

## Highlights

### Staffing Change Update

CCSI Agronomist position posted by Purdue Extension and candidates interviewed. An offer will be forthcoming.

### Agrivoltaics Webinar

Webinar focusing on co-location of farms and solar arrays set for January 11. Speakers included: Stacie Peterson, NCAT Agrisolar; Greg Barron-Gafford, University of Arizona, and Byron Kominek, Jack's Solar Farm. A recording is available on the CCSI YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/c/ccsi\\_in](https://www.youtube.com/c/ccsi_in)

### Root Banner Debut

24"x60" banners featuring full-scale depiction of cover crop root systems debuted at the 2022 IASWCD Annual Conference. From there they will be used in a Soil Health Booth at the Northern Indiana Grazing Conference 2/4-5.

### CCSI-SARE Core Soil Health Systems Trainings

Dates set: April 5, 19, and 26 (virtual) plus an optional in-person day on April 12. Based on 2020 and 2021 responses, future Core Trainings will be held virtually. Registration is live <https://ccsin.info/Core2022>

## G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

### 1. 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.*

- 01/05 Lunch with Don Shewmaker, Indiana at NNTC (SPM)
- 01/05 Carter Morgan at NNTC (NPM)
- 01/06 Breakfast with farmer from West Central Illinois at NNTC (SPM)
- 01/06 Breakfast with Steve from Wisconsin and his wife at NNTC (SPM)
- 01/06 Michael Gettelfinger at NNTC (SPM)
- 01/20 Ray McCormick (D)
- 01/21 Pat Bittner (D)
- 01/21 Dave Brandt (D)
- 01/25 Mike Shuter (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 - A, NPM, SPM)

### 3. 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.

- Elam Fisher, Byron Seed (D)

#### 4. Presentations

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

- 01/24 Women Leaders in Conservation Panel facilitation (D)
- 01/24 Hybrid and Virtual Events – Hands-on Tips and Tricks (D, NPM, and Joe Rorick Corn/Soy Agronomist)

## 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)

Completed Workshops:

- 01/11 Agrivoltaics (co-location of production ag and solar farms) Webinar, 100+ attendees

Workshops in Progress:

- 02/04-5 Northern Grazing Conference
- 02/08 Regional Soil Health workshop, Salem
- 02/15 WREC Workshop
- 02/19 Black Loam Conference, Evansville (postponed from 01/22)
- 03/01 Lost River Watershed/Orange County Cover Crop Workshop, Paoli
- 03/01 Warrick County Cover Crop Breakfast
- 03/12 Indiana Black Loam Conference / Legacy Taste of the Garden, Gary
- 03/19 Indiana Black Loam Conference / Legacy Taste of the Garden, Bloomington
- 03/23 Howard/Tipton County SWCD Workshop
- March 2022 – Miami County Winter PARP
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2022 Indian-Kentuck Watershed event. Most likely virtual.
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2022 Clay County Event
- 04/14 Byron Seed Spring Event
- 08/11 Fab 5 Soil Health Event, SW Indiana
- 8/23 Indiana field day with Ward Labs at Rulons.
- August 2022 Adams County
- September 2022 – Porter County
- Lawrence County Soil Health event (before 2025)
- DeKalb County SWCD Workshop – Date TBD
- March – Miami County Winter PARP meeting
- 2021 – 23 – 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:

- April 5, 12 (optional), 19, 26 – Core Cover Crops and Soil Health Systems
- 04/13 Byron Seed Dealer Training Series (with Barry Fisher)
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review (TBD)
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (TBD)
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program Development

## 3. Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program (TBD)

## 4. 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:

- 2022 SARE PDP – Cover Crop in Vegetable Production – PAC Demonstrations
- Date TBD - 2022: Pilot Social Science Training
- Date(s) TBD - 2022: CCSI-SARE Livestock Integration Trainings
- Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program

## 5. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- 01/11 NE Soil Health Team Meeting (NPM)
- 01/23 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting (D)
- 01/23-24 IASWCD Annual Conference (all)
- 01/27 Virginia Morris, Harrison SWCD, and Erica Wyss, NRCS Soil Conservationist (SPM)
- 01/28 Assisted with tech test for the Dubois County Annual Meeting to enable a virtual option for their in-person event (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.*

- January 2 – Events Newsletter; 682 delivered, 417 opened, 122 follow through
- January 15 – Events Newsletter; 662 delivered, 425 opened, 112 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
  - Learning from Your Peers: Andrew Bernzott and Mike Shuter
- Blog Posts
  - In Memory of Travis Wenning
- Social Media
  - Twitter: 84 Tweets, 43.8K impressions, 13 mentions, 2,815 profile visits, 11 new followers.
  - Facebook: 17,308 reach, 23,533 impressions, 1734 engaged users
- Website
  - 598 Users / 825 sessions
- Work on 12/1, 12/15 and 1/2 newsletters
- Publish Jerry Raynor Op-Ed as blog post
- Complete solar farms + ag blog post
- Complete grain donations blog post
- Work on 2/1 newsletter
- Use Black Loam press release as a blog post

Materials in Progress:

- TNC-NRCS-CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (TBD)
- Soil Compaction Video with Purdue Extension
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download
- Soil Health Nexus – Soil Health Matrix completed, submitted for review (TBD)

## 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)
- Grasseed Oregon / Purdue Agronomy collaboration
- Notre Dame – Indiana University – Purdue University collaboration

## Other

- Program Managers *finally* received shipment of replacement laptops.
- Ag Learn Disabilities Training (all)
- 01/26 Meeting with Jason Henderson, head of Purdue Extension; Ron Turco, Purdue Agronomy Department Head; Ernie Shea, Solutions from the Land; and Don Villwock (D)
- 01/27 AGree Advisory Committee Meeting (D)
- 01/28 NWF Conservation Champions Coffee Shop Chat (NPM)