

## Highlights

### Soil Health PARP Topic

Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems – by Hans Schmitz (SA), Ann Kline, Mathias Ingle, Ashley Adair and Matt Pearson is being developed and is in draft status.

### Soil Health Demonstration Kits

- Rainfall Infiltration kits were assembled by Pike County FFA Earthteam Volunteers and have been distributed to all 92 counties
- Survey to assess kit replacement needs and staff training needs is ready for deployment.

### November 30: CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Training – Economics of Soil Health

- Training has been designed to go beyond typical annual returns on investments presentations. Topics will include capitalization and marketing opportunities as well as insights from farm managers and ag lenders.
- Speakers and panelists include:
  - Alan Weber, Co-author of SARE Cover Crop Economics
  - Pat Karst, Vice-president Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management
  - Brenda Sermersheim, Vice-president of Agricultural Banking – German American Bank
  - Ken Rulon, Rulon Enterprises
  - Aaron Clark, Cloverleaf Farms
  - DeSutter Farms representative TBA
- Register: <https://bit.ly/CCSI-Economics23>

## 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.*

- 09/07 Jim Moseley (NA)
- 09/11 Mike Shuter (D)
- 09/11 Roger Wenning (D)
- 09/13 Mike Norman (NEPM)
- 09/14 Jimmy Emmons, Rick Clark, Loran Steinlage (D)
- 09/18 Roger Strasburger (NA)
- 09/19 Tom Rudolph (SA)
- 09/25 Mark Kingma (NA)
- 09/25 Bob Klemp (NA)
- 09/25 Jim Moseley (D)
- 09/25 Mark Legan (D)

## **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)

- 09/12 Fair Oaks Dairy – Silage Chopping (NWPM)
- 09/15 Putnam Co Farmer – seeding cover crops w/ drone (NA)
- 09/28 SW IN farmer newer to cover crops + no-till (SWPM)

## **Farmer Influencers**

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

- 09/14 Walter Lynn (D)
- 09/22 Barry Fisher (D)

## **2. Presentations**

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

- 09/06 – AGRY 105 Classes, West Lafayette, “No-Till Plots and Soil Health Diagnostics” (SA) (59 attendees)
- 09/11 – Gibson County Master Gardener Training, Princeton, “Plant Science” (SA) (10 attendees)
- 09/14 – Arrowhead RC&D River Expedition, Winamac – watershed presentation (NA) 24 attendees
- 09/16 Newton County SWCD, Morocco Wildlife and Cover Crop – soil pit and cover crops (NA), 20 attendees
- 09/20 Marshall / St Joe SWCD Cover Crop Workshop, Nappanee – soil pit (NA), 12 attendees
- 09/25 – Gibson County Master Gardener Training, Princeton, “Plant Disease Diagnostics” (SA) (8 attendees)
- 09/22 Putnam County Natural Resource field day, Greencastle (NA) 400 attendees
- Webinar Host and Moderator (not presenter) 09/28 – Indiana-Illinois Climate Series, Virtual, “Forest Ecology and Climate Change” (SA) (19 attendees)
- 09/29 – TNC New Staff Training, Mt. Vernon, “CCSI and Purdue Extension as a Resource”(SA) (9 attendees)

## **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)

Workshops Completed

- 09/06 Roemke Farms Field Day, Harlan. 206 attendees
- 09/06 Porter County Field Day, 75 attendees
- 09/12 Pollinator Workshop, Newburgh, 94 attendees
- 09/14 Arrowhead RCD River Expedition, 24 attendees
- 09/16 Newton County SWCD – Wildlife and Cover Crops, 20 attendees
- 09/19 Soil Fertility Workshop, virtual, 39 attendees
- 09/20 Marshall / St. Joe Cover Crop Workshop, Nappanee, 12 attendees

- 09/22 Putnam County Schools Soils Field Day, 400

Workshops in Progress:

- 10/05 Bale Grazing Workshop, Madison
- 10/06 Bale Grazing Workshop, Dubois
- 10/26 Women4theLand, Gibson County
- 10/20 Monroe/Brown Field Day
- 10/30 UAV Workshop
- 10/31 Tindley School Grain Farm Class
- 11/04 – Sand County Foundation Event
- 11/14 Dubois County event
- 11/15 Pike County Field Day
- 11/29 Regional Ag Forum, Princeton
- 11/27 Porter County PARP
- 12/19 Grant County PARP
- December – AGree Farmer Mentoring
- 01/08-09 IASWCD Annual Conference
- 01/09-12 National No Till Conference
- 03/2024 West Boggs Soil Health Event
- 08/09-10/2024 Manure Management Workshop
- 2021 – 23 – Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)
- 2024 – Ray Archuleta – Cass, Miami, and Fulton Counties
- November 2024 – Spencer County SWCD

**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

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Trainings in Progress:

- 11/14 MCCC Cover Crop Training
- 11/17 ANR Retreat – Soil Health Demos
- Soil Health Signature Program Curriculum Development – submitted to reviewers
- Soil Health PARP Regulatory Topic Development

**Professional Development Opportunities**

*Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.*

*Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills*

Completed Trainings:

- 09/05 Engaging New Audiences, Madison, 19 attendees
- 09/07 Engaging New Audiences, Lynnville, 15 attendees
- 09/19 Engaging New Audiences, Rensselaer, 14 attendees
- 09/21 Engaging New Audiences, Ft Wayne, 20 attendees

### Trainings in Progress

- 11/28 Conservation Staff Training with Adam Daugherty, Coffee Co TN NRCS
- 11/30 – CCSI-SARE Continuing Education: Economics of Soil Health

#### **4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships**

Monthly Targets: 2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NWPM, NEPM, SWPM, SEPM)

- Mondays – US Drought Monitor Coordinating Calls (SA)
- 09/05 – Allen Co Extension (NEPM)
- 09/06 – ANR Monthly Update (SA)
- 09/07 – LaGrange Co Extension (NEPM)
- 09/07 – LaGrange SWCD and NRCS (NEPM)
- 09/08 – Purdue Mesonet and State Climate Office Coordination Meeting (SA)
- 09/08 – Jasper County SWCD Cover Crop Seeding day (NA)
- 09/11 – Purdue on the Farm Operations Team Meeting (SA, NA)
- 09/12 – Purdue Extension Field Crops Conference Call (SA)
- 09/13 – National Extension Climate Initiative Executive Committee Meeting (SA)
- 09/13 - NEPAC Field Day (NA)
- 09/13 – SW Soil Health Team meeting (SWPM)
- 09/15 – Newton County SWCD & NRCS (NWPM)
- 09/15 – SARE Advisory Council Meeting (SA)
- 09/18 – NE NRCS Area Meeting (NEPM)
- 09/18 and 19 – tech test and electronic packet delivery for SSCB (D)
- 09/18 – SSCB
- 09/19 – NE Soil Health Team meeting (NEPM)
- 09/21 – Midwest Climate Hub “Midwest Ag Climate Team” Meeting (SA)
- 09/25 – CCSI Southern Regional Teleconference (D, SA, SEPM, SWPM)
- 09/25 – CCSI Northern Teleconference (D, NA, NEPM, NWPM)
- 09/25 – Purdue Extension Agronomy Meeting (SA)
- 09/26 – NW NRCS Area Meeting (NWPM)
- 09/29 – TNC New Staff (SWPM)
- 09/29 – IASWCD Board of Directors (D)

### **G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication**

#### **1. Marketing and 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:

- Podcasts
  - Ray McCormick, SW Indiana Farmer, and Phil Neeham, Needham Ag – *Combines, Crop Residue, and Cover Crops* -The importance of combine adjustments and seeding cover crops with a combine.
  - (Recorded) Barry Fisher, Fisher Soil Health, and John Pike, Pike Ag LLC – *Bio Strip-tilling with Cover Crops* – Seeding a combination of winter-killed + overwintering cover crops to provide a planter ready “strip-tilled” field and the advantage they have seen.

- Social Media
  - Facebook: 3421 reach, 746 followers
  - Instagram: 115 reach, 313 followers
  - LinkedIn: building presence as replacement for Twitter
- Website: 715 users, 528 sessions

Completed Materials:

Materials in Progress:

- Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems, by Hans Schmitz, Ann Kline, Mathias Ingle, Ashley Adair, and Matt Pearson, OISC – PARP Regulatory Topic in draft status
- Indiana Prairie Farms Crops Corner (NA)
- Giant Ragweed and Waterhemp germination plots (NA)

#### **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 – Purdue University NIFA – Empowering Indiana’s Organic Farmers – Assessing Regional and Farm Scale Soil Health with a Farmer Network (Rui)
- Support – 1000 Farms Project, Ecdysis Foundation (Lundgren) – 2023 sampling coordination in W IN
- Purdue On The Farm led efforts:
  - Kingma – comparisons of weed pressures, disease presence, insects, and tissue samples
  - Scott – comparisons of three tillage situations for weed pressure, disease presence, insects, and tissue samples
  - Waterhemp and Giant Ragweed germination plots

**OTHER****Professional Development** (*Training for CCSI Staff, Certifications*)

- Coming Together for Racial Understanding, Friday cohort to wrap up in October (SA)
- Registered for Sustainability CCA Specialty Exam in November (SA)
- 9/18 Attended Agronomy Seminar "Topic: Advancing understanding and forecasting of soil organic matter dynamics to transform challenges into opportunities. (NA)
- 09/15 Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers training (SWPM)
- 09/19-21 Emerging Professionals Leadership Program – DC Fly-in (SEPM)
- 9/29 Rural Suicide webinar (NA)

**Other**

- Meeting with Logan Jenkins, Exec. Dir., Circular Ventures Lab, Evansville (SA)
- Meeting with Wabash Valley Resources, LLC at West Terre Haute plant (SA)
- Two virtual meetings with Chad Fiechter, Purdue Ag Econ, and one concept paper drafted (SA)
- Meeting with Daniel Poynter, Carbon Neutral Indiana (SA)
- Reviewer Training, National Adaptation Forum (SA)
- Manuscript reviewed for Crop, Forage, and Turfgrass Management (SA)