

Highlights

Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff

- Held June 27-29 in West Lafayette
- Included ½ day at Strasburger Farm
- 36 Attendees: *Solid* mix of SWCD, NRCS, Extension staff, plus watershed leaders, new ISDA staff and a couple from ag retail

Pilot National Training

- To be held August 8-9 at Clark Farms
- Working with NRCS to invite soil health specialists from across the US
- Jon Lundgren, Ecdysis will zoom into the event. Christian Krupke, Purdue will be on site for hands-on entomological activities.
- Plan is to pilot in Indiana, then repeat this type of training at farms in every ecoregion of the US.
- Future events will include invitations to Extension, SWCD, and others who work one-on-one with farmers.

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.

- 06/01 Jamie Scott / POTF (NA)
- 06/07 Dave Fisher (SA)
- 06/07 James and David McGaughey / POTF (NA)
- 06/07 Dan DeSutter (NA)
- 06/08 Pat Bittner – firefly video (SA)
- 06/16 Dan DeSutter – phone (D)
- 06/06 Pat Bittner – phone (D)
- 06/16 Kelly Cheesewright – phone (D)
- 06/16 Mark Kingma / POTF (NA)
- 06/20 Cameron Mills – phone (D)
- 06/20 Jamie Scott – phone (D)
- 06/20 Rick Clark – phone (D)
- 06/20 Loran Steinlage – phone (D)
- 06/21 Jim Moseley (D)
- 06/23 Ray McCormick (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)

- 04/11 Montgomery County Farmer – first year of no-till (NA)

1. Farmer Influencers

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

- 06/21 Dan Towery (D)
- 06/26 Finian Makepeace, Kiss the Ground (D)

2. Presentations

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

- 06/07 Impacts of Vegetation on Soil Drainage (NA), 35 attendees
- 06/07 National Extension Climate Professional Development Webinar, 35 participants (SA)
- 06/08 – Center for Energy Education Field Day, Franklin, IN, “Water Infiltration in Soils” (35 attendees) (SA)
- 06/15 – Cargill Cover Crop Field Day, West Lafayette, IN “Rainfall Effects on Soil Properties” (98 attendees) (SA, NA)
- 06/21 Soil Health Diagnostics, Pinney PAC, 24 attendees (NA)
- 06/26 North Central Climate Collaborative Webinar, 135 participants (SA)

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

- 06/04 The Watershed Foundation donor event, 67 attendees
- 06/07 Utility Scale Solar Workshop for Community Leaders, Jasper Co, 35 attendees
- 06/12-17 Jennings County Fair – Root Banners
- 06/15 Gibson SWCD/Purdue Extension – Event with field buffer/filter strip
- 06/21 Diagnostic Training at Pinney PAC, 24 attendees

Workshops in Progress:

- 07/13 Stueben County Legislative Tour
- 07/14-20 Adams County Fair – Root Banners
- 07/14-20 Randolph County Fair – Root Banners
- CANCELLED 07/18 Tippecanoe County
- 08/08 Improving Water Quality Through Farming, Kosciusko County
- 08/08-09 Pilot National Training
- 08/09 Roger Wenning Round Table
- 08/10 Roger Wenning Field Day
- 08/25 Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day
- 08/29 Pay Dirt cover crop workshop, Goshen
- 08/30 and 31 Manure Spill Demonstrations, WLEB and Kankakee
- 08/30 Bartholomew County PARP

- 08/31 Warren County
- 08/02 DeKalb County Agronomy Day
- 09/06 Roemke Farms Field Day, Harlan
- 09/06 Porter County
- November – Sand County Foundation Event
- 01/08-09 IASWCD Annual Conference
- 2021 – 23 – Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)
- The Watershed Foundation Summer Celebration
- 08/2024 Events with Ray Archuleta

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

- 06/27-29 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health) (36 attendees)

Trainings in Progress:

- 08/08-09 Pilot National Soil Health Training
- Soil Health Signature Program Curriculum Development
- 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:

Trainings in Progress

- 09/5, 7, 19, 21 Grow More – Engaging New Audiences

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)
- 06/01 Starke SWCD Board Meeting (NWPM)
- 06/01 Starke NRCS staff meet and greet (NWPM)
- 06/02 Purdue Mesonet and State Climate Office call (SA)
- 06/05 Southern CCSI Teleconference (all)
- 06/05 Northern CCSI Teleconference (all)
- 06/06 Randolph SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 06/06 Grant SWCD staff meet-n-greet (NEPM)
- 06/06 Kosciusko SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 06/09 ANR Leadership Team Meeting (SA)
- 06/12 Purdue On The Farm operations meeting (SA, NA)
- 06/13 Delaware SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)

- 06/13 Jasper NRCS staff meet-n-greet (NWPM)
- 06/15 Gibson SWCD Board Meeting (SWPM)
- 06/19 DeKalb SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 06/20 Huntington SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 06/20 S-NE IDEA Region Meeting (NEPM)

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.

- June 1 - Events Newsletter; 2341 delivered; 42% open rate; 12% click rate
- June 15 – Events Newsletter; 2324 delivered; 31% open rate; 6% click rate

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:

- Podcasts
 - Mark Kingma, NW Indiana Farmer, and Betsy Bower, Ceres Solutions – Impacts of Soil Health Systems on Irrigation Efficiency
 - (Recorded) Ray McCormick, SW Indiana Farmer, and Phil Neeham, Needham Ag – The importance of combine adjustments and seeding cover crops with a combine
 - (Scheduling) Pat Bittner + father, Aaron Krueger + grandfather. How the older generation supported transition to soil health systems
- Social Media
 - Twitter (only automated postings as platform reorganizes)
 - Facebook: 972 reach, 713 followers
 - Instagram: 109 reach, 290 followers
 - LinkedIn: building presence as replacement for Twitter
- Website: 421 users, 594 sessions

Completed Materials:

- HO-203, Effect of Cold Weather on Horticultural Plants in Indiana, submitted to AgComm for formatting (SA)

Materials in Progress:

- Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems, by Hans Schmitz and Matt Pearson, OISC

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)

OTHER

Professional Development:

- 06/06 Current Look at Climate Change and Water in Indiana (NWPM)
- 06/12 Pollinator Training for ICP staff (NEPM)
- 06/14 SWCS Chapter Leadership Training (NWPM, NEPM, SWPM)
- 06/22 Conservation Matters: The Role of Climate-Smart Agriculture in Conservation (NWPM, SWPM)
- 06/26 Climate Action Webinar (SEPM)
- 06/28 SWPAC Field Day (SWPM)

Other:

- 06/15 Meridian Institute / Agree – Potential Farmer-led Group project in Indiana (D, NWPM)
- 06/19 Indiana Climate Smart Ag / Solutions From The Land (D)
- 06/20 IASWCD Strategic Planning (D)
- 06/21 Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape potential RCPP (D)
- <https://www.14news.com/2023/06/19/tri-state-farmers-deal-with-abnormally-dry-conditions/>
- <https://www.tristatehomepage.com/news/steady-rains-bring-relief-to-tri-state-farmers/>
- <https://extension.purdue.edu/news/2023/05/wetter-summer-predicted-for-indiana.html>
- Judged Essay contest for Indiana FFA Convention (SA)