

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)
May Regional Teleconference Notes
May 23, 2022

Participants

Jessica Hoehn, CCSI Southern Program Manager (all)
Sheila Schroeder, CCSI Northern Program Manager (all)
Jennifer Kipper, Clark/Scott County NRCS (S)
Tom Springston, Purdue Extension- Scott County (S)
Holly McCutcheon, Warrick County Urban Soil Health (S)
Melissa Ruschau, Dubois County SWCD/ VUJC LSI (S)
Robert Zupancic, SE NRCS Area Grazing Specialist (S)
Lisa Holscher, CCSI Director (all)
Sarah Brackney, Purdue Extension – Daviess County (S)
Walt Sell, Purdue Extension (all)
Dave Lefforge, ISDA (N)
Andrea Baker, NRCS Fulton County (N)
Hans Schmitz, Purdue Extension/CCSI Agronomist (all)
Judi Brown, Dubois County SWCD (S)
Stacy White, Randolph County SWCD (N)
Andrea Hatfield, Purdue Extension- Boone County (N)
Julie Clark, Warren County SWCD (N)
Bri Styck, Newton County SWCD (N)
Kerry Nielsen, Pulaski Co NRCS (N)
Lori Jordan, Fountain County SWCD (N)
Michelle Benson, Porter County SWCD (N)
Aletha Meyer - Albion Tech Team NRCS (N)
Danielle Waldschmidt, NW Area Conservationist (N)
Adam Shanks – Purdue Extension, Clinton County (N)

• **Strategic Plan**

CCSI is in the process of updating their strategic plan. As part of the process, an e-survey will be deployed across the ICP and partners for their input. Please watch for survey and share widely.

• **Partner Updates**

○ **Purdue**

- May 18th – Digital Café with Linda Prokopy as featured speaker. Was recorded and will be on Soil Health Nexus website.
- Group of Purdue Extension employees going to Minnesota August 9 and 10 for regional soil health training. Will help with communication skills. Will be developing and recording their own soil health podcast.
- PAC field days will be held this summer, can find dates here: [PAC field days](#)
- Evaluating plant stand resources:
 - <https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/soybean/pubs/ThinStands.pdf>

- <https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/EmergenceFailure.html>
 - Andrea Hatfield – new ANR and community development educator in Boone County. Formerly with 4-H youth development
- **NRCS**
 - Darrell Nicholson retiring July 1.
 - Service centers back at 100% capacity
 - EQIP – most contracts have been obligated
 - June 7 will be SE Area Meeting at SEPAC with Soil Health Trailer
 - CSP program selections are being made this week. Field verifications will be done in the next couple of weeks
 - CRP workload ramping up
 - Soil Health trailer will be at the State Fair again
 - NW area soil health team will meet May 27
- **ISDA**
 - INfield Advantage will start enrollment for the fall 2022 cover crop trial on June 1st
 - ISDA is hosting a webinar for anyone interested in the program. They will give a general update and cover the cover crop trial workload and timeline. This will be recorded and posted to the INFA page on Conservation Link
 - If anyone would like to be added to the INFA mailing list or Conservation Link, please email Leah Harmon lharmon2@isda.in.gov and she will get you added
- **IDEM**
 - Notice of Intent for 319 grant applications are due June 1st. Must send in NOI in order to apply for a 319 grant. There is no penalty to send in NOI, then withdraw before/during the application process.
- **Urban Soil Health**
 - Get the Dirt – Event for urban/small farm growers and ag professionals, 6/2 at Purdue Farm at West Lafayette; Will cover soil contamination, microbiology, how to test for contaminants, and more. Free to attend
 - Just finished high tunnel workshop, very well received
 - Partnering with Ivy Tech at Terre Haute – help do education with the students; gave the group 1/3 of an acre at one of their plots to do some education about soil health; community garden planned too
 - Knox county has been doing gardening demos with soil health info
 - Nutrient mgmt. workshop at Pike county earlier this month – discussed nutrients, why soil test first, etc.
 - Legacy Taste of the Garden Indy workshop – wildly successful; the 5 workshops reached a lot of people that haven't been reached; hope this initiative continues
- **Women4theLand**
 - June 16 12-1 PM virtual meeting for anyone interested in learning more about the program or becoming a facilitator
 - A more formal training for discussion leaders will take place later this year
 - Upcoming events:
 - June 7 Zoom – Habitat for Pollinators

- June 8 Posey/Vanderburgh/Warrick – Pollinators and Soil Health
- Reach out to Heather Bacher for more information: hbacher@women4theland.orgIASWCD
 - Seven statewide trainings will be held on Invasive Plant ID. Space is limited to maximize training experience. [Find information and register here.](#)
 - May 31 – Knox County
 - June 2 – Jennings County
 - June 3 – Brown County
 - June 21 – Porter County
 - June 22 – Montgomery County
 - June 23 – Allen County
 - June 24 – Wayne County
- **IDEA**
 - Northern regions are working with Geneva Tyler to host region meetings on June 16th
- **Other Partner Updates**
 - ICP webinar will be June 14
 - Scott County is looking at having a pasture field day in August. Include PARP credits
 - Soil Health Expo August 16 in Princeton with Russell Hedrick and Cameron Mills
 - June 2nd event at Putnam Co Fairgrounds
 - Newton County will have a presence at the county fair including soil health trailer; planning an August event and one December 8 with PARP credit
 - Randolph County has a drill and a seeder they are currently renting out; new plat book is in
 - Porter County is hosting an Erosion Control field day June 28 in conjunction with Shirley Heinz Land Trust; installing a grassed waterway to reduce erosion;; September 7th field day with Hans Kok speaking
 - NE Soil Health Team held soil kit trainings for NRCS. Will hold two more for partners – June 28 at Jamie Scott farm in Pierceton and June 29 at Ball State Farm
 - Pulaski County is putting a plot in at the field office to show people what a pollinator/native habitat looks like in these soils
 - Middlefork Meadows in Clinton County is a test farm adapting more soil health practices; they take soil samples to see what changes are taking place; also helped partner on a cover crop demo plot at Clinton County fairgrounds
 - Land Stewardship Initiative – corn is planted/ 1/3 of highest producing land is planted; the rest is in summer covers; no till seeder purchased; will try to do a workshop to highlight the equipment; also have a no-till drill; Vincennes Jasper campus/Dubois SWCD partnership
- **Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-day training)**
 - June 21-23 in person at Beck Center in West Lafayette; very hands-on
 - Required for NRCS planning certification
 - Recommended for anyone working in the world of soil health
 - If travel/hotel are an obstacle, reach out to Lisa lisa.holscher@in.nacdnet.net
 - Asking all attendees to bring their soil health bucket
 - Seats reserved for ICP staff; unused seats open for general registration June 1st

- **Podcast/Virtual Farm Visit/Training Ideas**

- Help on maintaining grassland/pollinator plantings. How and why you must maintain these plantings
 - In SE, Pheasants Forever biologist developed fact sheet on management dos and don'ts.
- Soil pH—importance of soil testing and maintaining balance. Row crop and pasture/hay producers
- Herbicide resistance
- Voles
- Workshops for ag bankers
- Basic Ag 101. Getting new hires to understand ag language; In person equipment set up
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- Cover Crop termination strategies
- Transition from row crop to grazing