

# CONSERVATION CROPPING SYSTEMS INITIATIVE



IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH ON INDIANA CROPLAND

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



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support for  
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In 2018, CCSI provided technical, logistical and promotional support for 70 events, reaching nearly 7000 attendees. These included

- **John Kempf Workshops** - 400+ attendees, with 80% from Amish and Mennonite communities. Partners included LaGrange, Allen, Adams, Wells, Daviess, Parke, and Vermillion SWCDs, NRCS, ISDA and Extension along with Byron Seed
- **Soil Health for Organic Transition** featuring Klaas Martens - 80+ attendees, most new to soil health events. Partners included Madison SWCD and the Soil Health Partnership
- **Cover Crops and Live Grazing Field Day**, including a pre-event mini-workshop for local lake board members. 80+ attendees, some with well over a 1-hour drive. Partners included Fulton and Pulaski SWCDs, NRCS, ISDA, Extension.
- **National FFA Convention** - Soil health demonstrations to 2366 attendees from 42 states. This was a partnership of the Indiana Soil Health Teams, USDA-NRCS, National FFA, Wrangler Jeans.

CCSI and partners continue to work towards a more financially sustainable future. 2018 funding included:

- An NC-SARE grant awarded to CCSI and IANA to adapt the Soil Health Training curriculum to an Ag Retailer audience.
- An agreement with USDA-NRCS enabling the addition of a second Program Manager position to improve local partnership support.
- A Perdue Foundation award to support soil health workshops.
- Purdue University bridge funding for the Conservation Agronomist position.
- Continued SSCB / Clean Water Indiana support for CCSI program.





### SOIL HEALTH PODCASTS

Produced by Hoosier Ag Today, CCSI launched a series of Soil Health Podcasts. These podcasts feature a top soil health farmer discussing soil health practices with another ag or conservation professional. Links to the podcasts, along with print-ready supplements and shorter documents suitable for re-print in newsletters and local newspapers, are available on the CCSI website ([www.ccsin.org/podcast](http://www.ccsin.org/podcast))

In partnership with Women4theLand, The Nature Conservancy, USDA-NRCS, and the American Farmland Trust, a series of tools for landowners and those who work with landowners have been published on the CCSI website. These tools include a Soil Health Starter Kit, Conservation Leasing Guides, and Marketing Tools for local partners. ([www.ccsin.org/landowners](http://www.ccsin.org/landowners) /[landowner-outreach](http://www.ccsin.org/landowner-outreach) /[starterkit](http://www.ccsin.org/starterkit))



### LANDOWNER TOOLS



### IMAGES FOR PUBLICATIONS

Finding the right image for newsletters, PowerPoints, and other publications can be difficult and time-consuming. With that in mind, CCSI regularly collects images and videos from conservation partners, which are then curated on-line and made available for re-use. They are organized into albums such as cover crop types, equipment, and field operations, and noted with locations, dates, description and requested photo credit. ([https://www.flickr.com/photos/ccsi\\_in/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ccsi_in/))

Developed in partnership with technical experts from USDA-NRCS, Purdue University, and expert farmers, CCSI's Soil Health Training Curriculum for ICP staff is based on farmer-proven management practices and peer-reviewed agronomic and social science. These trainings provide a foundation for consistent, science-based, farmer-proven soil health messaging. The 3-Day Training satisfies Soil Health and Sustainability Training for those seeking Conservation Planner Certifications. 2019 training listings are available on the CCSI website. ([www.ccsin/events](http://www.ccsin/events))



### SOIL HEALTH TRAININGS



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