



**Date Range:** March 1-31, 2017

## **Key Accomplishments**

- Facebook Live – Successful 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Pilot for live-streaming events/presentations with opportunity for “questions from the ‘net”
- Successful Pilot Retailer Trainings with LaCrosse Seed
- MCCC (MI) Presentation highlighting CCSI/Indiana partnerships’ success with cover crop adoption

## **Goals Through April 30**

- Strategic Planning
- 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.
  - Identify 3-4 locations across northern Indiana for a series of workshops on Manure Management.
  - 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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
  - Agronomist CCA credentials paperwork (exam completed / passed)

## **Goals Through March 31**

- Strategic Planning
  - Finalize Planner Selection
  - ✓ Meet w/ TNC Director of Philanthropy to discuss funding plans
  - ✓ Meet w/ TNC facilitator
  - Location, Date, Participants for planning meeting
- Training / Workshops

- Follow up w/ MACD re presentation at June meeting – partnerships and infrastructure to advance cover crops and soil health.
- ✓ Follow up on potential partnership w/ NWF on Presentation and Media Skills
- Finalize workshop details:
  - ✓ April 4, 6 Core Cover Crops
  - ✓ April 11, 13 Core Soil Health Systems
    - May 17 NoTill Goof Plots
    - May 19 Presentation and Media Skills
- Finalize agendas and potential speakers for Advanced Cover Crops – Specialty Crop Track (June)
 

*Draft agendas complete; need final details on speakers and locations*
- ✓ Finalize Ray Weil as speaker for Greater Wabash RCD and Rulon Peer Network meetings
 

*Weil unavailable; contacting / booking Joel Gruver as an alternative for the Greater Wabash event*
- Communications
  - Launch mass-texting pilot
 

*Pushed back to spring – compatibility and pricing issues.*
  - Investigate use of trail cam or similar to develop time-lapse video of field(s) managed for soil health.
 

*Potential locations identified. Camera brands require review.*
  - Publish 4R Nutrient Stewardship article for conservation partners use
 

*Draft completed; Tracking down quote before pushing out.*
  - ✓ Update CCSI Home Page, Events Page
  - ✓ Flyers for CCSI-SARE trainings, update 2017 Training brochure
- Research
  - Connect w/ John Fulton, OSU; Sarah Noggle, OSU Extension; and Bob Nielsen on their project to refine research data collection with precision ag equipment and software.
  - “Special Projects”
    - Coordinate w/ INFA and ISDA staff on cover crop + weed suppression; cover crop + SCN suppression pilots
    - ✓ SARE Grad Student Grants – identify and support potential grad student work
- Other
  - ✓ Develop budget and strategy to collect soil monoliths from across Indiana
  - ✓ SARE Professional Development Project grant submittal. Develop a testing system to gauge comprehension of soil health practices, systems, and concepts. The test(s) would help us define knowledge gaps – perhaps by region, agency, even job title. This would help us refine trainings – whether CCSI-SARE, in-house, or other platforms
 

*After review, decided NOT to apply for this SARE grant, but to better plan and develop testing system that would work across CCA and NRCS National Soil Health Division requirements.*

## Meetings / Visits / Appearances

### Past (attendees estimated)

- Mar 3 – VUJC / Hoorman FBLive – Jasper (CM), 59
- Mar 9 CCSI Sampling Meeting – North Vernon (A, PM)

- Mar 9 LaCrosse Training – Huntingburg, 15 (D)
- Mar 10 LaCrosse Training – Richmond, 20 (D)
- Mar 10 CCSI Sampling Meeting – Vincennes (A, PM), 5
- Mar 13-15 – Midwest Cover Crops Council – Grand Rapids, MI, 100 (D, A, Scott)
- Mar 16 NW SWCD Region Meeting - Delphi (PM), 20
- Mar 22 NE SWCD Region Meeting (PM)
- INField Advantage
  - Mar 7 (A) – Parke, 10
  - Mar 7 (A) – Covington, 13
  - Mar 8 (A) – Greencastle, 23
  - Mar 8 (A) – Stilesville, 1
  - Mar 9 (A) – Noblesville, 15

**Upcoming through April 30**

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