

Highlights

Events

August events were highly attended with engaged participation. Although crowds consisted of typical attendees, a different mix was present. In conversations with peers from other states / who work across North America, this seems to be a common trend. Please note, this is anecdotal information.

Indiana Climate Smart Ag

Led by Jason Henderson, Purdue Extension and Don Villwock, Villwock Farms (former Indiana Farm Bureau President), the second meeting of a farmer-led coalition met in early August. The group is reviewing current status of Indiana farm climate readiness and create roadmaps to help improve that state. This process is expected to take 2 calendar years. The group will meet again in September

Strategic Planning

Due to circumstances beyond CCSI's control, the in-person meeting to update the CCSI strategic plan has been postponed. To accommodate harvest schedules, it will likely be rescheduled for early December.

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.

- 08/12 Greg and Jenny Rowland (NPM) roller crimped beans and increased pod counts, biologicals, diversifying farm with higher value crops, high tunnels
- 08/16 Wenning Round Table
- *Most meetings presented opportunities for discussions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers*

2. 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).

Most events provided opportunities for discussions with Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers

3. Farmer Influencers

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

Continued work with W4tL, IANA, and other influencer groups.

- 07/26, 27 Byron Seed Dealer Training (D, A, NPM)
- 08/02 Indiana Climate Smart Ag (D)

4. Presentations

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

- 08/04 – AgVenture University, Kentland, “Soil Health and More” (36 attendees)
- 08/23 – Davis PAC Field Day, Farmland, “Soil Health Diagnostics” (255 attendees)
- 08/29 – NC3 Webinar, Virtual, “Managing nutrients and water in a changing climate: Thoughts from an agronomist in the land of 10,000 lakes” feat. Greg Klinger (264 attendees)

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)

Completed Workshops:

- 08/02 Women’s Conservation Learning Circle – Miami/Wabash; 12 attendees
- 08/04 AgVenture University (Newton County); 43 attendees
- 08/09 Pinney Purdue Vegetable Field Day; 20 attendees
- 08/11 Scott Co Pasture Walk; 30 attendees. CRP on agenda; connected Jefferson w/ Scott County to help complete outreach deliverables for a 319 grant
- 08/11 SWCS Hoosier Chapter Summer Meeting; 30 attendees. Host farm CRP plots on agenda
- 08/16 Soil Health Expo; 110 attendees
- 08/16 Roger Wenning Round Table; 22 attendees
- 08/17 Wenning Field Day; 90 attendees
- 08/22 – Adams County Conservation Conversations w/ community leaders; 25 attendees
- 08/22 Adams County Conservation Symposium; 100 attendees
- 08/23 – Ward Labs workshop at Rulons; 55 attendees
- 08/23 – Davis PAC Field Day; 255 attendees
- 08/23 – Miami County Conservation Connection; 75 attendees
- 08/24 – Upper Wabash River Soil Health/Cover Crops Field Day; 67 attendees
- 08/29 – NC3 Webinar; 264 attendees

Workshops in Progress:

- 09/01 Clay County Event
- 09/07 Roemke Field Day
- 09/07 AGRY 105 / Soil Health Diagnostics
- 09/14 Eel River Watershed
- 09/28 Porter County
- 09/29 WLEB Soil Health Tour Wrap (Paulding, OH)
- December 2022 – Parke-Vermillion Event (reschedule)
- Lawrence County Soil Health event (before 2025)
- DeKalb County SWCD Workshop – Date TBD
- March – Miami County Winter PARP meeting
- 2021 – 23 – Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)

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:

- 08/08-08/11 – Soil Health Training, Wauseca, MN, 7 Indiana attendees

Trainings in Progress:

- 09/08 WLEB Technical Training for Staff
- October Byron Seeds Dealer Training (with Barry Fisher)
- Soil Health Signature Program Curriculum Development
- Soil Health PARP Regulatory Topic Development

3. 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:

- 09/08 “Selling Conservation” Pilot with NWF and Prokopy
- 2022 SARE PDP – Cover Crop in Vegetable Production – PAC Demonstrations
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

Monthly Targets: 2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NPM, SPM)

- 08/03 ANR Monthly Update, Virtual
- 08/18 SW Soil Health Team (A, SPM)
- 08/19 Twin Creek-Lick Branch Watershed (SPM)
- 08/25 Area 3 ANR Team Meeting (A)
- 08/29 SW/SE Regional Teleconference (D, NPM, A)
- 08/29 NW/NE Regional Teleconference (D, NPM)
- 08/29 Agronomy Extension Meeting (A)

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.

- August 1 – Events Newsletter; 2423 delivered, 660 opened, 129 follow through
- August 15 – Events Newsletter; 2218 delivered, 724 opened, 130 follow through

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

- Hans Schmitz + Joe Rorick – INField Advantage, Climate Smart Ag, and CCSI Events
- (Upcoming) Jon Lundgren Ecdysis + Pat Bittner (Vanderburgh Co Farmer) – Insect apocalypse; Positive effects of soil health systems on beneficial insects and upland gamebirds
- (Upcoming) Denise and John Jamerson, Lyles Station – Historic Black Farming Communities; Efforts to promote soil health systems and urban farming to underserved communities/Black Loam Conference
- Social Media
 - Twitter: 92 tweets, 2y.5 K impressions; 20 mentions, 2405 profile visits, 11 new followers.
 - Facebook: 84 posts, 10.6K reach
- Blog – Infield Advantage Cover Crop Trials
- Website 598 users/ 879 sessions
- WFIE Interview - <https://www.14news.com/2022/08/22/tri-state-included-projected-extreme-heat-belt/>
- WNIN Broadcast – Drought Resources and Mitigation (<https://video.wnin.org/video/newsmakers-rural-issues-fc9y8k/>)

Materials in Progress:

- State Climate Office – Autumn Seasonal Outlook
- Before You Sign: Seven Tips for Carbon Markets
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download

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)
- Notre Dame – Indiana University – Purdue University collaboration

Other

- **Other**
07/28 ICP Partnership Meeting (A, D, SPM, NPM)

CCSI Strategic Plan Update: Survey Deployed to Partners, Working w/ Facilitators