



Date Range: May 1-31, 2017

Key Accomplishments

- Cover Crop Survey “newsletter article” deployed
- “Extreme weather photos” documenting erosion differences in soil health systems vs more conventionally farmed systems collected from ICP staff and other across state. Published for open use on CCSI Flickr account
- Organized presentations on soil health / regenerative farming systems to Kazakhstan delegation visiting through US Department of State Program – CCSI, Purdue, NRCS participating
- Asked to present at December 2017 Indiana CCA Conference (D)
- Paper published in Journal of Soil and Water Conservation “Cereal rye cover crop effects on soil carbon and physical properties in southeastern Indiana” (A)
<http://www.iswconline.org/content/72/3/260.full.pdf+html>
- Interim soil health reports distributed to CCSI farmers
- Submitted paperwork for Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) agreement with USDA-NRCS Soil Health Division to continue collection of on-farm research data.
- CCSI representation with newly formed Diversified Farming and Food Systems (DFFS)
- CCSI representation with Ag Nutrient Taskforce
- Participation in Purdue Soils Extension Specialist position interview seminars. (A)

Goals / Projects Through June 30

- Strategic Planning
 - Deploy e-Survey. Compile results
 - Deploy Telephone Survey
- Training / Workshops
 - Logistics for Roger Wenning “Back to Basics of Cover Crops” workshop – August
 - Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather Across Indiana Croplands workshops
 - Aug 8 – Indiana State Fair
 - Aug 9 – IVY Tech Conference Center (Indianapolis)
 - Aug 10 – Mike Starkey Farm
 - Finalize partnerships to promote / host events
 - Participate in planning – Jasper/Newton Fall Cover Crop Tour
- Communications
 - Draft media package of Mike Shuter rolling cover crops: video, gifs, social media, etc
 - Complete 4R newsletter article
 - Begin work w/ NRCS, ISDA to develop video and supporting documents on tips and tricks of explaining conservation input costs (in particular cover crops) to lenders.
- Research
 - Review CCSI research sites/treatments, develop draft recommendations for changes in order to collect “better” data.

- Network / Connectivity
 - Collaboration with ICMC/ISA to help coordinate a United Soybean Board sustainability project with ICP partnership
- Other
 - Ride-a-longs for wheat harvest, side-dress, post-emergence sprays

Status of May Goals

- Strategic Planning
 - ✓ Execute Contract with Facilitator
 - ✓ Finalize Interview and Meeting Participant Lists; Distribute Invitations
Wide-spread eSurvey
35+ Expanded Telephone Interviews
25 Strategic Planning "Retreat" participants
 - ✓ Launch On-line Survey
eSurvey deployed, over 110 participants as of 06/15
 - Launch Telephone Surveys with assistance of NRCS, TNC and other partner staff
 - ✓ Set Meeting Date (late June / Early July)
July 21 = Strategic Planning "Retreat"
- Training / Workshops
 - ✓ CCSI-SARE Advanced Cover Crops – Specialty Crop Track
 - ✓ One training = labor intensive; One training = highly mechanized
 - ✓ Complete speaker and facilities "booking", includes Steve Groff for mechanized training
 - ✓ Develop Flyers and Registration
 - ✓ CCSI-SARE Advanced Soil Health Systems – Commodity Crop Track: "Pro Tour" with Dr Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, and Blake Vince
 - ✓ Topic: Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events
 - Work w/ SWCS for cross-promotional event
 - ✓ Work on potential for State Fair-based event
 - ✓ Greater Wabash RC&D – Help Secure Keynote Speaker
 - ✓ Prime Farmland Team – Help secure soils / soil health speaker(s)
 - ✓ SE ICP-IFB-ACI Ag Retailer Event – Help Secure Soil Health Systems Speaker(s)
 - ✓ Gibson Co SWCD – Review options with board and staff to develop Cover Crop Support Roundtables
 - ✓ Continue role on planning committees (D) for CTIC Conservation in Action Tour (Sept) and SWCS-Buffer Cover Crops Conference (Dec)
 - ✓ Begin coordination efforts for TNC-Coke Cover Crops 'mini-project', including outreach to next-level/early majority farmers and support for recipients of cost-share.
- Communications
 - Work on media package: interview Mike Shuter, video of rolling cover crops; create social media package, articles, gifs
 - First Draft CCSI monthly newsletter layout and deployment
 - ✓ Research / Develop article on split application of N and sidedressing
 - ✓ Begin implementing social media calendar, following daily "themes"

- ✓ Begin work with NRCS, ISDA, Purdue, Corn/Soy on Tips and Tricks of communicating soil health input costs with lenders: video, podcast, factsheets
- Research
 - ✓ Reach out to INFA, others regarding “special projects” – Incubator-type on-farm trials in areas such as cover crops and weed suppression and cover crops and SCN suppression
 - Coordinate ride-a-long opportunities for Purdue Researchers with top farmers
 - ✓ Coordinate quality no-till planting for Purdue Researchers
 - ✓ Coordinate meetings / teleconferences with Purdue/Iowa State Wildlife Biologists and Potential Funders
 - Develop prospectus for project linking nutrient density of grains produced in a soil health system to livestock producer/integrator needs.
- Other
 - ✓ Coordinate ride-a-longs for planting
 - ✓ Continue work with Sherry Fulk-Bringman on potential project to collect, process, and preserve soil monoliths – and house throughout the state with ag educators.

Meetings / Visits / Appearances

Past (attendees estimated)

- May 2 – Diversified Farming and Food Systems (DFFS), W Lafayette – 12 (A)
- May 5 – Joint Communications Meeting (NRCS, ISDA, ICMC/ISA, Purdue), Indianapolis (D, CM)
- May 16 – CCSI-SARE Presentation and Media Skills Training, Noblesville - 25 (D, A)
- May 23 – SW SWCD Region Meeting, Washington – 35 (PM)
- May 24 – SW NRCS Area Meeting, Jasper – 30 (D, CM, PM, A)
- May 24 – Ride-a-long with Mike Brocksmith, Vincennes (A)
- May 24 – Farm visit with Ray McCormick, Vincennes (CM, PM)
- May 30 – Frances Podrebarac, USDA-NRCS to discuss CCSI and soil health at Purdue (A)

Upcoming through June 30

- June 1 – Cropland Weed ID Training, Lafayette (A)
- June 8 – CCSI-SARE Presentation and Media Skills Training – Noblesville
- June 20 - CCSI-SARE Advanced Cover Crops – Specialty Crop Track (Labor Intensive Production), W Lafayette
- June 21 – CCSI-SARE Advanced Cover Crops – Specialty Crop Track (Highly Mechanized Production), SWPAC

(D) = Director

(CM) = Communications Manager

(PM) = Program Manager

(A) = Agronomist