

Highlights

- Most outreach/education events and trainings have moved to a virtual platform. Partners are tapping into CCSI support to provide needed “Virtual Field Day Kit” items and to provide day-of behind-the-scenes technical support for these events.

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.

- August 3 – Jim Mosely (A)
- August 4 – Phil Carter (D)
- August 11 – Mike Shuter (D)
- August 19 - Dan DeSutter (A)
- August 28 – Clark Farms Deconstructed (Big Pine) (A)

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)

- August 3 – Jim Mosely (A)

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.

- Soil health careers discussion with Clinton/Carroll County farmer, cont. (A)
- August 10 – Glenn Longabaugh, Winfield Agronomist (D)
- August 12 - AGRY Extension Group Meeting (A)
- August 28 – Sustainable Food Lab crop premium project (D)

4. Presentations

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

- August 13 – Filming for AGRY 105 In-field Soil Health Diagnostics (A)
- August 13 (Virtual) – Wheat, a Gateway Crop to Soil Health, “CCSI Intro”, 32 attendees (A)
- August 18 (Virtual) – Area 8 Virtual Agronomy Series “Cover Crops”, 23 attendees (A)

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

- August 10 – (Virtual) Advanced Soil Health Systems training for ag retailers w/ TNC, 20 attendees (D, NPM, SPM)
- August 12 – (Virtual) Women4theLand – Mock Virtual Learning Circle, 22 attendees (D, NPM, SPM)
- August 13 and 20 – (Virtual) Wheat: A Gateway Crop to Soil Health, Resilience, and more (in partnership with Practical Farmers of Iowa); 32 attendees (NPM, A)
- August 13, 20, and 27 – (Virtual) Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Workshop Series with ISDA; 28 attendees (NPM)
- August 20 – (Virtual) Women4theLand Steering Committee (D, NPM, SPM)
- August 28 – (In-person and Virtual) Clark Farms Deconstructed (Big Pine) Williamsport, 200 in-person/325 virtual attendees (D, NPM)

Workshops Cancelled or Postponed:

- 08/27 Southwest Soil Health Expo
- 08/28 SE Area Event featuring Adam Daugherty

Workshops in Progress:

- September 9, 10 – (Virtual) Ag 101 with ISDA for ICP staff
- October 2020 (Virtual) WLEB Science and Solutions Conference
- November 2020 (Virtual / Plan B = Live) – Hoosier Chapter SWCS – Pollinator Plantings (partners include USFWS and IDNR)
- October 13, 14, 15 (Live) and 21-28-11/4(Virtual) Nutrient Planning 2.0 – workshops for ICP staff.
- 11/17 – Spencer/Perry Workshop with Rick Clark and Wayne Fredericks (*May be postponed/cancelled*)
- December 2020 – VUJC Field Day – *may be postponed*
- December 2020 – (Live, tent.) Advanced Soil Health Training for Ag Retail with TNC
- Vigo Co Small Farm Program – TBD
- March 2021 Clay Co Soil Health Field Day
- Daviess Co – Soil Health Field Day, TBD 2021
- Tippecanoe County Landowner Virtual Field Day

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

- Soil Health Demo Kits distributed to all Indiana counties by NRCS CDT staff.
- 08/25-27 “3-Day” Soil Health Training, 28 attendees
 - Successful pivot to interactive hybrid training
 - 2-1/2 days virtual, 1 day in-person

Trainings in Progress:

- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program – Outline submitted to committee and entered into proposal
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual
- 2021-22 Indiana SARE PDP Advisory Committee “Soil Health Track” plan development (A, D)
- 2021 Soil Health Nexus In-Service

Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills

Trainings in Progress:

- Week of Sept 21 Advance Cover Crops (4 trainings, 1 in each region)
- November 2020 (Virtual / Plan B = Live) – Hoosier Chapter SWCS – Pollinator Plantings (partners include USFWS and IDNR)

3. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- August 19 – Blue River Grazing Working Group (SPM)
- August CCSI Regional Teleconferences cancelled due to 3-Day Soil Health Training

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.

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:

- Blogs
 - Cover Crops and Sweetcorn (podcast supplement)
 - Celebrating 10 Years of Partnership – support with virtual field days
- Podcasts:
 - Cover Crops in Smaller Scale Specialty Crops
- Social Media
 - Twitter: 24 Tweets, 11.2K impressions
 - Facebook: 1118, 1904 impressions

Materials in Progress:

- Billboards – Final billboard deployed; #LovInsoil webpage fleshed out.
- Sweet Corn Planter Testing
- Video: Combine and drill adjustments with Phil Needham; Video edited and posted to YouTube; integrated with website.
- Photo library migrated from Flickr to website.



Materials in Progress:

- Billboard graphics. Billboard graphics are available for re-use, however costs associated with editing/adapting the images to be absorbed by users.
- Conversion to new Facebook Page (Facebook.com/CCSI.IN) completed.

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)

G5. Funding

OTHER

- EPLP Postponed until 2021 (A)
- August 6, 7 – National Strip Till Conference (Virtual) (D, A, NPM, SPM – all or in part)
- Provided support to LaPorte Co SWCD Board Meeting (teleconference line) (NPM)
- Letters of Support for Section 319 Grant Applicants (D)