



General Report February 2017

Date Range: February 1-28, 2016

Key Accomplishments

- Contractual obligations for NRCS CTA agreement met for 2017 (44 events / year required)
- CCSI Annual Meeting – Feb 28

Goals

Goals Through March 31

- Strategic Planning
 - Finalize Planner Selection
 - Meet w/ TNC Director of Philanthropy to discuss funding plans
 - Meet w/ TNC facilitator
 - Location, Date, Participants for planning meeting
- Training / Workshops
 - Follow up w/ MACD re presentation at June meeting – partnerships and infrastructure to advance cover crops and soil health.
 - Follow up on potential partnership w/ NWF on Presentation and Media Skills
 - Finalize workshop details:
 - April 4, 6 Core Cover Crops
 - April 11, 13 Core Soil Health Systems
 - May 17 NoTill Goof Plots
 - May 19 Presentation and Media Skills
 - Finalize agendas and potential speakers for Advanced Cover Crops – Specialty Crop Track (june)
 - Finalize Ray Weil as speaker for Greater Wabash RCD and Rulon Peer Network meetings
- Communications
 - Launch mass-texting pilot
Pushed back to spring – compatibility and pricing issues.
 - Investigate use of trail cam or similar to develop time-lapse video of field(s) managed for soil health.
Potential locations identified. Camera brands require review.
 - Publish 4R Nutrient Stewardship article for conservation partners use
 - Update CCSI Home Page, Events Page
 - Flyers for CCSI-SARE trainings, update 2017 Training brochure
- Research
 - Connect w/ John Fulton, OSU; Sarah Noggle, OSU Extension; and Bob Nielsen on their project to refine research data collection with precision ag equipment and software.
 - “Special Projects”
 - Coordinate w/ INFA and ISDA staff on cover crop + weed suppression; cover crop + SCN suppression pilots

- SARE Grad Student Grants – identify and support potential grad student work
 - vole damage and cover crops;
 - beneficial vs pest insects in mature soil health systems vs conventional systems
- Other
 - Develop budget and strategy to collect soil monoliths from across Indiana
 - Draft SARE Professional Development Project grant submittal. Develop a testing system to gauge comprehension of soil health practices, systems, and concepts. The test(s) would help us define knowledge gaps – perhaps by region, agency, even job title. This would help us refine trainings – whether CCSI-SARE, in-house, or other platforms

February Goal Status

- Strategic Planning
 - ✓ Hold CCSI Annual Meeting. Will include facilitated break outs to identify how CCSI can best move forward and what the program can look like in 3-5 years.
 - Identify / hire facilitator for Strategic Planning
 - ✓ Begin identifying key individuals for pre-planning interviews
- Training / Workshops
 - ✓ Assist Marshall/St. Joe/Starke counties on upcoming Feb. 28th soil health workshop
 - ✓ Assist in coordination details of learning circles for Women 4 the Land
 - ✓ Work with Elkhart county on soil health workshop series
 - ✓ Work with IDEA directors on roundtable/discussion meetings for 2017
 - ✓ Assist Hamilton/Tipton counties on speaker for winter soil health classes
 - ✓ Work w/ Jasper Co SWCD to support bus trip to Jamie Scott, Mike Shuter, Dave Brandt
 - ✓ Finalize March LaCrosse Dealer Training dates, agendas, speakers
 - ✓ Finalize April Core Cover Crops / Core Cropping Systems dates, agendas, speakers
 - ✓ Draft June Advanced Cover Crops – Specialty Track agenda, locations, speakers
- Communications
 - ✓ Refine video quality for FacebookLive
 - ✓ Begin implementation of AgTalkk-type forum on website... allowing Indiana farmers to submit questions about soil health practices to top farmers for advice. *Beta testing several platforms*
 - Create chart/organized system for social media feeds.
 - ✓ Identify opportunities in graphic production and review w/ ISDA staff.
- Research
 - ✓ Update and revise field sampling protocols as needed
 - Set sampling training/demonstrations with field sampling leads *Finalizing details for NE, NW regions*
 - ✓ Begin developing grant proposals for Cover Crops / Vole Damage with Purdue Wildlife Specialists

Meetings / Visits / Appearances

Past (attendees estimated)

- Webinars
 - ASA-SARE, Feb 2 (Eileen Kladviko – general cover crops)

- Iowa OFN Conference, Feb 7 – (Kladivko on nitrate loss through increased drainage)
- Basics of Soil Health, Feb 8 – W Lafayette, 45 (A, D)
- Water Quality and Soil Health Conference, Feb 9 – Covington, 75 (helped arrange speakers)
- Putnam Co SWCD, Feb 16 – Greencastle (A, CM, PM)
- CCSI Annual Meeting, Feb 27 – Noblesville, 60 (D)
- Clark County Extension, Feb 28 – Clarksville, 15 (arranged speaker)
- INField Advantage
 - Feb 1 (PM) – Frankfort, 17
 - Feb 2 (A) – Camden, 20
 - Feb 3 (PM) – Tipton, 20
 - Feb 14 (PM) – Woodburn, 16
 - Feb 15 (PM) – Bluffton, 8
 - Feb 15 (PM) – Portland, 12
 - Feb 16 (PM) – Columbia City, 15
 - Feb 16 (PM) – Urbana, 16
 - Feb 21 (A) – DeMotte, 20
 - Feb 22 (A) – Morroco, 13
 - Feb 22 (PM) – Winamac, 18
 - Feb 23 (PM) – LaPorte, 16
 - Feb 23 (A) – Reynolds, 16
 - Feb 24 (PM) – Hebron, 16

Upcoming through March 31

(D) = Director

(CM) = Communications Manager

(PM) = Program Manager

(A) = Agronomist