



## Highlights

- Operational:
  - Strategic Planning - July 21<sup>st</sup> Facilitated Strategic Planning Meeting – Bradford Woods.
    - 25 participants from ICP, farmers, ANT represented
    - Drafted Key Goals and Strategic Priorities; Began re-drafting Mission Statement
  - Began development of formal by-laws for CCSI
- Outreach:
  - Rollout of United Soybean Board – High-oleic Soybean Sustainability program
    - Grower outreach by ADM, Bunge, Indiana Soy, Syngenta, Agrible
    - CCSI will coordinate meetings between enrolled growers and local conservation staff to discuss technical and financial assistance programs
    - SWCDs will receive \$1600 per grower assisted.
  - July 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative Breakfast – La Porte
    - Target Audience: legislators, state and local governments
    - CCSI Overview and General Soil Health presentations to 35 +/- attendees
- Research:
  - Paperwork for CESU agreement between USDA-NRCS Soil Health Division and IASWCD (on behalf of CCSI) submitted. \$155,000 over two years to be used for continued field sampling, payments to farmer-cooperators and non-farmer cooperators, and contracted field sampling by others

## General Workshops, Presentations, and Outreach Programs

### Past

- July 10<sup>th</sup> (Frankfort) and July 11<sup>th</sup> (Decatur) – United Soybean Board – High Oleic Sustainability pilot rollout meetings (D, A)
  - Target: high-oleic soybean producers near Bunge and ADM elevators (NE and NW IN)
  - Presentation on Soil Health with emphasis on “Small Changes. Big Impact.” campaign
  - Goal: incremental adoption of soil health practices
  - 20 growers total
- July 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative Breakfast “*Healthy Soil Healthy Farms Health LaPorte County*” (A, PM)
  - Target: legislators, state and local governments
  - Presentations: CCSI overview (PM) and General Soil Health (A)
  - 35+/- attendees
- July 26<sup>th</sup> Central Indiana Ag Field Day, Kempton (A)
  - Target: commodity crop producers
  - Presentation: Cover Crops for Soil Health
  - 50+/- attendees over two sessions
- July 26<sup>th</sup> Prime Farmland Field Day
  - Target: growers who farm reclaimed minelands; conservation staff
  - +/- 100 attendees
  - Arranged speaker

## Upcoming

- Aug 1 – Indiana CCA Presentation, NEPAC (A)
- Aug 2 – Cover Crop Round Table (pilot) – Gibson Co SWCD  
CCSI helping to start project; Target demographic – farmers new to cover crops  
First topic – herbicide persistence in soils and herbicide resistant weeds
- Aug 3 – Red Gold Growers Meeting (A)
- Aug 3 - Back to the Basics of Cover Crops – Decatur (Roger Wenning)  
CCSI providing organizational, promotional support  
Target demographic – farmers newer to cover crops; focus on water quality; termination by self and termination by commercial applicators
- Aug 7 – Ag Retailer Workshop, Scottsburg  
Target demographic – retailers in South Central Indiana; Local organization by USDA-NRCS, Purdue Extension, SWCDs, IFB, Land-o-Lakes  
CCSI provided organizational support, connectivity to Ag Nutrient Taskforce members for support and promotion
- Aug 10 - Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather, MJ Starkey Farms, Brownsburg  
Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, Blake Vince presenting  
Target demographic – more conventional-tilling farmers, non- cover cropping farmers  
Partnered with ICMC/ISA, IFB and Ag Nutrient Taskforce – they are leading outreach to their constituency
- Aug 15 – Fulton County Farmer Roundtable (A)
- Aug 17 – Wabash RCD Annual Meeting “Digging Deeper into Ag” – arranged speakers

## General Publications / Outreach / Work in Progress

- Agronomy Tech Note w/ USDA-NRCS
  - Topic: Strip Till
  - Timeline: for Sept Advanced Cover Crops Trainings
- Lender Outreach
  - Aug 17 Filming – Natasha Cox, Farm Credit (CM)
- Crimping Video
  - Draft completed of Mike Shuter crimping cover crops
  - Deploy Aug/Sept
- 2018 Tri-County Soil Health Field Day
  - Starke, Marshall, St. Joe Counties
  - July 6 - Initial Planning (PM)
  - Speaker arrangements
- Fall 2017 Jasper County Field Day – Marketing, Speaker(s)

**Train-the-Trainer Workshops** (trainings for ICP staff, ag professionals, farmer-mentors and others who work one-on-one with farmers)

## Upcoming

- Aug 8 – Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather, Indiana State Fairgrounds  
Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, Blake Vince presenting  
Target demographic – state fair goers, ICP staff

- Aug 9 - Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather, IVY Tech Culinary & Conf Ctr, Indy  
Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, Blake Vince presenting  
Target demographic – ICP staff, ag professionals  
Partner with Hoosier Chapter SWCS for promotions
- Early Aug - Initial planning for fall Advanced Cover Crops – Commodity Crop Track
- Late Aug - Initial planning for fall Advanced Soil Health Systems – Specialty Crop Track

## General / Partner Events

### Past

- July 6<sup>th</sup> Ag Nutrient Taskforce, Indianapolis (D)
- July 13-14 – Soil Health Institute Annual Meeting, St Louis (D)
  - National leaders of soil health programs, research, outreach
  - Member of Communications and Education Subcommittee
- July 20<sup>th</sup> – USDA-NRCS Soils mapping meeting, Indianapolis (A)
- July 25<sup>th</sup> – State Soil Conservation Board, Indianapolis (D)
- July 30 – Aug 2 SWCS Annual Meeting, Madison WI (PM)
- July 31 – MCCC Veg Tool development teleconference (A)

### Upcoming

- Aug 14<sup>th</sup> – Pathway to Water Quality
- Aug 17<sup>th</sup> – IDEA Conferenced Planning (PM)
  - CCSI will have sessions at fall conference

## Research

### Past

- Coordination of CSNT sampling supplies with INFA
- Continued work on individual farm reports (A, Post-Doc)
- Templates created for individual farmer reports (CM)

### Upcoming

- Distribution of individual farmer reports – late August to mid Sept
- Suggested alterations to current CCSI strip trial treatments by mid-August; Finalization of individual reports will guide process;
- Reconfirmation of cooperators willingness to continue
- Lists and contacts of potential sampling contractors
- CSNT sampling – Aug-Sept

## Organization

### Past

- July 11 – CCSI Oversight Committee, Indianapolis
- July 21 – CCSI Strategic Planning, Bradford Woods
  - Draft Mission Statement
  - Draft Goals / Priorities

### Upcoming

- Aug 14 – CCSI Oversight Committee, Terre Haute

## **Funding**

- Paperwork for CESU agreement between USDA-NRCS Soil Health Division and IASWCD (on behalf of CCSI) submitted. \$155,000 over two years to be used for continued field sampling, payments to farmer-cooperators and non-farmer cooperators, and contracted field sampling by others