

Highlights

Staffing Change

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.

Agrivoltaics Webinar

Webinar focusing on co-location of farms and solar arrays set for January 11. Speakers include: Stacie Peterson, NCAT Agrisolar; Greg Barron-Gafford, University of Arizona, and Byron Kominek, Jack's Solar Farm

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

- **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.

- December 7 – Mark Anson, Matt Crowe (D)
- December 13 – Andrew Bernzott (D)
- December 13 – Mike Shuter (D)
- December 23 – Jamie Scott (D)
- December 23 – Ray McCormick (D)

- **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)

- December 7 – Mike Bell, Cullen Page (D)

- **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.

- **Presentations**

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

- December 7 – Soil Health Demonstrations – Sullivan/Knox Soil Health Meeting (Rorick)

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:

- December 7 - Sullivan / Knox Soil Health Meeting, 60 attendees
- December 10 – Clinton County SWCD Soil Health Showcase, 75 attendees

Workshops in Progress:

- Winter 2022 – DeKalb County SWCD Workshop
- January 11 – Agrivoltaic Webinar
- February 4-5 – Northern Grazing Conference – NW Area Soil Health Team booth
- February 8, 2022 – Regional Soil Health Workshop (Washington Co) featuring Carter Morgan.
- February 19 – Indiana Black Loam Conference / Legacy Taste of the Garden, Evansville
- February 26 - Indiana Black Loam Conference / Legacy Taste of the Garden, Ft. Wayne
- March 1, 2022 – Lost River Watershed / Orange County SWCD Workshop – follow up from Drone-seeded cover crop plots.
- March 12 - Indiana Black Loam Conference / Legacy Taste of the Garden, Gary
- March 19 – Indiana Black Loam Conference / Legacy Taste of the Garden, Bloomington
- March 23 – Howard/Tipton County SWCD Workshop
- March – Miami County Winter PARP meeting
- 1st Qtr 2022 – Indian-Kentuck Watershed event, likely virtual
- 1st Qtr 2022 – Clay County SWCD event
- August 11, 2022 – “Fab 5” Soil Health Event, SW Indiana
- August 23, 2022 – Ward Labs/Green Cover Seed at Rulon's
- 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:

- December 3 - Training Advisory Committee Meeting to review 2022 CCSI-SARE Soil Health Curriculum.

Trainings in Progress:

- April 5, 12 (optional), 19, 26 – Core Cover Crops and Soil Health Systems
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review (TBD)
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (TBD)
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program Development
- Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program (TBD)

3. Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills

Completed Trainings

- December 16 – Hoosier Chapter SWCS Winter Meeting: The Culture of Conservation Adoption, 110 attendees

Trainings in Progress:

- 2022 SARE PDP – Cover Crop in Vegetable Production – PAC Demonstrations
- Date TBD - 2022: Pilot Social Science Training
- Date(s) TBD - 2022: CCSI-SARE Livestock Integration Trainings
- Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program
- 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)

- December CCSI Regional Teleconferences cancelled for holidays.
- December 7 – IASWCD Urban Soil Health Team Meeting (D, NPM, SPM)
- December 9 - NW NRCS Area Meeting (NPM)
- December 9 – Browns Wonder Sugar Creek Steering Committee Meeting (NPM)
- December 14 – Legacy Taste of the Garden / Urban Soil Health Programs (D, NPM)
- December 20 – “Meet-n-Greet” Jacob Tosch (new employee) and Michelle Benson, Porter Co SWCD

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.

- December 1 – Events Newsletter; 705 delivered, 395 opened, 96 follow through
- December 15 – Events Newsletter; 737 delivered, 458 opened, 108 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
 - Learning from Your Peers: Andrew Bernzott and Mike Shuter
- Blog Posts
 - Op-Ed: Boost Your Soil’s Productivity by Jerry Raynor
 - In Loving Memory of Travis Wenning
- Social Media
 - December Twitter:
 - 65 Tweets, 61.5K impressions, 21 mentions, 2,637 profile visits, 29 new followers.

- December Facebook:
 - 20,491 reach, 24,271 impressions, 639 engaged users
- Website
 - December 1500 Users / 1800 sessions

Materials in Progress:

- TNC-NRCS-CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (TBD)
- Soil Compaction Video with Purdue Extension
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download
- Soil Health Nexus – Soil Health Matrix completed, submitted for review (TBD)

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 – No-till Pumpkin and Sweet Corn in Cover Crops (Maynard)
- Support – 2021-22 PAC Demo and Research Plots, including additional seed discounts/connections to cover crop and equipment suppliers.
- Support – Partnership application for NRCS Cooperative Agreement application focusing on underserved communities and climate change – Purdue led (D)
- Grasseed Oregon / Purdue Agronomy collaboration (D, A)
- Notre Dame – Indiana University – Purdue University collaboration (D, A)

Other

- National Wildlife Federation in-person Conservation Champions Training (St. Louis) postponed due to COVID.