

Highlights

Use of Expiring Funds

Completed review and allocation of funds to local partners.

Collaboration Facilitation

Continued facilitation efforts to connect cover crop breeders and researchers from Grasseed Oregon with Purdue University researchers. This is expected to lead to ongoing support for cover crop research at the Purdue Ag Centers.

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.

- August 30 – Mike Shuter (D)
- August 26 – Dan DeSutter w/ Stephanie McLain and Barry Fisher (A)

• 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)

- August 31 – Daniel and David Robinson, Orange Co (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.

- August 11 – Emerging Professionals Leadership Program / ACI Annual Meeting (A)
- August 17 – Assisted Corn/Soy with Aerial Applicators (D)
- August 23 – Purdue AGRY Extension Group Meeting / CCSI Update (A)
- Continued discussions with PAC Superintendents and Purdue Researchers for specialty crop demonstration plots. (A)

• Presentations

Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)

- August 6 – Small Farms Education Virtual Series “Soils Health Diagnostics”, ~25 attendees (A)
- August 10 – Pinney Purdue Vegetable Crops Field Day – “No-Till Sweet Corn and Pumpkin after Cereal Rye Cover Crop”, 20 producers (A)
- August 24 – Montgomery County PARP “Soil Health Diagnostics, 20 producers (A)

- August 25 – Purdue Central Indiana Field Day, Rain Fall Simulator Demo and Soil Health, 60 farmers and advisors (A)
- August 30 – September 1 – Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff, 30 attendees, staff and instructors (A)
 - “Soil Health Basics”
 - “Soil Health Management Principles”
 - “Soil Health Assessments”
 - “Grazing Management to Improve Soil Health”

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

- August 12 – Fayette County Cover Crop Walk and Talk
- August 17 – Roger Wenning Round Table, approximately 20 attendees
- August 18 – Decatur Co Field Day (Roger Wenning) – Approx 65 attendees
- August 24 – Washington Co Fall Conservation Field Day
- August 24 - Park / Vermillion SWCD Field Day, approx. 60 attendees
- August 24 – Miami County Cover Crop Workshop
- August 25 – Perkins Good Earth Urban Farming workshop, 12 attendees

Workshops in Progress:

- POSTPONED July 8 – Hoosier Chapter SWCS
- 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
- December 7 - Sullivan / Knox Soil Health Meeting
- December 10 - Howard-Tipton County SWCD with Dr. Kris Nichols
- Late Fall / Early Winter 2021-22 – Legacy Taste of the Garden events
- August 23, 2022 – Ward Labs/Green Cover Seed at Rulon’s

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:

- July 21-22 – TNC Advanced Soil Health Training, approx. 20 attendees

Trainings in Progress:

- August 31-Sept 2 – “3-Day Soil Health Training”
- September 2021 Soil Health Nexus In-Service (A)
- November – TNC Advanced Soil Health Training
- ICP “Bucket Training” / In-field Soil Health Diagnostics
- 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)

- August 4 – Orange Co SWCD Board Meeting (SPM)
- August 11 – Kankakee, WLEB ‘brainstorming (D, NPM)
- August 13 – NNE IDEA meeting (NPM)
- August 23 – Purdue Agronomy Extension Group (A)
- August 25 – Northeast CCSI Regional Teleconference (D, SPM, NPM)
- August 25 – Northwest CCSI Regional Teleconference (D, SPM, NPM)
- August 30 – Southeast CCSI Regional Teleconference (D, SPM, NPM)
- August 25 – Northwest CCSI Regional Teleconference (D, SPM, NPM)

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.

- August 4 – Events Newsletter; 948 delivered, 475 opened, 99 follow through
- August 18 – Events Newsletter; 879 delivered, 454 opened, 58 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:
 - Pat Bittner, River Friendly Farmer – IT Professional by Day, Regenerative Farmer by Night
- Social Media
 - August Twitter:
 - 76 Tweets, 23.1K impressions, 15 mentions, 1,283 profile visits, 5 new followers.
 - August Facebook:
 - 4,778 reach, 6,131 impressions, 346 engaged users
- Website
 - August 315 Users / 391 sessions

Materials in Progress:

- Soil Compaction Video with Purdue Extension
- Adaptation of graphics to yard signs/banners 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, including additional seed discounts/connections to cover crop and equipment suppliers.
- Grasseed Oregon / Purdue Agronomy collaboration (A)

OTHER

- NWF Conservation Champions Awardee notification