD Region Meeting (NPM)
- June 11 – Leah Walthery, Cass SWCD (NPM)
- June 15 – SW IASWCD Region Meeting (SPM)
- June 17 – NE IASWCD Region Meeting (NPM)
- June 28 – SE and SW CCSI Regional Telcos (D, A, NPM, SPM)
- June 29 NW NRCS Area Meeting (NPM)
- June 30 – NE and NW CCSI Regional Telcos (D, A, NPM, SPM)

G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

1. Marketing

Quarterly Targets: 3-4 “formal” CCSI Updates (CCSI Team Goal)

Annual Target: 1-2 New External Partners

Ensure LLPs understand CCSI resources available to them; Ensure external partners are aware of CCSI strengths, tools, and opportunities.

- June 7 – Events Newsletter; 949 delivered, 432 opened, 131 follow through

2. Soil Health Messaging

Quarterly Targets: 3 Podcasts; 3-6 Blog Posts; 6 Newsletters;

Use social networks and other media tools to deliver soil health messaging and information.

Completed Materials:

- Podcasts:
 - Spring Management of Cover Crops in Vegetable Production – Steven Meyers, Purdue University and Dan Perkins, Perkins Good Earth
- Blogs
 - Jerry Raynor Op-ed
- Social Media
 - June Twitter:
 - 70 Tweets, 31K impressions, 6 mentions, 1,220 profile visits, 2 new followers.
 - June Facebook:
 - 1,976 reach, 3,212 impressions, 126 engaged users
- Website
 - June 342 Users / 429 sessions

Materials in Progress:

- Soil Compaction Video with Purdue Extension
- Adaptation of graphics to yard signs for download
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download
- Urban Soil Health Program – Small Scale Nutrient Management
- Soil Health Nexus – Soil Health Matrix

G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

CCSI no longer leads research projects; CCSI provides connectivity between researchers and cooperators; potential research needs.

- Support - Indiana University SARE - Participatory Farmer Monitoring on Nitrate Loss (Yoder)
- Support – Purdue University SARE - Precision Winter Hardy Cover Cropping for Improving Farm Profitability and Environmental Stewardship (Armstrong)
- Support – No-till Pumpkin and Sweet Corn in Cover Crops (Maynard)
- Support – 2021-22 PAC Demo and Research Plots

OTHER

- May 29 – June 6 Director Vacation
- June 2-3 Indiana Climate Services Summit (NPM)

- June 11-12 - Northern Indiana Grazing School (A)
- June 14 - SEPAC Bulk Density Sampling (A)
- June 18 – Women in Ag “Tackling Tough Conversations” training (NPM, SPM)
- June 29 - Western Lake Erie Basin RCPP Kickoff (D)
- Arranged July 7-9 Farmer and Agronomist Meetings for Dan Quinn, Purdue Corn Specialist
- Connected Fred Whitford, Purdue Extension to NRCS state office re. ACPF