
Highlights

- Due to COVID-19 Outbreak, CCSI staff began working remotely;
 - The outbreak and partners responses/guidance are being monitored closely to determine next appropriate steps.
 - Staff have been working through WebEx, Skype and other platforms to gain familiarity and use for workshop planning meetings.
 - Program Managers reaching out to SWCDs and DSSs to better understand which counties are working remotely; how to best support outreach and communication needs.
 - Core Cover Crops and Core Soil Health Systems Trainings postponed.
-

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.

- 03/03 Blue-Sinking/Pasture Project Meeting – Explanation of how and why the Blue River watershed was chosen and discussion on past/current/future grazing of watershed.
- 03/04 Southern Indiana Grazing Conference (SPM)
- 03/06-07 – Small Farm Conference growers discussion
- 03/09 – Werling phone (D)

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)

- 03/09 – Childs phone (A)
- White River Co-op – Agronomist Plot discussions (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.

- Soil Health Careers discussions w/ Clinton/Carroll county farmer. (A)
- Explore potential cooperative project with ZeroFootprint (zerofootprint.org) for the Ft. Wayne area

4. Presentations

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

- 03/07 – “Soil Fertility Testing” at Small Farm Conference, 50 attendees (A)
- 03/18 – Clinton County Radio Ag Day “Cover Crop Panel” (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)*

Workshops Completed:

- 03/03 Pasture Project – Coordinating/Supporting Reg. Grazing in Blue-Sinking Watershed, Salem, approx. 20 attendees

Workshops Cancelled or Postponed:

- 3/17 Growing Green, Ft. Wayne Area, Cancelled
- 4/1 Upper Wabash River Field Day, Postponed
- 4/17 Morgan/Johnson FFA/Ag Youth Field Day, Trafalgar, Cancelled

Workshops in Progress:

- 4/24 Soil Health for Legislators, Pike County
- 5/1 Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council Workshop
- 6/5 Big Pine Field Day, Williamsport
- 6/13 Landowner Field Day, Tippecanoe County
- Summer 2020 SWCS Summer Mtg
- July (tent) – Ag 101
- 8/27 Soil Health Expo – Princeton.
- 8/28 - SE Area Event TBD with Adam Daugherty
- 11/17 – Spencer/Perry Workshop
- December 2020 - VUJC Field Day
- 2020 4H Sustainability Workshop
- Vigo Co Small Farm Program – TBD
- March 2021 Clay Co Soil Health Field Day
- Daviess Co – Soil Health Field Day, TBD 2021

2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

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

Foundational Soil Health Trainings / Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding of Soil Health Trainings Completed:

- 03/13 – Soil Health Bucket Training (A assist)

Trainings in Progress:

- POSTPONED 4/15 Core Cover Crops, Noblesville -
- POSTPONED 4/16 Core Soil Health Systems, Noblesville
- July (tent) Ag 101
- June or July Intro to Soil Health
- Aug 25-27 3-Day Soil Health Training

3. Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills

Trainings in Progress:

- Date TBD - Summer 2020 SWCS Summer Mtg
- Week of Sept 21 Advance Cover Crops (4 trainings, 1 in each region)

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- 03/04 – NE NRCS Area Meeting (NPM)
- 3/5 Adams Co SWCD (A)
- 3/6 Boone County SWCD/NRCS (NPM)
- 3/10 Monroe County SWCD (SPM)
- 3/10 WLEB Partners, Ft. Wayne (D)
- 3/12 PA No-Till Alliance and TNC WLEB, teleconference (D)
- 3/25 NE and NW Regional Teleconferences
- 3/30 SE and SW Regional Teleconferences

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.

- 03/04 – NE NRCS Area Meeting (NPM)

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:

- Blogs
 - Resiliency in a Time of Pandemic
- Podcasts:
 - Teaching the Next Generation of Farmers with Mike and Susan Brocksmith
 - A second line of podcasts focusing on specialty crop production is being developed with Liz Maynard, Purdue University

Materials in Progress:

- Blogs
 - Featured events / updates in response to COVID
 - Earth Day

3. Social Media

Use social media platforms to provide information about CCSI activities & accomplishments and soil health practices.

- Twitter: 40 Tweets; 18.8K impressions; 2 mentions; 65 profile visits; 9 new followers

G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

CCSI no longer leads research projects; CCSI provides connectivity between researchers and cooperators; potential research needs.

- IU SPEA/Ostrom Lab – SW Indiana Nitrate Loss Social Norms
- Soil Health Institute – Soil Health Systems and Economics, multiple projects
- Palatability of common cover crops to voles (*Microtus*) published in El Sevier Prieur and Swihart

OTHER

- 1/22 ACI Emerging Professionals Leadership Program (A)
- 1/27 Cover Crop Boot Camp WebEx (D) with No-Till on the Plains, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Soil Health Partnership, Sustainable Food Lab
- 2/11 ACI Emerging Professionals Leadership Program (A)
- 2/25 CCSI Oversight Committee – in-person meeting