

## Highlights

### **Pilot National Soil Health education event**

- 45 attendees. States represented included: Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas – and Indiana. The NRCS National Soil Health Division was also represented
- Based upon initial survey results, most attendees indicated a desire to host a similar event in their region. These results meet an event goal of ‘kick-starting’ on-farm soil health trainings for NRCS, Extension, SWCDs, and other conservation staff traveling in from multiple states.

### **Aaron Krueger / ACAM Event**

- Guest speakers included Jimmy Emmons and Cameron Mills
- 78 attendees, many of whom are ‘newer’ faces to soil health events were in attendance – *and engaged*

### **AGree Farmer-Led Mentoring Round Table**

- Hosted and facilitated by Jim Moseley and AGree, the goal of this round table was to gauge interest of well-practiced soil health farmers in developing a mentoring program for farmers and landowners new(er) to soil health practices.
- Interest is strong in moving forward with this project. Note – the intent is for the program to be farmer-designed and farmer-led.

### **2024 National No-Till Conference**

With approval from the CCSI Oversight Committee, CCSI will be a sponsor of the 2024 National No-Till Conference. Typically, over 1000 farmers attend the conference when held in Indianapolis. Included in the package:

- A trade show booth to conduct soil health demonstrations. Amanda Kautz, NRCS State Soil Health Specialist is coordinating efforts with the various Soil Health Teams
- A sponsored break out session with speaker/topic of CCSI’s choice – to be vetted/approved by NNTC staff
- Registration discounts for Indiana Conservation Staff and Supervisors – both full event and single day discounts.
  - Final registration discounts will be calculated by the number of ICP staff attending – the more in attendance, the better the discount
  - Most expensive discount is less expensive than the ‘early-bird’ discount that ended on 08/31
  - Single day discounts have never been offered.

## **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.*

- 08/02 Mike Shuter (D)
- 08/03 Pat Bittner (D)
- 08/04 Greg and Jenny Rowland (SEPM)
- 08/15 Ron and Aaron Krueger (SA)
- 08/15 Cameron Mills (D)
- 08/16 Jamie Scott (D)
- 08/16 Jimmy Emmons, Cameron Mills, Aaron Krueger, Pat Bittner (SWPM)
- 08/24 Jim Moseley (D)
- 08/24 Rick Clark (D)
- 08/28 Ray McCormick
- 08/29 Joel Walhman, SEPAC (SA)
- 08/29 Mark Kingma – POTF Scouting (NA)
- 08/30 Jamie Scott – POTF Scouting (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)*

- 08/21 Randy and Joyce Kron (SA)

### **1. Farmer Influencers**

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

### **2. Presentations**

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

- 08/07 – Soil and Water Conservation Society, Des Moines, IA, “The Role of CCAs in Conservation Adoption” (24 attendees) (SA)
- 08/11 – Indiana State Fair Climate Services Team Meeting, Indianapolis, “Purdue Extension Climate Services” (22 attendees) (SA)
- 08/16 - Pinney Purdue Field Day, Valparaiso, “Intro to Soil Health” (350 attendees) (SA)
- 08/19 – Indiana National Farmers Organization Annual Meeting, Montgomery, “Update on Climate Smart Commodities and Carbon Markets” (14 attendees) (SA)
- 08/25 – Posey County PARP, New Harmony, “Pesticide Regulation Updates” (64 attendees) (SA)
- 08/28 Starke County SWCD notill work shop, Hamlet IN , Soil health demonstration , 15 (NA)
- 08/29 – SEPAC Field Day, Butlerville, “Soil Health and Climate Smart Ag” (135 attendees)(SA)
- 8/30 Manure spill work shop- Decatur IN, Kick starting your soil health with manure 89 attendees (NA)

- 8/31 Manure spill work shop- West Lafayette , Kick starting your soil health with manure 52 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

- 08/02 – Webinar Host and Moderator: National Extension Climate Initiative Professional Development Webinar, “Whose Science? "Decolonizing" Extension Climate Change Educational Methodology with UW’s Cat Techtmann”, Virtual, (50 attendees) (SA)
- 08/02 DeKalb County Agronomy Day
- 08/08 Improving Water Quality Through Farming, Kosciusko County
- 08/09 Roger Wenning Round Table; 15 attendees
- 08/10 Roger Wenning Field Day; 55 attendees
- 08/16 Aaron Krueger Round Table; 15 attendees
- 08/17 Aaron Krueger / ACAM Field Day; 78 attendees
- 08/22 Miami Co Soil Health Workshop
- 08/24 – Webinar Host and Moderator: Indiana Illinois Climate Collab Webinar, Virtual, Emily Usher presents Diverse Corn Belt project (35 attendees)(SA)
- 08/25 Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day; 35 attendees
- 08/28 – Webinar Host and Moderator: North Central Climate Collaborative Professional Development Webinar, Virtual, “Hydroclimatology with Missouri State Climatologist Zack Leasor” (125 attendees)(SA)
- 08/25 Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day
- 08/29 Pay Dirt cover crop workshop, Goshen
- 08/29 SEPAC Field Day
- 08/30 AGree Farmer-Mentoring Roundtable; 21 attendees
- 08/30 Bartholomew County PARP; 60 attendees

#### Workshops in Progress:

- 09/06 Roemke Farms Field Day, Harlan
- 09/06 Porter County
- 09/16 Newton County SWCD – Wildlife and Cover Crops
- 09/22 Putnam County Schools Soils Field Day
- 10/05 Bale Grazing Workshop, Madison
- 10/06 Bale Grazing Workshop, Dubois
- 10/26 Women4theLand, Gibson County
- 10/20 Monroe/Brown Field Day
- 11/15 Pike County Field Day
- 11/29 Regional Ag Forum, Princeton
- November – Sand County Foundation Event
- 01/08-09 IASWCD Annual Conference
- 08/09-10/2024 Manure Management Workshop

- 2021 – 23 – Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)
- 2024 – Ray Archuleta – Cass, Miami, and Fulton Counties

## 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*

- 08/08-09 Pilot National Soil Health Discussion, 45 attendees/15 presenters and hosts

Trainings in Progress:

- 11/14 MCCC Cover Crop Training
- Soil Health Signature Program Curriculum Development – submitted to reviewers
- 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
- 11/28 Conservation Staff Training with Adam Daugherty, Coffee Co TN NRCS
- 11/30 – CCSI-SARE Continuing Education: Economics of Soil Health

## 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)
- 08/01 NNW IDEA (NWPM)
- 08/14 Cass-Miami-Fulton (NWPM, NEPM)
- 08/14 Cass County SWCD following group meeting (NWPM)
- 08/21 – PUCESA Executive Committee Meeting, Virtual (SA)
- 08/22 Davis PAC Farm Field Day
- 08/24-08/25 – Area 3 Purdue Educator Retreat, New Harmony (SA)
- 08/28 – Agronomy Extension Meeting, Virtual (SA, NA)
- 08/28 – SE/SW CCSI Regional Teleconference
- 08/28 – NE/NW CCSI Regional Teleconference
- 08/29 NW Area NRCS (NWPM)

## 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; 2173 delivered; 37% open rate; 7% click rate

- August 15 – Events Newsletter; 2207 delivered; 41% open rate; 12% 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
  - “A Family Conversation – Parts 1 and 2”: Pat Bittner and his father John + father, Aaron Krueger and his grandfather Ronald + grandfather. How the older generation supported transition to soil health systems.
  - (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: 2431 reach, 736 followers
  - Instagram: 145 reach, 309 followers
  - LinkedIn: building presence as replacement for Twitter
- Website: 873 users, 606 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
- Indiana Prairie Farms Crops Corner (NA)

## 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) – 2023 sampling coordination in W IN
- Purdue On The Farm led efforts:
  - Kingma – comparisons of weed pressures, disease presence, insects, and tissue samples
  - Scott – comparisons of three tillage situations for weed pressure, disease presence, insects, and tissue samples

**OTHER**

## Professional Development:

- 08/02-04 National Strip Till Conference (NA, NWPM) – Vetting speakers and educational opportunities
- 08/08 Pilot National Soil Health education event (NA, D, NWPM)
- 08/16 Emerging Professionals Leadership Program (SEPM)

## Other:

- 07/05 Cargill / Success from the Ground Up project (D)
- 07/06 Walton Family Foundation (D)
- Indy Star Scrub Hub: [Will climate change affect hardiness zones for what to plant and when in Indiana?](#)
- 08/30 – Intake interview on soil health with Vanessa Kulick Price, AGree
- Letters of Support provided:
  - Kosciusko SWCD CWI
  - Newton SWCD CWI
  - Mill Creek 319
  - Yellow River 319
  - Cass County CWI
  - Big Raccoon 319
  - Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape RCPP