

## Highlights

### Soil Health Training for CCSI and ICP Staff

- 05/18 Training led by Barry Fisher for CCSI staff, Tashina Lahr-Manifold, and Tara Wessler. Focus was on collecting samples for demonstrations, tips for conducting demonstrations.

## 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.*

- 05/09 Craig Smith ride-along (Kingma Farms) (NWPM)
- 05/10 Jamie Scott (NA)
- 05/11 Matt Harsh Ride-along (NEPM)
- 05/16 Byron Seeds Plot Walkthrough (D, SA)
- 05/18 James and David McGaughey (NA)
- 05/24 Greg and Jacob Rowland farm visit (SEPM)
- 05/30 Mark Kingma (NA)

### 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)*

- 05/17 Joe McCutchan farm visit – first year no-till (NA)
- 05/23 Joe Rude ride-along (NEPM)
- 05/24 Casey Jones (SEPM)
- 05/24 Posey County first time no-till (SWPM)

### 1. Farmer Influencers

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

- 05/18 Training at Barry Fisher's (NA, SA, NWPM, NEPM, SWPM)
- 05/29 Kevin Schmitt, Triple S Ag (SA)

### 2. Presentations

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

- 05/09 – Southwest Indiana Master Gardener Association General Meeting, Evansville, IN “CoCoRaHS and Climate” (115 attendees) (SA)
- 05/11 – Clay County Nature Day, Brazil, IN, “Climate Change in Indiana” (324 attendees) (SA)

- 05/25 – Midwestern Regional Climate Center State Climatologist Workshop, West Lafayette, IN “Extension Climate Services” (13 attendees) (SA)
- 05/31 Cargill Growers Meeting – Basics of Getting Started in No-till (37 attendees) (NA)

## **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

- 05/03 National Extension Climate Initiative Professional Development Webinar (13 participants)
- 05/19 Hoosier Chapter SWCS, Nashville (20 attendees)
- 05/25 Illinois/Indiana Climate Webinar (10 participants)
- 05/31 Cargill Farmer Meeting, Valparaiso (37 attendees)

#### Workshops in Progress:

- 06/07 Utility Scale Solar Workshop for Community Leaders, Jasper Co
- 06/15 Cargill Employee Training
- 06/15 Gibson SWCD/Purdue Extension – Event with field buffer/filter strip
- 06/21 Diagnostic Training at Pinney PAC
- 07/13 Stueben County Legislative Tour
- 07/14-20 Adams County Fair – Root Banners
- 07/14-20 Randolph County Fair – Root Bannters
- 07/18 Tippecanoe County
- 08/08 Improving Water Quality Through Farming, Kosciusko County
- 08/10 Roger Wenning Field Day
- 08/25 Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day
- 08/30 and 31 Manure Spill Demonstrations, WLEB and Kankakee
- 08/02 DeKalb County Agronomy Day
- 09/06 Roemke Farms Field Day, Harlan
- 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

- 04/04, 18, 25 (virtual) 04/11 (in-person) CCSI-SARE Fundamentals of Soil Health Series; 46, 40, 36, and 22 participants respectively

#### Trainings in Progress:

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

- 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:

- 05/18 CCSI Training Team – Fisher Farm, Putnam Co

#### 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)*

- 05/02 Adams SWCD (NEPM)
- 05/04 IDEA NE Region Meeting (NEPM)
- 05/09 Extension Field Crops Team Conference Call (SA, NA)
- 05/09 White County SWCD Board Meeting (NWPM)
- 05/09 Meet & Greet Katelyn Smith, White Co SWCD (NWPM)
- 05/09 Wells SWCD (NEPM)
- 05/10 Warren County SWCD Board Meeting (NWPM)
- 05/10 Meet & Greet Julie Clark, Warren Co SWCD (NWPM)
- 05/10 Marshall SWCD (NEPM)
- 05/12 IDEA SW Region Meeting (SWPM)
- 05/15 State Soil Health Team Meeting (D, NWPM, NEPM, SWPM, SEPM)
- 05/16 SSCB (D)
- 05/19 and 30 Warrick SWCD mini-grant assistance (SWPM)
- 05/22 Purdue Agronomy Extension Meeting (NA)
- 05/23 NW NRCS area meeting (NWPM)
- 05/23 Extension Field Crops Conference Call (SA, NA)
- 05/24 NE Soil Health Team Meeting (NEPM)
- 05/25 Southwest Soil Health Team Meeting (SWPM)
- 05/26 Posey SWCD mini-grant assistance (SWPM)
- 05/31 Blackford SWCD (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.*

- May 1 - Events Newsletter; 2317 delivered; 55% open rate; 6% click rate
- May 15 – Events Newsletter; 1527 delivered; 46% 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
  - Bryan Overstreet, Hans Schmitz CCSI / Purdue on the Farm and Dan Quinn Purdue University – Purdue on the Farm and Soil Health
  - (Recorded) 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
- Social Media
  - Twitter (only automated postings as platform reorganizes)
  - Facebook: 1221 reach, 713 followers
  - Instagram: 290 followers
  - LinkedIn: building presence as replacement for Twitter
- Website: 467 users, 701 visits

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
- Full scale Root Project banners ordered – 7 sets total: one for each Program Manager, one for each Agronomist, one spare. These will be available for partners to borrow for their events.

## 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)

## OTHER

Professional Development:

- 05/01 Soil Health Evaluation with Amanda Kautz (NA)
- 05/05 Ask the Operator with Loran Steinlage (SA, NA)
- 05/16-17 EPLP Session in Starlight, Jeffersonville, and Louisville (SEPM)

Other:

- 05/09 CRP Training followed by field checks (SWPM)
- Listening Sessions for Dean candidates, Purdue College of Agriculture (D)

- Amendment to 2022-27 NRCS Contribution Agreement in process