

Highlights

- Following guidelines set by Gov. Holcomb, Purdue University, and USDA – CCSI staff began social distancing COB on March 13th. In-person meetings are expected to resume in July with size restrictions, commencing on July 9th with an event in Posey County. (See attached working copy of in-person event planning)
- **Alternative Outreach Delivery**
 - *Virtual Field Day Kits*
 - Based upon advice from Practical Farmers of Iowa, Virtual Field Day Kits are being assembled to support web-based field days and events. Kits include tri-pods, Bluetooth headsets and microphones, and smartphone/table adapters. They will be shipped to presenters/partners.
 - *Soil Health Training for Ag Retailers w/ IANA and TNC*

These trainings are being restructured into a series of smaller modules and videos that can be readily adapted to a specific groups' needs. Even after stay-at-home orders are lifted, shorter virtual trainings appear to be a better fit for this group.
 - *Women4theLand*

CCSI staff are working with Heather Bacher, W4tL Executive Director, to provide virtual platform support for Women's Learning Circles. This support may range from assisting attendees with log-in and navigation to assisting learning circle facilitators with technical support and chat room monitoring as needed.

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.

- 06/05 – Mike Shuter (D)
- 06/05 – Rick Clark (D)
- 06/05 – Dan DeSutter (A)

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)

- White River Co-op – Agronomist Plot discussions (A)
- Pumpkin Planting Closing Wheel Tests (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)

4. Presentations

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

- Virtual Core Trainings emcee and host (A)
- Equipment acquisition and setup for virtual demonstrations and footage capture (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 Cancelled or Postponed:

- 6/5 Big Pine Field Day, Williamsport, Postponed to 8/28
- 6/13 Landowner Field Day, Tippecanoe County, Postponed
- June 2020 SWCS Summer Field Day, Postponed
- June Advanced Soil Health Trainings w/ TNC, Postponed
- 2020 Soil Health Sustainability Workshop - cancelled

Workshops in Progress:

- 7/9 – Posey County Soil Health Breakfast
- July 2020 – Advanced Soil Health Trainings for Ag Retail w/ TNC
- Summer 2020 – Virtual Soil Health Trainings for Ag Retail w/ IANA and TNC
- 2020 SWCS Summer Field Day – *Postponed to Late October/Early November*
- August 2020- Virtual Wheat Field Day
- 8/27 Soil Health Expo, Princeton. Adam Daugherty withdrawn from speaking. Lloyd Murdoch confirmed
- 8/28 - SE Area Event – Adam Daugherty withdrawn from speaking. Event either to be postponed or revamped with another speaker
- 08/28 – Big Pine Field Day
- 11/17 – Spencer/Perry Workshop with Rick Clark and Wayne Fredericks
- December 2020 – VUJC Field Day
- Vigo Co Small Farm Program – TBD
- Soil Sampling 2.0
- March 2021 Clay Co Soil Health Field Day
- Daviess Co – Soil Health Field Day, TBD 2021
- SARE Livestock Integration Training

Other

- Practice session with partners such as W4tL in use of virtual platforms
- Sourcing of Virtual Field Day Kits

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

- 05/21, 05/28, 06/04 – Core Cover Crops and Soil Health Systems Virtual Trainings

Trainings in Progress:

- July Intro to Soil Health CANCELLED FOR 2020
- 08/25-27 3-Day Soil Health Training
 - To be adapted to hybrid training. 2 days virtual. 1 day live.
- August/September 2020 – Ag 101 with ISDA. Virtual Trainings for ICP staff
- October 2020 – Soil Sampling 2.0
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review
- Soil Health Nexus 3-Day Soil Health Training / In-service CANCELLED FOR 2020
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual

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:

- Week of Sept 21 Advanced Cover Crops (4 trainings, 1 in each region)
- Date TBD - Summer 2020 SWCS Summer Mtg POSTPONED TO OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- 06/10 – Virtual SE NRCS Area Meeting (SPM)
- 06/10 – Agronomy Extension Group Meeting (A)
- 06/23 – Virtual NW NRCS Area Meeting (NPM)
- 06/24 – NE, NW Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM, NPM)
- 06/29 – SE, SW Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM, NPM)

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.

- 06/24 – NE, NW Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM, NPM)
- 06/29 – SE, SW Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM, 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
 - National Pollinator Week
- Podcasts:

- Pollinator Strips: More than Bees and Butterflies (Christian Krupke and Rick Clark)
- *In production Better Pollination in Watermelon, Cantaloupe, Pumpkins, and Pickles* (Laura Ingwell, Elizabeth Long, Dennis Nowaskie)
- *In production: Harvesting Cover Crops for Forage (Baleage and Haylage)* with Keith Johnson and Greg Downing

Materials in Progress:

- Billboards – Continuation of billboard deployment and #LovINsoil campaign



- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (A)
- Soil Health Nexus Website Review (A)
- Facebook – Legacy Facebook page is being migrated into current platform standards to enable 'business' functions, improve usability
- Coordinated with Purdue Extension and Fulton Co SWCD to shoot drone footage of cover crop crimping (NPM)

G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

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

OTHER

- Zoom, WebEx platform / virtual meeting moderation practice (A, D, NPM, SPM)
- 06/25 – South Fork Wildcat Creek Steering Committee Meeting – Virtual Support (NPM)
- 06/25 – Browns Wonder – Sugar Creek Steering Committee Meeting – Virtual Support (NPM)
- SWCD Board Meeting Support (Teleconference Line, Zoom) – Laporte Co SWCD
- Agribusiness Council of Indiana EPLP postponed until 2021 (A)