

Highlights

Quote of the Month *The more you educate, the less you have to regulate. Jim Hoorman*

Northeast Program Manager

Interviews were conducted. An offer was extended and accepted by Lois Mann. Estimated start: April 1. Lois will continue working with Pulaski SWCD to ensure a smooth transition and onboarding of their replacement for her position.

New Agronomist Position

The Northern Agronomist Position search committee conducted interviews. An offer was extended. Awaiting news from Purdue HR to further discuss the position.

The Root Project Banners

Initial order of Root Project banners have started to arrive and have been used widely at events across Indiana with very good reception.

TNC-CCSI Mini Grants

The TNC-CCSI Mini-Grants were kicked off with an informational webinar on February 1. Applications have begun to come in and are being reviewed on a rolling basis. Several grants have been approved. Partners are highly encouraged to apply quickly – once funds are depleted, this particular opportunity will be gone.

Trainings

- Intro to Soil Health – completed on 2/28 with 50 attendees. Attendance, review of recording or college level soils science class will be required for 3-Day Soil Health
- Fundamentals of Soil Health
 - April 4, 18, 25 = virtual, April 11 in-person
 - Registration currently open
- Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health) Training
 - Set for June 27-29
 - This training satisfies requirements for “Soil Health and Sustainability Training” for those seeking USDA-NRCS Conservation Planning Certification

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.

- 02/17 Roger Wenning (SEPM)
- 02/16-17 Various – Louisville Farm Show (D)

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)

- 02/16-17 Various – Louisville Farm Show (D)

- 02/23 Ripley County Farmer (SEPM)

1. Farmer Influencers

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

- 02/16-17 Various – Louisville Farm Show (D)
- 02/20 Cargill Success From the Ground Up (D)
- 03/03 ADM (D)

2. Presentations

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

- 02/01 TNC-CCSI Mini-Grant Webinar (D)
- 2/17 Core and Category 14 Training, Evansville, IN, “Category 14 Training” (18 attendees)
- 2/18 Ag Climate Change Panel, Jeffersonville, IN, “How Climate Change Impacts Indiana Agriculture” (23 attendees, 31 YouTube views)
- 2/22 Midwest Women in Ag Conference, Terre Haute, IN, “Climate Smart Agriculture and What It Means For You” (27 attendees)
- 2/23 Knox County Master Gardener Class, Vincennes, IN “Weather and Climate in the Garden” (10 attendees)
- 2/24 Union County SWCD Annual Meeting, Liberty, IN “CCSI and Soil Health” (70 attendees)
- 2/27 Gibson County Farm Winter Workshop, Fort Branch, IN, “Soil Health” (8 attendees)
- 2/28 Intro to Soil Health, Virtual, “Intro to Soil Health” (50 attendees)01/09 American Meteorological Society Conference Session (A)

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

- 02/01 CCSI-TNC Mini-Grant Webinar
- 02/03-04 Northern Indiana Grazing Conference-booth space + CC Banners for NE SH Team
- 02/07 Regional Soil Health Workshop, Salem Approx 110 in attendance
- 02/07, 21, 28 German American Bank Ag Lender Series
- 02/09 Harrison County SWCD Annual Meeting, 215 attendees
- 02/15 White/Carroll Bi-County Soil Health Meeting, 20 attendees
- 02/15 Kosciusko County Farmer Breakfast, 60 attendees
- 02/21 Cass County Annual Meeting, 60 attendees
- 02/21 Warrick County Cover Crop Breakfast, approx. 37 attendees
- 02/22 Midwest Women in Ag Conference, 27 attendees
- 02/23 Franklin County PARP Meeting, Approx 120 attendees
- 02/24 Union SWCD Annual Meeting, 70 attendees
- 02/28 Elkhart County Pay Dirt

Workshops in Progress:

- 02/15 Kosciusko Farmer Breakfast

- 03/01 Parke-Vermillion County Farmer Roundtable, Clinton
- 03/01 Marshall / St Joe Workshop
- 03/02 Ripley County Extension PARP
- 03/06 Orange County/Lost River Watershed Meet-n-Greet with Jim Hoorman
- 03/07 Orange County/Lost River Watershed Field Day, Paoli
- 03/07 Posey SWCD Breakfast
- 03/09 Hancock County SWCD Annual Meeting
- 03/09, 10 ILMS Conference
- 03/10 Fountain County Carbon Credit Talk
- 03/11 Sullivan County Ag Day
- 03/14 Envirothon – Boonville
- 03/14 Perry-Spencer Crop Day
- 03/16 Washington SWCD Cover Crop Dig
- 03/22 Howard/Tiptop Workshop
- 03/23 Wayne County SWCD Conservation Day
- 03/23 Floyd County Master Naturalist Program
- 03/24 Dubois County SWCD “Getting to the Roots of Cover Crops”
- 03/29 Southern Indiana Grazing Conference, Odon
- Late spring 2023 Brown County/Lake Monroe Watershed Field Day/Workshop
- 05/19 Hoosier Chapter SWCS Summer Meeting (tentative)
- 06/15 Gibson SWCD/Purdue Extension – Event with field buffer/filter strip
- Summer 2023 Roger Wenning Workshop
- Late summer/early fall Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day
- 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

- 02/28 CCSI-SARE Intro to Soil Health, 50 attendees

Trainings in Progress:

- 04/04, 18, 25 (virtual) 04/11 (in-person) CCSI-SARE Foundational Soil Health Series
- 06/27-29 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health)
- Soil Health Signature Program Curriculum Development
- 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:

- 02/01 NECI Monthly Professional Development Webinar (virtual)
- 02/09 Hoosier Chapter SWCS Winter Meeting, 75 attendees
- 02/23 Indiana-Illinois Climate Series (virtual)
- 02/27 NC3 Climate Webinar (virtual)

Trainings in Progress

- 09/5, 7, 19, 21 Grow More – Engaging New Audiences

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- 02/01 – Field Crops Focus Group Winter Meeting, Virtual (A)
- 02/01 – ANR Monthly Update, Virtual (A)
- 02/06 – CCSI Regional Teleconferences (all)
- 02/08 – RC&D Education Committee (NWPM)
- 02/09 – Gibson SWCD Annual Meeting (SEPM)
- 02/13 – Purdue on the Farm Operations Leadership Team, Virtual (A)
- 02/14 – Dubois SWCD Annual Meeting (SEPM)
- 02/15 – Kosciusko SWCD (NEPM)
- 02/15 – St Joe SWCD (NEPM)
- 02/15 – PUCESA General Business Meeting, Virtual (A)
- 02/17 – Farmers Helping Hellbenders RCPP Project Coordinator + Purdue Wildlife Biologist (SEPM)
- 02/21 – Purdue University College of Agriculture Dean Search listening session (D)
- 02/23 – SW Soil Health Team Meeting (SWPM)
- 02/23 – Franklin County Meeting (SEPM)
- 02/27 – CCSI Regional Teleconference South, Virtual (all)

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.

- February 1 - Events Newsletter; 1980 delivered; 36% open rate; 4% click rate
- February 15 – Events Newsletter; 2240 delivered; 35% open rate; 6% click rate

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
 - (Recorded) Elli Blaine, IASWCD Urban Soil Health Program and Liz Brownlee, Young Farmers Coalition
- Social Media

- Twitter (ccsi_in) (limited postings as the platform reorganizes)
- Facebook: (ccsi.in) content report unavailable
- LinkedIn (ccsi-in / conservation-cropping-systems-initiative)
- Insta (ccsi-in)
- YouTube (ccsi_in)
- Website: 542 users, 5.5K visits
- Indiana State Climate Office Spring Outlook,
<https://extension.purdue.edu/news/2023/03/warm,-wet-spring-predicted-for-indiana.html>

Materials in Progress:

- Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems, by Hans Schmitz and Matt Pearson, OISC
- HO-203, Effect of Cold Weather on Horticultural Plants in Indiana
- Full scale Root Project banners ordered – 7 sets total: one for each Program Manager, one for each Agronomist, one spare. These will be available for partners to borrow for their events.

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)
- Notre Dame – Indiana University – Purdue University collaboration
- Grant proposals for Midwest Climate Hub Partnership and Midwest Climate Hub CAP submitted. (A)

OTHER

- SE Program Manager started Emerging Professionals Leadership Program
- 02/19 SW Program Manager – Soil health trailer training