



General Report June 2019

Highlights

- Northern Program Manager
 - Sheila Schroeder formally accepted position 6/5; 6/24
- Work with Purdue Ag Centers to seed cover crop plots, esp in failed test plots (A)
- Advanced Soil Health Systems Trainings sites set – focus on no-till planter set-up with Paul Jasa, UNL; and strip-till set up with AJ Adkins, NTM Ag Equipment. *Strip till set-up is new for training – this system is likely a more palatable system to conservative/pragmatic, conventionally-tilling farmers than no-till*
 - July 22 – SW Monroe City, Andy Like Farm
 - July 23 – SE Hope, Clouse Farm
 - July 24 – NE, Kendallville, Derek and Joyce Thompson Farm
 - July 25 – NW, Chalmers, Larry Yerck Farm
- 12 Soil Health events in progress
- Re-worked Prevented Planting / Crop Failure webpage to include links to Crop Insurance, General Decision Tools for Corn/Soy, General Cover Crop Considerations, Forage Management, Weed Management, Manure Use/Storage, Mental Health Resources.
- Podcast and supplements with Ben Wicker, IANA, and Allen Dean, NW Ohio Farmer/cover crop applicator on NASS conservation statistics and tillage/cover crops.
- Prevented Planting special Podcast with Scott Wohltman, American Seed Trade Association, LaCrosse Seed on cover crop seed supplies and crop insurance considerations.

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

Quarterly Target: 3-6 farm visits and/or listening session to help develop outreach topics and tactics. Use input to help LLPs develop workshops and field days .

- 6/27 – Document side-dress of manure with drone footage, still imagery (A)

2. Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers

Quarterly Target: INFA winter meetings as listening sessions; farmer connections for shop visits. Use input to help LLPs develop tools workshops and field days.

- 6/11 – Cover Crop and Tillage Transect results and communication strategies meeting w/ NRCS, ISDA, IASWCD, TNC, IANA (A)
- 6/17 – Teleconference with PAC superintendents re cover crop plots for 2019. (D)
- 6/24 – State Soil Health Team Meeting, Williamsport – beneficial insects emphasis (D, A, NPM)
- 6/26-27 – Master Farmer Tour, award dinner (D)

3. Farmer Influencers

Quarterly Targets: 2-4 LLPs develop their own list of influencers/influencer demographics, include influencer(s) as members. Continued work with W4tL, IANA and other influencer groups.

- 6/12-14 – 4H Sustainable Ag Conference, Lafayette – coordinate soil health farming scenarios from top farmers, lead session(s) 15 attendees (A)

G2. Local Level Partnership Support

1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership's efforts to deliver soil health messaging

Quarterly Target: Materially participate in / support average of 15 LLP Outreach Efforts

- Workshop Support (April Workshops)
 - i. 6/12-14 – 4H Sustainable Ag Conference, Lafayette – coordinate soil health farming scenarios from top farmers, lead session(s) 15 attendees
- Workshops in Progress
 - i. 7/31 – Annual Roger Wenning Field Day, coordinated w/ 8/1 SWCS training – featuring Chesapeake Bay farmer Trey Hill (SPM)
 - ii. 7/31 – Farmer Roundtable
 - iii. August 1 – Hoosier Chapter SWCS training, focus on planting green, Greensburg with Trey Hill, Chesapeake Bay farmer.
 - iv. 8/6-7 – Tri-State Soil Health Training (University of Illinois Led), Vincennes – logistical support (A, SPM, D)
 - v. 8/8 – Farmer-led / Small Group Soil Health Workshop, Vincennes – secure speakers, logistical support (A, SPM, D)
 - vi. 8/11 – Farmer led round-table, Vanderburgh county area
 - vii. 8/12 – Regional Ag Forum – Farmer-led, Big Creek Watershed – planning, secure speakers, logistical and promotional support, Haubstadt (SPM)
 - viii. August – cover crop field day, Scottsburg – planning support (SPM)
 - ix. 9/10 – Wabash and Grant County field day with Frank Gibbs (NPM, SPM, D)
 - x. 12/13 – Indiana Farm Bureau Convention, French Lick – speaker assistance (D)
 - xi. December (potential) – cover crop workshop, Ohio County (SPM)
 - xii. Winter 2020 – Turkey Manure Management, Daviess-Martin-Dubois area (SPM)

2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

Foundational Soil Health Trainings – complete for CY 2019

3. Professional Development Opportunities

Advanced Soil Health Trainings

- June Trainings
 - i. June 4 – 6: Soil Health for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health Training) , West Lafayette; 32 attendees
- Trainings in Progress
 - i. Week of July 22 – Advanced Soil Health Systems, 4 events focused on equipment set-up and modifications with Paul Jasa, University of Nebraska and AJ Adkins, NTM Ag.
 - a. July 22 SW - Monroe City
 - b. July 23 SE – Hope
 - c. July 24 NE – Kendallville
 - d. July 25 NW - Chalmers

- *Additional Technical Training*
 - i. 6/10 – NW Soil Health Team – Soils sampling
 - ii. Continued planning - ICP Soil Testing and Interpretation planning team, multiple locations (A)

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnership

Monthly Target: 4-6 LLP visits (PMs); use INFA grower meetings, SWCD Annual Meetings, IASWCD Annual Conference, NRCS Area Meetings to connect and promote CCSI. QUARTERLY TARGET MET JUNE
 District Technical Support / Visits

- i. 6/5 – SW Soil Health Team Meeting (SPM)
- ii. 6/20 – Using Native Warm Season Grasses for Grazing Clinic (SPM)
- iii. 6/24 – NW NRCS Area Meeting (D, NPM)
- iv. 6/26 – NE Technology Workshop Meeting

G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

1. Marketing Campaign / Strategies

- 6/4 – ICP Soil Health Communications Team Meeting – strategies to support, elevate messaging. Big focus on prevented planting needs – D, Santucci, W4tL, IASWCD, NRCS, IANA

2. Soil Health Messaging

- Soil Health Podcasts with Hoosier Ag Today
 - i. Cover Crop Seed Supplies and 2019 Crop Insurance – Scott Wohltman, ASTA and Lacrosse Seed
 - ii. Prevented plant webpage updated, released to ag media, ICP staff, social media. 1261 page views/656 unique users; Indiana Prairie Farmer, Hoosier Ag Today, Multiple local newspapers, multiple social media postings
- Soil Health Events Newsletters
 - i. 6/13 – Soil Health Events
- Social Media
 - i. Twitter: 67 tweets; 31.9K impressions; 18 new followers
 - ii. Facebook: 4,374 reach; 9,182 impressions

G4. Research

1. Current Obligations

- Continued data management coordination (A)

2. Collaboration

- 6/7 Meeting with vole researchers to verify selection of damage areas (A)

G5. Funding

General Organization

- 6/5 Sheila Schroeder officially accepted Northern Program Manager Position
- 6/24 – Sheila Schroeder on-boarding

- 6/8 – 16: Southern Program Manager Vacation