



Date Range: April 1-30, 2017

Key Accomplishments

- Sampling training completed
- 2017 CCSI-SARE Core Cover Crops and Core Soil Health Systems training completed; Post-event surveys indicated participants felt they were excellent workshops
- NE Urban Soil Health Training for ICP Employees completed
- Provided sponsorship for Jasper-Newton SWCD “Road Trip” to Dave Brandt Field Day
- Secured speakers for Indiana Water Resources Symposium
 - Dr Christian Krupke – Transportability of Neonicotinoids and the effects on Benthic Macroinvertebrates
 - Dr. Shalamar Armstrong – Nitrogen Management and Cover Crop Impacts on Water Quality and Agronomics
- Newsletter article on CTIC-SARE Cover Crop Survey created and distributed across ICP
- CCSI now listed as a Contributing Partner on Women4theLand initiative
- ICP-IFB-ACI launch meeting for SE Soil Health – Retailer Outreach Event
- Soil Health Initiative Outreach and Communication Committee teleconferences commenced
- Prospectus developed by Purdue and Iowa State wildlife biologists to help secure funding for research on wildlife interactions with cover crops – including vole pressures
- Facilitators Strategic Planning interviewed, proposals received and selections made,
- First Draft Strategic Planning Interview and Meeting participant lists

Goals through May 31

- Strategic Planning
 - Execute Contract with Facilitator
 - Finalize Interview and Meeting Participant Lists; Distribute Invitations
 - Launch On-line Survey
 - Launch Telephone Surveys with assistance of NRCS, TNC and other partner staff
 - Set Meeting Date (late June / Early July)
- Training / Workshops
 - CCSI-SARE Advanced Cover Crops – Specialty Crop Track
 - One training = labor intensive; One training = highly mechanized
 - Complete speaker and facilities “booking”, includes Steve Groff for mechanized training
 - Develop Flyers and Registration
 - CCSI-SARE Advanced Soil Health Systems – Commodity Crop Track: “Pro Tour” with Dr Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, and Blake Vince
 - Topic: Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events
 - Work w/ SWCS for cross-promotional event
 - Work on potential for State Fair-based event
 - Greater Wabash RC&D – Help Secure Keynote Speaker

- Prime Farmland Team – Help secure soils / soil health speaker(s)
- SE ICP-IFB-ACI Ag Retailer Event – Help Secure Soil Health Systems Speaker(s)
- Gibson Co SWCD – Review options with board and staff to develop Cover Crop Support Roundtables
- Continue role on planning committees (D) for CTIC Conservation in Action Tour (Sept) and SWCS-Buffer Cover Crops Conference (Dec)
- Begin coordination efforts for TNC-Coke Cover Crops ‘mini-project’, including outreach to next-level/early majority farmers and support for recipients of cost-share.
- Communications
 - Work on media package: interview Mike Shuter, video of rolling cover crops; create social media package, articles, gifs
 - First Draft CCSI monthly newsletter layout and deployment
 - Research / Develop article on split application of N and sidedressing
 - Begin implementing social media calendar, following daily “themes”
 - Begin work with NRCS, ISDA, Purdue, Corn/Soy on Tips and Tricks of communicating soil health input costs with lenders: video, podcast, factsheets
- Research
 - Reach out to INFA, others regarding “special projects” – Incubator-type on-farm trials in areas such as cover crops and weed suppression and cover crops and SCN suppression
 - Coordinate ride-a-long opportunities for Purdue Researchers with top farmers
 - Coordinate quality no-till planting for Purdue Researchers
 - Coordinate meetings / teleconferences with Purdue/Iowa State Wildlife Biologists and Potential Funders
 - Develop prospectus for project linking nutrient density of grains produced in a soil health system to livestock producer/integrator needs.
- Other
 - Coordinate ride-a-longs for planting
 - Continue work with Sherry Fulk-Bringman on potential project to collect, process, and preserve soil monoliths – and house throughout the state with ag educators.

Status of April Goals

- Training / Workshops
 - ✓ Assist in coordination details of learning circles for Women 4 the Land
 - Continue work with DSS’s on assessing level of participation of districts and further actions to be taken to develop those relationships. *This work continues*
 - ✓ Identify 3-4 locations across northern Indiana for a series of workshops on Manure Management. *These efforts will be re-routed into a newly funded CCSI-SARE training project that will combine a series of webinars with facilitated discussions*
 - ✓ Assist Hamilton/Tipton counties on speaker for winter soil health classes
 - ✓ Core cover crops (April 4, 6) and core soil health systems (April 11, 13) trainings
- Communications
 - ✓ Continue to clean/update webpage
 - ✓ Continue collection of cover crop photos at Boone Co demo plots and Mike Shuter
 - Newsletter articles

- ✓ April / May - Sidedress; Cover Crop Survey
- ✓ Begin testing farmer forum (down to XenForo and V Bulletin)
- Research
 - ✓ Week of the 24th Helping graduate student run water retention samples for his research (supervising the use of the expensive equipment, time commitment is short periods but over several days)
- Other
 - Ride-alongs for planting and equipment setup *Mostly delayed due to weather*
 - Agronomist CCA credentials paperwork (exam completed / passed) *Work continues*

Meetings / Visits / Appearances

Past

- April 4 – CCSI-SARE Core Cover Crops – W Lafayette – 25 (A, PM, D)
- April 5 – NW Sampling Team Training – 4 (A, PM)
- April 6 – CCSI-SARE Core Cover Crops – Columbia City – 15 (A, CM, D)
- April 11 – CCSI-SARE Core Soil Health Systems – Butlerville – 28 (A, CM, D)
- April 11 – NRCS New Employee Training, 13 (PM)
- April 12 – VUJC Tour (A, PM)
- April 13 – CCSI-SARE Core Soil Health Systems – Jasper – 15 (A, PM, D)
- April 18 – Purdue Veterans Training (A)
- April 19 – SARE Planning Committee – Noblesville
- April 20 – SE SWCD Region Meeting – Jennings County, 18 (PM)
- April 24 – IASWCD Annual Conference Planning – Indianapolis – 15 (CM, PM)
- April 25 – NMSH Task Force – Indianapolis
- April 25 - Working w/ Small Farms – Rochester – 22 (PM)
- April 26 – IFB Retailer Committee – Salem

Upcoming through May 31

- May 2 – Diversified Farming and Food Systems, W. Lafayette (A)
- May 5 - Communications Partners Meeting – Indianapolis (CM, D)
- May 16 – CCSI-SARE Presentation and Media Skills Training, Noblesville (A, D)
- May 18 – US State Dept Kazakhstan Delegation on Soil Health (D)
- May 17 – Jasper Co SWCD Fall Tour Planning Meeting (PM)
- May 23 – SW SWCD Regional Staff Meeting (PM)
- May 24 – SW NRCS Area Meeting (A, D, CM, PM)
- Ride-a-Longs (Delayed from April)
 - Agronomist w/ AJ Adkins, Dan DeSutter
 - Communications Manager w/ Mike Werling
 - Program Manager w/ Cameron Mills

(D) = Director

(CM) = Communications Manager

(PM) = Program Manager

(A) = Agronomist