

Highlights**CCSI-SARE Continuing Education: BMPs for Herbicide Application and Cover Crop Termination**

In response to expected herbicide shortages and spiraling prices, along with requests from field-level ICP staff, a training was developed by Stephanie McClain, NRCS State Soil Health Specialist; Fred Whitford, Director of Purdue Pesticide Programs; Bill Johnson, Purdue Extension Weed Specialist; and Tony Bailey, NRCS State Conservation Agronomist. This event was held over two sessions: March 2nd and 3rd, with 119-127 live attendees each session.

Recordings of the modules can be viewed here: <https://ccsin.info/Herb-Rec>

Resources may be found here: <https://ccsin.info/Herb-Resources>

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.

- 03/07-8 Indiana Climate Smart Ag / Solutions from the Land (D)
- 03/15 Aaron Krueger Farmer Learning Community (SPM, A)

2. 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) .

- 03/15 Aaron Krueger Farmer Learning Community (SPM, A)

3. Farmer Influencers

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

Continued work with W4tL, IANA, and other influencer groups.

- 03/07-8 Indiana Climate Smart Ag / Solutions from the Land (D)

4. Presentations

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

- 03/03-2 CCSI-SARE Continuing Education: BMPs for Herbicide Application and Cover Crop Termination "Farmer / NCRS Scenarios" (A); 119-127 live attendees
- 03/08 Indiana Red Cross "Climate Change Presentation" (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)

Completed Workshops:

- 03/01 Lost River Watershed / Orange Co SWCD, Paoli; 60 attendees

- 03/08 Warrick Co Cover Crop Breakfast, Boonville; 55 attendees (7 new to any SWCD event)
- 03/09 Miami Co SWCD Annual Winter Meeting, Peru; 85 attendees
- 03/12 IN Black Loam Conference, Gary; 50 attendees
- 03/15 Aaron Krueger Farmer Learning Community, Owensville; 25 attendees
- 03/17 Going Green for Ag, Ft. Wayne; 70 attendees
- 03/19 IN Black Loam Conference, Bloomington; 45 attendees
- 03/23 Howard/Tipton SWCD Workshop, Kokomo; 70 attendees
- 03/23 “Healthy Farms, Healthy Communities” (Ashley Hammac)m, Crawfordsville
- 03/24 WREC Workshop, Lafayette

Workshops in Progress:

- 04/14 Byron Seed Spring Event
- 07/07 Parke/Vermillion Field Day
- 08/16 Feb 5 Soil Health Event, SW Indiana
- 08/16 Roger Wenning Round Table, Decatur Co
- 08/17 Roger Wenning Event, Decatur Co
- 08/23 Indiana field day with Ward Labs at Rulons
- August 2022 Adams County
- 09/01 Clay County Event
- Late Summer 2022 - Lawrence County Soil Health event
- September 2022 – Porter County
- DeKalb County SWCD Workshop – Date TBD
- 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:

- 03/02-03 CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Education: BMPs for Herbicide Application and Cover Crop Termination, Virtual; 151 registrants, 119-127 live attendees

Trainings in Progress:

- April 5, 12 (optional), 19, 26 – Core Cover Crops and Soil Health Systems
- 04/13-14 Byron Seed Dealer Training Series (with Barry Fisher)
- 06/21-23 “3 Day Soil Health Training”
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review (TBD)
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (TBD)
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program Development
- Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program (TBD)

3. Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills

Completed Trainings:

Trainings in Progress:

- 2022 SARE PDP – Cover Crop in Vegetable Production – PAC Demonstrations
- Date TBD - 2022: Pilot Social Science Training
- Date(s) TBD - 2022: CCSI-SARE Livestock Integration Trainings
- Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- 03/01 – Orange County Soil Health Field Day (A)
- 03/08 – LTOG Zoom planning meeting (D, NPM)
- 03/15 – SSCB Meeting (D)
- 03/17 – Southfork Wildcat Steering Committee Meeting (NPM)
- 03/17 Laura Stearly (Clay Co SWCD/Otter Creek Watershed) (SPM)
- 03/17 Lawrence Co SWCD, NRCS, and Purdue Extension (SPM)
- 03/18 – IASWCD Board of Directors (D)
- SWCD & other partner check-ins (calls or emails) this month :
 - Rene Weaver, Howard County
 - Cheryl Jerrett, Huntington County
 - Mary Lou Watson, Miami County
 - Julie Knudson, DeKalb County
 - Angie Miller & Michelle Gilbert, Tippecanoe County
 - Megan Sweeney, Montgomery County
 - Brian Daggy, Boone County
 - Jenna Wait, Elkhart County
 - Kim Peterson, Lake County Supervisor
 - Bree Ollier, Hendricks County
 - Brian Musser, NRCS
 - Tatiana Gil, NRCS
 - Jennifer Thum, ISDA
 - Bryan Overstreet, Purdue Extension
 - Leah Harmon, re: update access to Sharepoint to update contact sheet of SWCD supervisors

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.

- March 1 – Events Newsletter; 627 delivered, 456 opened, 105 follow through
- March 15 – Events Newsletter; 625 delivered, 328 opened, 105 follow through

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:

- Social Media
 - Twitter: 54 Tweets, 12.8K impressions, 18 mentions, 1,182 profile visits, 14 new followers.
 - Facebook:
 - 03/01 Orange Co Workshop, Stephanie McLain 362 people reach
 - 03/01 Orange Co Workshop, Dale Stickler 315 people reach
 - 03/01 – Share CCSI newsletter to FB (123 reach)
 - 03/02 – Herbicide webinar post (105 reach)
 - 03/08 Warrick Co Breakfast, 134 people reach
 - 03/12 – Gary Black Loam post (990 reach, 8 shares)
 - 03/12 – 2nd Gary Black Loam post (151 reach)
 - 03/15 – NCAT virtual training, David Montgomery post (79 reach)
 - 03/15 – Share Geosmin Ag post for 3/23 Crawfordsville event (68 reach)
 - 03/15 – Share CCSI newsletter to FB (46 reach)
 - 03/20 – Share People’s Market post about Bloomington Black Loam (81 reach)
 - 03/10 Eileen Award 126 people reach
 - 03/21 – Eileen award post (422 reach, 1 share)
 - 03/22 – W4tL Learning Circle post (59 reach)
 - 03/22 INFA Webinar 69 people reach
 - 03/23 – Tippecanoe Co SWCD self-guided tour post (29 reach)
 - 03/23 – Howard/Tipton workshop post (113 reach, 1 share)
 - 03/24 Orange Co Cover Crop pic 197 people reach
- Website
 - 848 users / 1.2K sessions

Materials in Progress:

- TNC-NRCS-CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (TBD)
- Soil Compaction Video with Purdue Extension
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download
- Soil Health Nexus – Soil Health Matrix completed, submitted for review (TBD)

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)
- Support – No-till Pumpkin and Sweet Corn in Cover Crops (Maynard)

Other

- 03/15 & 03/16 – NCAT Soil Health Innovations Conference (NPM, SPM; D – recordings)
- 03/28 – NWF virtual meeting (NPM)
- Solutions for the Land / Indiana Climate Smart Ag – assist with organizational meetings

- Climate Smart Commodities Grant Team Meetings (A)
- Indiana Ag Leadership Program interviews (A)
- Indiana Extension Educators Assn Executive Committee meetings (A)