



## General Report December 2016

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**Date Range:** December 1-31, 2016

### Key Accomplishments

- Proposal was submitted by Dr. Linda Prokopy, Purdue University for Indiana Corn/Soy research grant. CCSI, Purdue, Indiana TNC will work on pilot for outreach to next level of farmers through ag retailers as part of Indiana Nutrient Management/Soil Health strategy.
- 2017 CCSI-SARE training brochure distributed
- Joint IASWCD / CCSI letter re 2014 IASWCD Resolution for CCSI funding distributed.
- Proposal submitted to LaCrosse Seed to provide cover crops training to their retailers – potential income stream for CCSI.
- CCSI now on Soil Health Institute’s Communications and Education Advisory Committee
- Collaborative Communications strategy w/ NRCS, ISDA, Purdue, Corn/Soy outlined through June 2017

### Goals

#### Targeted Goals Through Feb 1

- Training / Workshops
  - Begin work w/ Elkhart SWCD on soil health workshop series
  - Targeted marketing of Basics of Soil Health to new SWCD staff
  - Provide planning assistance for Women 4 the Land learning circles
- Communications
  - Launch mass-texting pilot
  - Investigate use of trail cam or similar to develop time-lapse video of field(s) managed for soil health.
  - Draft timeline/strategy for production of Crib Note updates, factsheets, economic case study updates.
- Research
  - Review, update sampling protocols
  - Finalize funding sources for sampling
  - Begin identifying/investigating “Special Projects”
    - Small scale pilots w/ INFA
    - Purdue Wildlife Specialist interested in vole research, impacts of soil health systems on wildlife (ex – cover crops on deer herd health)
- Distribute 2014 IASWCD Resolution FAQs
- General Planning
  - Set date/location for CCSI Annual Meeting
  - Set date/location for CCSI Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
  - Strategic Planning
    - Secure funding to hire facilitator
    - Develop list of potential participants – both pre-meeting and live meeting.
    - Set potential date(s) and location(s) for strategic planning meeting

- Target “CCSI Assistance” - Work w/ DSSs and use past event information to identify 3-4 SWCDs in each region that have not been very active, but are willing to work w/ CCSI to advance soil health systems adoption. Use CCSI as means to build capacity

### December Goal Status

- 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  
*Currently working through available dates. May push back into Feb / March*
  - ✓ Set-up farmer ride-alongs / shop tours for January and February
    - *Agronomist to work on planter set-up w/ AJ Adkins, NTM Ag/Dawn Biologic*
    - *Agronomist, Program Manager to spend a day w/ Rulon’s or Roger Wenning while installing tile.*
- 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  
*One speaker left to “book”*
  - Identify 3-4 locations/partners for Northern Indiana manure management workshops.
  - Finalize pilot training dates/locations/agendas with LaCrosse Seed.  
*Proposal submitted to LaCrosse – content and costs*
  - Identify potential wildlife winter meetings (NWTF, Pheasants forever) interested in soil health speaker – increase landowner, non-farmer outreach.
    - *Connected w/ Quality Deer Management chapters in Indiana*
    - *Speakers lined up*
- Communications
  - ✓ Press release for Agronomist
  - ✓ Cooperative Communications – developing materials, monthly focus subjects  
*Calendar of focus topics set through June 2017*
  - ✓ 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 a list-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
  - ✓ Complete biomass, soil ammonium and nitrate sampling
  - ✓ Target 30% collection of 2016 farmer inputs



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- ✓ 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

### Meetings / Visits / Appearances

#### Past

- 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, A, PM)
- CTIC Conservation in Action Tour Planning Meeting, Dec 12 – Indy (D)
- Roy Ballard – Extension / SARE partnerships, Dec 15 – Greenfield (CM)
- Switzerland County High Tunnel Workshop, Dec 15 - Vevay (PM)
- IASWCD Board of Directors, Dec 16 – (D)
- Xerces Farming with Beneficial Insects, Dec 16 - Indy (PM, A)
- Starkey’s Annual Planter Workshop, Dec 20 – Brownsburg (D, A, PM)

#### Upcoming through Jan 31

- INFA Winter Meeting, Jan 5 – Lebanon (D, A, PM)
- National NoTill Conference, Jan 10-13 – St Louis (D, A, PM)
- Ft Wayne Farm Show, Jan 17 – Ft Wayne (A, PM)
- INFA Winter Meeting, Jan 18 – Scottsburg (D)
- SSCB, Jan 22 – Indy (D, A, PM, CM)
- IASWCD Annual Meeting, Jan 23-24 – Indy (D, A, PM, CM)
- INFA Winter Meeting, Jan 26 – Greensburg (D)
- Annual Southern Region Soil Health Workshop, Jan 31 - Salem (D)
- INFA Winter Meeting, Jan 31 – Muncie (PM)

(D) = Director

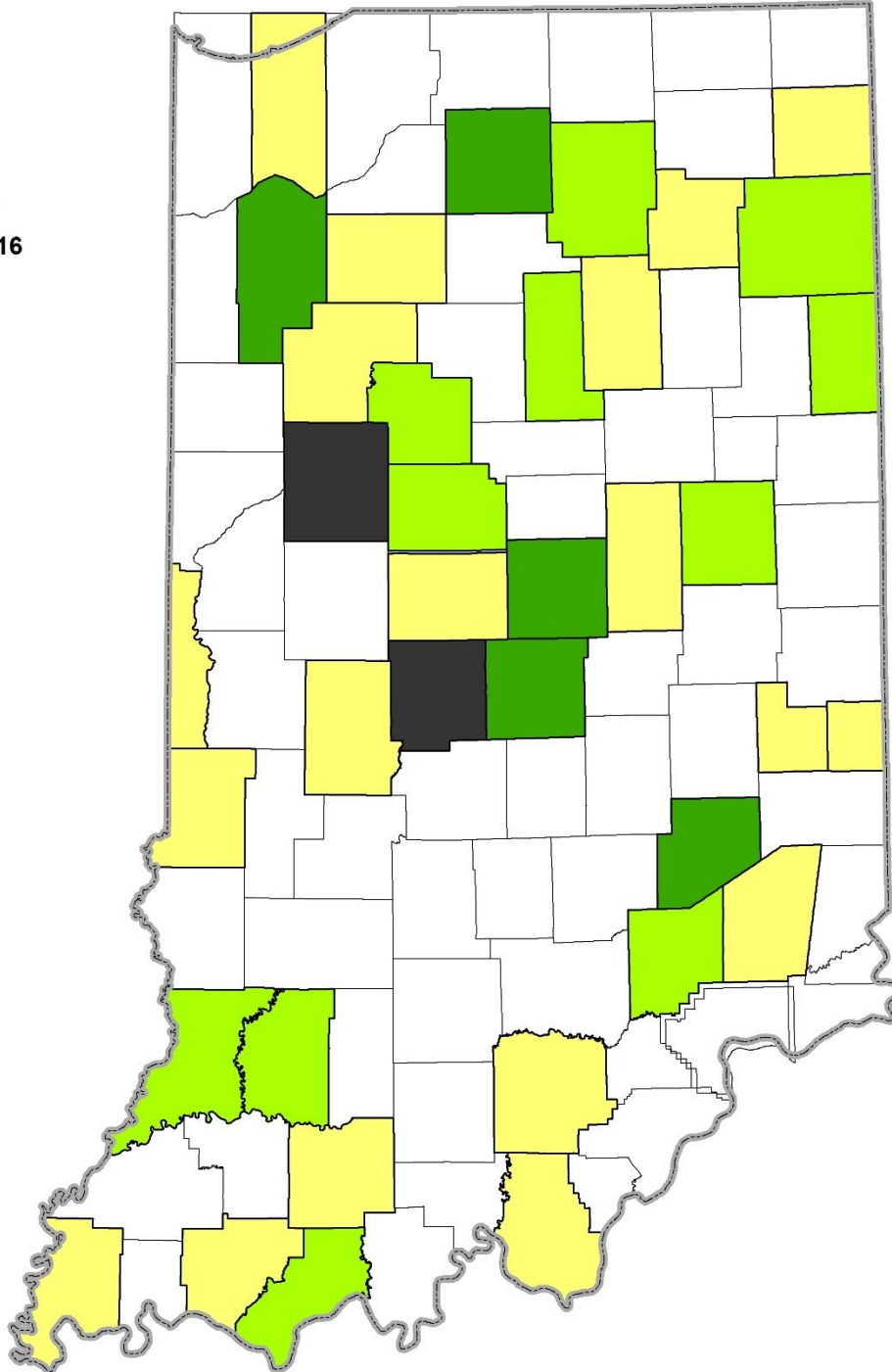
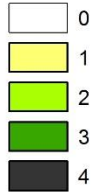
(CM) = Communications Manager

(PM) = Program Manager

(A) = Agronomist

Legend

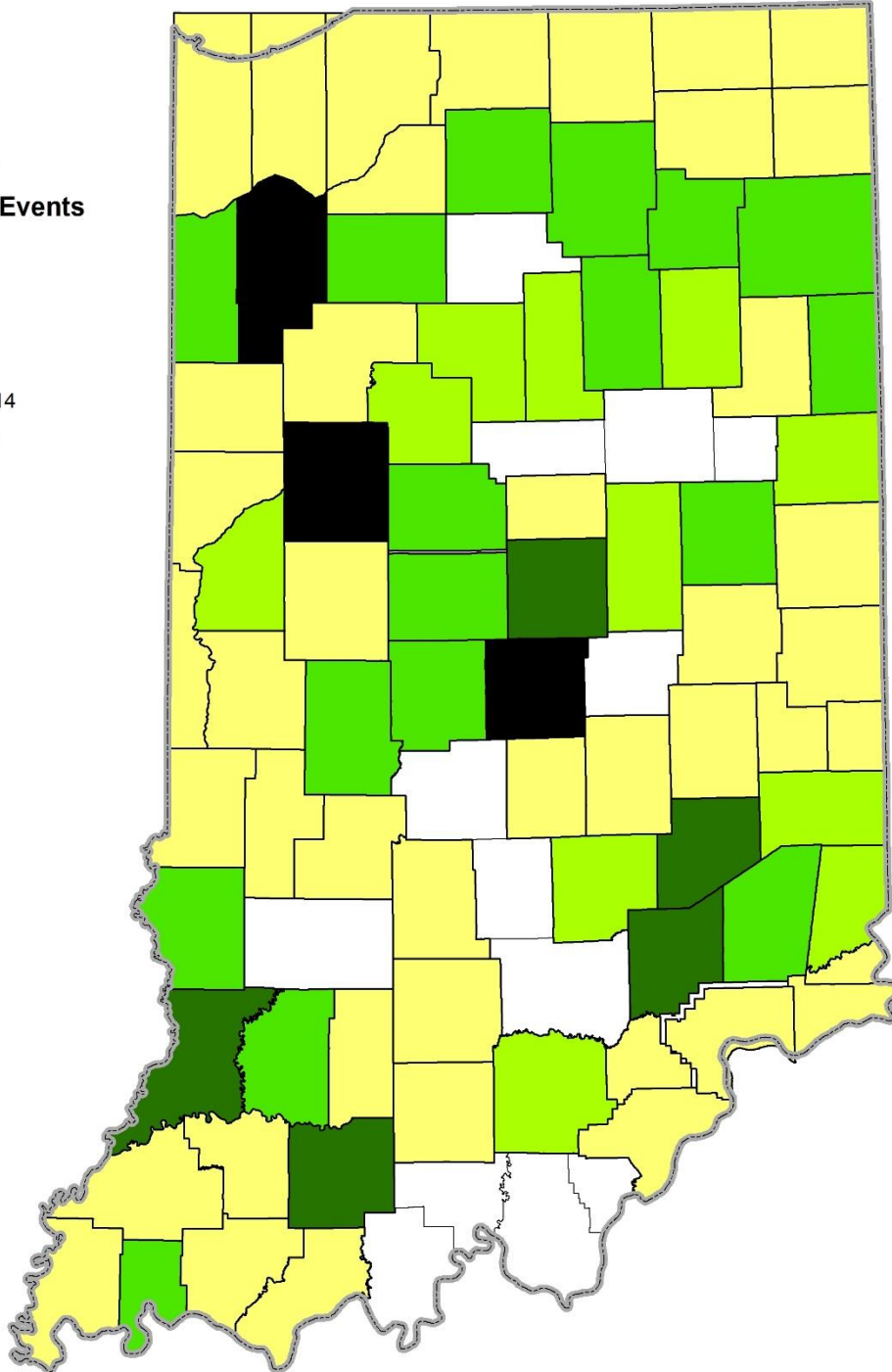
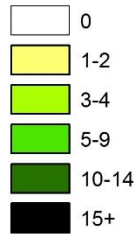
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*2016 CCSI / CCSI-Assisted Event Locations (64 events)*

**Legend**

**2011-16 Events**



*2011-2016 CCSI/CCSI Assisted Event Locations*