



Date Range: October 1-31, 2016

CCSI suffered minor setbacks in goal accomplishments during October as a result of a non-work-related accident suffered by the Director (over 2-1/2 weeks either off work or part time). The accident occurred before Ashley Brucker, the newly-hired Program Manager, had started full time. Taylor Lord, Communications Manager, was just 6 weeks into her job. However, they both jumped in, sought support and assistance where needed, *and truly pulled together as a team*. Both Ashley and Taylor demonstrated notable initiative and cooperative abilities with each other, across the ICP, and with key CCSI leaders.

Key Accomplishments

- CCSI CIG Final Report
Public and NRCS versions submitted by contractor, reviewed, and additional information provided for final product.
- Soil Health Training Plan (Core Cover Crops, Advanced Cover Crops, Core Soil Health Systems, Advanced Soil Health Systems, etc).
 - 2-Year Training Plan and Curriculum Outlined
 - Most dates set for 2017 trainings.
- Budget and short narrative submitted to USDA-NRCS Soil Health Division. Budget items include:
 - Ongoing field sampling
 - Farmer-cooperator reimbursement
 - Contracted field sampling collection/coordination
- Program Manager set up w/ NRCS Common Computing Environment (CCE) Computer and office space at the Pulaski Co USDA-NRCS Service Center
- CCSI / Indiana Success to be presented at 2017 Midwest Cover Crops Council Annual Meeting (March 2017) – Director + 1 CCSI Farmer
- On Planning Committee for SWCS-HG National Conference on Soil Health – November 8-9, 2017, Indianapolis

Goals

Targeted Goals Through Dec 1

- Training / Workshops
 - Set dates for 2017 retailer training events (LaCrosse Seed, Dungan Aerial)
 - Set events for winter 2017 Agronomist presentations
 - Relaunch / Recommunicate Speakers Bureau Support
- Communications
 - 2017 Soil Health Communications Strategy – Draft coordinated inter-agency / commodity group timeline of topics, format, roles. Move into “idea-implementing phase”
 - Develop and distribute brochure of 2017 Soil Health Trainings

- Draft interim format to share/distribute imagery
 - Sort & provide context of CM photo library
 - Long-term – library may be curated as part of Purdue Extension-SARE VoAg Outreach project.
- Research
 - Begin collecting input, yield information from farmers
 - Complete Cover Crop Biomass, Ammonium and Nitrate run
- Finalize strategies w/ DSSs to
 - Reach out to SWCDs less engaged w/ CCSI
 - Follow-up on Ag-Retailer Outreach as coordinated with Indiana Nutrient Management / Soil Health task force (may shift to 2017)
- Distribute joint IASWCD/CCSI letter re 2014 IASWCD Resolution for CCSI Funding

October Goal Status

- Staffing
 - ✓ On-boarding of new staff with ICP agencies, top farmers
- Plan of Work with targeted timelines, responsibilities
 - ✓ Immediate = Onboarding of Staff
 - Immediate = Initial Communications Plan
Becky Fletcher, NRCS and Taylor Lord, CCSI have been leading an effort to coordinate 2017 Soil Health Communications across ICP, IN Commodity Groups, etc. Planning meeting set for Nov 4
 - ✓ Immediate = 2017 Soil Health Training Plan
- Field Component of Research
 - ✓ CNST run
 - Collect input, yield information from farmers
 - Cover Crop Biomass, Ammonium and Nitrate run
In process
- Finalize strategies w/ DSSs to
 - Reach out to SWCDs less engaged w/ CCSI
 - Follow-up on Ag-Retailer Outreach
 - Roller-crimper Initiative – provide coordination, not lead
It appears that only one SWCD will be purchasing a roller-crimper to rental/use for demonstrations. May look at a single staff training to insure growers using roller crimpers, looking to buy roller crimpers are successful.
- Communications
 - ✓ Start deploying articles for ICP Field Staff use (newsletters, push to local media).
First article (on grid sampling) written, reviewed and in layout.



- Start developing success stories – highlight successful ICP efforts to put more soil health practices on the ground; give others ideas they can adapt
CM has started list of ideas, prioritization will be line with 2017 Communications Strategy (above)
- Re-launch / Re-communicate Speakers Bureau support
- ✓ IASWCD Resolution for CCSI Funding, Draft Letter of Request

Meetings / Visits / Appearances

Past

- ✓ Daviess-Martin Workshop Planning (D)
- ✓ Farmer Ride-Alongs
 - Agronomist – Dan DeSutter
 - Communications Mgr – Ray McCormick, Mike Brocksmith

Upcoming through Nov 30

- Soil Health Communication Planning (D, CM) – Nov 4, Indianapolis
- Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool (D) – Vegetable Edition, November 7, Shelbyville
- Women 4 the Land Learning Circle (PM) – Nov 9, Jasper Co.
- LaGrange Manure Management (PM) November 14th, Shipshewana
- INField Advantage meeting w/ Purdue Extension Educators, Nov 14 (D) and 16 (PM)
- N-SW and S-SW SWCD Fall Region Meeting (PM) – Nov 17, Loogootee
- Purdue Soil Health, Ag Water Management and Nutrient Management Research Forum – (D, CM, PM) - Nov 18, Danville
- N-NW and S-NW SWCD Fall Region Meeting (PM) – Nov 29, Lafayette
- INFA Leader Meeting (D, PM) – Nov 30, Indianapolis
- Farmer Ride-Along (PM w/ Hettmansberger)

General Assistance Provided:

- Daviess-Martin Workshop – Maximizing Farming Resources in Tough Times
- Carroll County SWCD Bus Tour
- SARE Soil Health for Specialty Crop Training – 2017 plan

(D) = Director

(CM) = Communications Manager

(PM) = Program Manager

(A) = Agronomist