

Highlights

CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Education: Manure and Commercial Fertilizer Management

- 11/18/24 – 10:00AM – 3:00PM Eastern
- Hendricks County Fairgrounds
- Dual track event running concurrently:
 - Commercial Fertilizers
 - 4R Program in Indiana – Ben Wicker, IANA
 - Anhydrous Safety and Soil Health Considerations – Adam Shanks and Bryan Overstreet, CCSI/Purdue On The Farm
 - Rules and Regulations of Commercial Fertilizer Applications – Matt Pearson, Office of the Indiana State Chemist
 - Manures
 - Slurry Applications – to be confirmed
 - Poultry Litter Applications – to be confirmed`
 - Rules and Regulations of Manure Use – Matt Pearson, Office of the Indiana State Chemist
 - Keynote – Mark Legan, Legan Livestock and Grain / Indiana Soybean Alliance Board / US Meat Export Federation
- Register: <https://ccsin.info/2024-Continuing-Ed>

2025 Trainings

- 02/26/25 CCSI-SARE Intro to Soil Health 9:00-12:00 Eastern; Virtual
- 04/01, 08, 15, 22 OR 04/08, 15, 22, 29 CCSI-SARE Fundamentals of Soil Health; 1st, 3rd, 4th session virtual; 2nd session in person at the Beck Ag Center, W Lafayette
- 06/09-12 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-1/2 Day Soil Health) Training; Beck Ag Center, W Lafayette
- CCSI-SARE Engaging New Audiences – Multiple Locations, Dates TBD

SARE 25-26 Professional Development Plan

For over 10 years, CCSI has worked with Indiana SARE to support soil health education through their Indiana SARE Professional Development Plan (SARE PDP). SARE is a partner in the various trainings CCSI leads each year, including this year's pilot Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production Training. The 2025-26 SARE PDP will include additional trainings targeting conservation staff and others who work one-on-one with farmers – but did not come from a farming background. The 2025-26 SARE PDP includes

- Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production
 - Expansion to 4 trainings – one in each quadrant of the state with similar topics:
 - Plant ID and Growth Staging
 - A Year on the Farm – What happens when in commodity crop production
 - Farm Equipment 101
 - Plot Walks and/or insect identification

- Ag 102: Crop Production Communication and Coordination
This training will focus on farm visits and scouting, including commonly used terms
- Ag 103: On-Farm Demonstrations, Trials and Research
Setting up on-farm demos, trials and research – including strip trials required by some NRCS EQIP and CSP practice codes

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

*Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each – CCSI-POTF, Program Manager)
Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.*

- Jamie Scott (multiple) (D, A)
- 09/003 Ray McCormic (D)
- 09/05-6 Tim Lindon (OH), Matt Lorenz (SEPM)
- 09/06 Jim Moseley (D)
- 09/11 Rodney Rulon (D)
- 09/12 Brandon Niebert
- 09/13 Elam Fisher (D)
- 09/20 Matt Hunter (A)
- 09/24 Matt Crowe (D)

2. 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 – CCSI-POTF, Program Manager)

- 09/19 Joe McCutchen – starting to no-till / cover crop (A)
- 09/20 Fair Oaks Dairy silage chopping (NWPM)
- 09/27 Barry Lahman – cover crops on some acres (NEPM)

3. Farmer Influencers

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

- 09/03 Betsy Bower, Keystone Co-op (D)
- 09/05-6 American Farmland Trust advisor training (SWPM)
- 09/09 Noah Radde, ADM (D)
- 09/11 Brian Friedan, USDA-Risk Management Agency Regional Director (D)

4. Presentations

Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (CCSI-POTF)

- 09/03-4 Purdue On The Farm Regional Meeting “Combines and Harvest Data Collection”; 50 participants (DA)
- 09/05 RCPP Grower Interest Meeting “Soil Health and Program Enrollment”; 70 participants
- 09/10 RC&D Rafting Expedition, Winamac “Watersheds and the Tippecanoe River”; 40 attendees (A)
- 09/12 Daviess Co Ag Day – rotation on soil percolation and structure; 500 4th graders (SWPM)

- 09/16-17 Fountain County UAV Signature Program; 12 participants (DA)
- 09/20 Community College Alliance for the Advancement of Agriculture “UAV Applications / Cover Crop Seeding demo in to standing corn and beans” 50 participants (DA with Mark Carter and Nikky Witkowski – Purdue Extension)
- 09/20 ACRE seeding of trail plots for Dan Quinn and Shaun Casteel; 10 grad students assisted along with Mark Carter and Nikky Witkowski (DA)
- 09/20 Lunch & Learn AMA “Ride-Alongs with Local Farmers” 13 participants (NWPM, NEPM)
- 09/24 Ag Expo Wabash County; UAV demonstrations and discussions; 425 4th graders (DA)
- 09/25 Monroe County Peden Farm Day – assistance with soil health trailer; 900ish preschoolers (SWPM)
- 09/27 Putnam County Conservation Day, Greencastle; Soil Health Demos; 300 attendees (A)
- 09/28 Farm Foundation Grand Opening; UAV demos and discussion on UAV technology in ag; 150 attendees (DA, Mark Carter – Purdue Extension)

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

- 09/04 Porter County Event with Ray Archuleta; 88 attendees
- 09/09 Hancock County Field Day
- 09/24 Porter County Master Watershed Program
- 09/26 Allen SWCD Soil Health Field Day
- 09/27 Putnam County Conservation Day

Workshops in Progress:

- 10/09 Tour of Opportunities, Dubois Co
- 10/23-25 IDEA Fall Conference, Michigan City
- 10/29 Orange County Amish Outreach
- 11/02 Climate Workshop at VUJC
- 11/12 Women4theLand Learning Circle, Montgomery Co
- 11/17 HUAP and Pasture Management, Brown Co
- 11/18 or 11/22 Manure Management Workshop, Greene Co
- 01/16/25 Ft Wayne Farm Show
- 01/31 and 02/01/25 Northern Indiana Grazing Conference
- Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)

2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

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

Trainings in Progress:

- 11/20 ANR Extension Retreat; W Lafayette

- 02/26/25 CCSI-SARE Intro to Soil Health 9:00-12:00 Eastern; Virtual
- 04/01, 08, 15, 22 OR 04/08, 15, 22, 29 CCSI-SARE Fundamentals of Soil Health; 1st, 3rd, 4th session virtual; 2nd session in person at the Beck Ag Center, W Lafayette
- 06/09-12 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-1/2 Day Soil Health) Training; Beck Ag Center, W Lafayette
- Video development on collecting soils for soil health demonstrations
- Soil Health Scouting Modules
- Soil Health PARP Regulatory Topic Development

Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills

Completed Trainings:

Trainings in Progress

- November 18: CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Education: Manure and Commercial Fertilizer Management

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

Monthly Targets: 2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NWPM, NEPM, SWPM, SEPM)

- Extension Field Crops Meetings
- 09/3-25 John Charlesworth, Jasper Co Extension; Kevin Shide, NRCS; Jasper County Surveyor; Joel Schurman, DeLong Farm – site identified and dug for Areas 9 and 10 Soils Judging
- 09/05 Summer Summit, Corydon (SEPM)
- 09/09 Henry Quesada, ANR Extension Director (D)
- 09/10 SARE Advisory Committee (SWPM. SWPM)
- 09/12 Upper Wabash River Watershed 319 (NEPM)
- 09/12 New Daviess Co NRCS staff (SWPM)
- 09/12 Angie Abbott, Extension Director (D)
- 09/17 Howard SWCD Board meeting and introductions to new staff member (NWPM)
- 09/17 Josh Brosmer, IDEM (SWPM)
- 09/17 Black Creek Watershed Committee (SWPM)
- 09/18 Spencer County SWCD “meet and greet” + infiltration ring how-to’s (SWPM)
- 09/18 Christian Krupke, Purdue Entomology (D)
- 09/19 IDEA Conference Planning Meeting (NEPM)
- 09/24 Owen County SWCD Board Meeting (SWPM)
- 09/24 Lagrange SWCD Local Working Group and SWCD Board Meetings (NWPM)
- 09/24 Resilient Indiana Staff On-boarding (D, SWPM, NWPM, A)
- 09/24 Agronomy Extension (A)
- 09/26 Arrowhead RC&D Annual Meeting (NEPM)
- 09/24 NW NRCS Area Meeting (NWPM)
- 09/27 IL CCA Conference planners (D)
- 10/04 VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative with Andrew Fry (SWPM)
- 10/04 White SWCD new staff (NWPM)
- 10/02 Steuben SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)

- 10/09 NNW IDEA (NEPM)
- 10/10 ANR Leadership (DA)
- 10/11 Spencer SWCD (SWPM)
- 10/15 Hoosier Chapter SWCS Council Meeting (NWPM)

G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

1. Marketing and 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
 - Andrew Bernzott, Fayette Co Farmer, and Joe Hamilton, Delaware Co Farmer – To-do Lists for New Farms or Fields
- Website: 1417 sessions, 1150 unique visitors from 30 countries

Completed Materials:

- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Series
- 07/12 Indiana Prairie Farmer – Crops Corner
- 07/25 Farmers Exchange
- 08/02 WLQI
- 08/12 Indiana Prairie Farmer – Crops Corner

Materials in Progress:

- Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems, by Hans Schmitz, Ann Kline, Mathias Ingle, Ashley Adair, and Matt Pearson, OISC – PARP Regulatory Topic in draft status
- Cover Crop Termination Study Materials
- Planter types / parts video
- No-Till Drill video

G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

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

- Support – Purdue University NIFA – Empowering Indiana’s Organic Farmers – Assessing Regional and Farm Scale Soil Health with a Farmer Network (Rui)
- Purdue Weed Science / POTF – UAV Applications of Herbicides
- Support - SDSU and Pork Board – 5-year study with swine manure and effects of soil health on continuous corn

OTHER

Professional Development (Training for CCSI Staff, Certifications)

- Soil Health Nexus Training and Tour (A)
- WomenfortheLand Discussion Leader Training (NWPM, SWPM, SEPM)
- National Wildlife Federation Grow More: Engaging New Audience training lead certification (NWPM, SEPM)

- Heart of America Grazing Conference / Pasture Walk (SEPM)

SEPM: Lead and Southeast Program Manager

SWPM: Southwest Program Manager

NWPM: Northwest Program Manager

NEPM: Northeast Program Manager

CSA: Soil Health/Climate Smart Ag Specialist

A: Soil Health/Agronomic Specialist

DA: Soil Health/Digital Ag Specialist

D: Director