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- Purdue Extension is investing heavily in their soil health program. The program will be led by three individuals: one heavy in data management, one who will serve as a liaison with Indiana Corn Marketing Council / Indiana Soybean Alliance (ICMC/ISA) with a heavy focus upon on-farm research, and the third member will be the CCSI Conservation Agronomist. The CCSI Conservation Agronomist will continue to lead the CCSI-SARE Soil Health Training Program and serve as a content expert for Indiana partners. Joe Rorick has moved from the CCSI Conservation Agronomist position to the ICMC/ISA liaison. The CCSI Agronomist position will be posted and refilled as soon as possible.

Soil Health Events

- Since its official inception in January 2010, CCSI has participated in over 700 events, reaching over approximately 42,300 attendees.
- In 2021, CCSI materially participated in 73 events, reaching approximately 4650 individuals, including a series of webinars and virtual farm visits. Videos of the 2021 virtual events have been viewed over 1200 times.
- 2022 Webinars and Virtual Farm Visits are being organized. The first webinar was held on January 11 and the recording is available for viewing on the CCSI website www.ccsin.org.
- Registration for upcoming events maybe found at www.ccsin.org/registration-other-events

Trainings

Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the full scope of CCSI-SARE Soil Health Trainings was again reduced.

- Core Cover Crops and Soil Health Systems Training was held as a series of 3 virtual events. Total attendance was up again – 77 total attendees. These will continue to be held as virtual events in the future.
- Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health Training) was held in in-person. Attendance was limited to 25 participants to maintain social distancing.
- Advanced Trainings and In-field Diagnostics Trainings were cancelled.
- Other Trainings:
 - TNC Advanced Soil Health Training for Ag Professionals – CCSI provided virtual support through the winter of 2021 and logistical support for in-person events that were held in August and November. Attendance ranged from 15-20 individuals.
 - Hoosier Chapter Winter Meeting – The Social Science of Conservation. CCSI provided support to host the meeting virtually. Opened to the general public, 110 individuals attended live from across the US, Canada, and Brazil.

Podcasts, Website, Social Media and Other Outreach

- In the fourth season of CCSI-Hoosier Ag Today Soil Health Podcasts, nine were produced. Since their launch, over 10,000 downloads have been made of the episodes.
- The CCSI website www.ccsin.org continues to be updated. Approximately 7000 unique users have used the site, including over 1300 visits to “The Root Project”.
- The Root Project <https://www.ccsin.org/root-project> launched in the fall of 2020, downloads continue to grow. The Root Project was also featured in the Sept/Oct 2021 edition of the John Deere Furrow magazine, which has a circulation of approximately 500,000 in North America alone. A pilot project creating full-scale banners of select cover crop roots has been launched.
- Twitter posts continue to reach wide audiences, garnering just under 450,000 impressions in 2021.
- Facebook continues to reach audience in 2021 with engaged users totally 6,300, a total daily reach just under 152,000, and garnering 185,000 total impressions.

Webinars and Virtual Farm Visits

With a quick pivot to virtual formats during 2020, CCSI purchased subscriptions to enable continued delivery of soil health outreach and education. In addition, several “virtual field day kits” were purchased for shipping to presenters, enabling live remote visits. Calendar 2021 topics included Soil Health Economics, High-residue Planter Set-up, Planter Modifications for High-residue Systems, and “Bio Strip-tilling”. Over 650 individuals attended the events “live” and recorded videos were viewed over 2400 times.

“Mini-Grants”

Due to a substantial decrease in travel and event expense as a result of COVID restrictions, a request for proposals was put out in April 2020. Local level partners were encouraged to submit proposals for projects that targeted outreach and education for soil health on Indiana cropland – with an emphasis on reaching those new(er) to soil health practices. Reviewed on a rolling basis, 19 projects totalling just over \$40,000 were approved. Projects ranged from \$500 to purchase and distribute Cover Crop Field Guides at grain elevators and seed dealers to \$7800 to support multi-use portions of a soil health trailer. Most projects were under \$1000. The mini-grant project also provided opportunities to better connect local partners with others working on similar projects – allowing leveraging of resources and serving as a concept incubator. Based on the success of the project, Indiana TNC is seeking funds to replicate the “mini-grant” process with CCSI.

Purdue Agricultural Center Partnerships

CCSI reached out to the Purdue Agricultural Centers (PACs) to explore the possibility of supporting soil health demonstration projects and strengthening the partnership with the PACs. Provided with spreadsheets of all demonstration and research projects the PAC superintendents considered to be related to soil health, CCSI was connect researchers with cover crop breeders interested in their projects. CCSI was also able to provide connectivity with seed suppliers and equipment dealers to secure deeper discounts on purchases. Looking to cropping year 2022, CCSI seed suppliers have already expressed interest in furthering partnerships with the PACs.