



General Report November 2016

Date Range: November 1-30, 2016

Key Accomplishments

- CCSI CIG Final Report – both the public and NRCS versions were completed. Public report will be distributed at the January SSCB Meeting.
- CCSI / Indiana Success to be presented at 2017 Midwest Cover Crops Council Annual Meeting (March 2017) – Director + 1 CCSI Farmer
- On Planning Committee for CITC 10th Annual Conservation in Action Tour – Summer 2017, Indiana
- Platform for Women 4 the Land to engage w/ CCSI regional teams as means to increase number of learning circles in 2017.
- *Positive* strides in outreach to various areas of the state and solidified positive connections with district employees.

Goals

Targeted Goals through Jan 1

- Staffing
 - Purdue Post-Doc – starts first week of January
 - Set-up onboarding of new staff (PM, A, other conservation partnership staff) w/ NRCS – Bob Eddleman on history of ICP
 - Set-up farmer ride-alongs / shop tours for January and February
- Training / Workshops
 - Distribute 2017 CCSI-SARE Training Brochure
 - Open up Registration – Basics of Soil Health
 - Finalize Speakers / Agendas for Core Cover Crops / Soil Health Systems Trainings
 - Identify 3-4 locations/partners for Northern Indiana manure management workshops.
 - Finalize pilot training dates/locations/agendas with LaCrosse Seed.
 - Identify potential wildlife winter meetings (NWTF, Pheasants forever) interested in soil health speaker – increase landowner, non-farmer outreach.
- Communications
 - Press release for Agronomist
 - Cooperative Communications – developing materials, monthly focus subjects
 - Investigate mass-texting platform to use for workshop updates
 - Investigate smart-phone/tablet-based communications platform for top farmers to use for their own questions as an alternate to alist-serve. (private communications).
 - Begin investigation of “AgTalk” type forum – Indiana-only platform to submit questions about soil health practices and systems. Idea is to divide state by region and submit questions to likely experts. Ex: a cover crop question from Posey County might be forwarded to Ray McCormick, Betsy Bower, and Mike Brocksmith. *Initial stages only*
- Research



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- Complete biomass, soil ammonium and nitrate sampling
- Target 30% collection of 2016 farmer inputs
- Submit Corn/Soy grant proposal with Prokopy group and TNC – pilot for outreach to next level of farmers through ag retailers / influencer marketing.
- Distribute joint IASWCD/CCSI letter re 2014 IASWCD Resolution for CCSI Funding

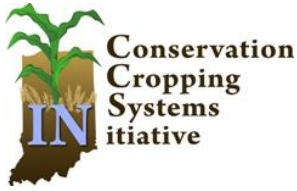
October Goal Status

- Training / Workshops
 - Set dates for 2017 retailer training events (LaCrosse Seed, Dungan Aerial)
 - Set events for winter 2017 Agronomist presentations
General Training plan set, plan on focusing on on-boarding w/ Farmers and Agency Staff, small group presentations.
 - ✓ Relaunch / Recommunicate Speakers Bureau Support
PM making targeted outreach to provide assistance / speakers. Reinforced funding available for speaker fees, especially travel and time for top Indiana farmers.
- Communications
 - ✓ 2017 Soil Health Communications Strategy – Draft coordinated inter-agency / commodity group timeline of topics, format, roles. Move into “idea-implementing phase”
 - Develop and distribute brochure of 2017 Soil Health Trainings
Brochure developed.
 - ✓ Draft interim format to share/distribute imagery
Using Flickr for short term distribution. Well received by field staff.
- Research
 - ✓ Begin collecting input, yield information from farmers
 - Complete Cover Crop Biomass, Ammonium and Nitrate run
Most sites complete
- Finalize strategies w/ DSSs to
 - Reach out to SWCDs less engaged w/ CCSI
PM following up w/ DSSs
 - ✓ Follow-up on Ag-Retailer Outreach as coordinated with Indiana Nutrient Management / Soil Health task force
- Distribute joint IASWCD/CCSI letter re 2014 IASWCD Resolution for CCSI Funding
Letter drafted, signed.

Meetings / Visits / Appearances

Past

- 2017 Soil Health Communications Collaboration (D, CM)
- Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool (D) – Vegetable Edition.
Also outlined dates/general focus for Advanced Cover Crops / Soil Health Systems Trainings for Specialty Crop Track



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- Marshall/St. Joseph/Starke Counties – Planning meeting to assist with the organization of an upcoming workshop in February. (PM)
As a result of this planning meeting, all 3 counties would like to partner with CCSI for future meetings in 2017.
- Lagrange County – Manure Management Workshop (PM)
Opportunity to work w/ LaGrange SWCD on 2017 workshop.
- N-SW and S-SW SWCD Fall Region Meeting (PM)
- Women4theLand Learning Circle, Fair Oaks Farm (PM)
- Purdue Soil Health Forum (D, CM, PM, A)
- Boone Co SWCD Cover Crop Plots (CM)
- INFA Leader Meeting (D, CM, PM)

Upcoming through Dec 31

- Collaborative Soil Health Communications, Dec 2 – Indy (CM, D)
- SE SWCD Region Meeting, Dec 6 – Columbus (PM)
- SE NRCS Soil Health Team Meeting, Dec 7 – North Vernon (D, PM)
- Ride-along w/ Mike Shuter, Dec 7 – Frankton (CM)
- Daviess-Martin Workshop, Dec 8 – Washington (D)
- Indiana CCA Conference, Dec 12-13 – Indy (D, PM)
- CTIC Conservation in Action Tour Planning Meeting, Dec 12 – Indy (D)
- Roy Ballard – Extension / SARE partnerships, Dec 15 – Greenfield (CM)
- IASWCD Board of Directors, Dec 16 – (D)
- Xerces Beneficials Training, Dec 16 = Indy (PM, A)
- Starkey’s Annual Planter Workshop, Dec 20 – Indy (D)

General Assistance Provided:

- SE Cover Crop Field Day (Wessler)
- SW – Daviess-Martin Field Day
- NW – Marshall SWCD Field Day

(D) = Director

(CM) = Communications Manager

(PM) = Program Manager

(A) = Agronomist