

Highlights

Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production

Registration for Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production was opened on the afternoon of June 3rd. By early afternoon June 4th, all seats were taken and a waitlist started. By June 7th, over 40 individuals had registered for the waitlist. Registration was closed and a survey created for ICP partners to determine number and location of subsequent trainings. Registrants are a good mix of NRCS, FSA, Extension, SWCD and ISDA staff.

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each – CCSI-POTF, Program Manager)

Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.

- Dave Fisher, Fisher Farms (multiple visits) SWPM
- Jamie Scott (multiples) (D, A)
- 07/02 Mark Scarborough (A)
- 07/03 Cameron Mills (A)
- 07/11 Jim Minch (A)
- 07/11 Dave Chance (D)
- 07/11 Brad Burbrink (D)
- 07/11 Pat Bittner (D)
- 07/11 Kelly Cheesewright (D)
- 07/11 Rick Clark (D)
- 07/15 Frank Bender (CSA)
- 07/16 Frank Bender (D)
- 07/27 Ronnie Boehm (SWPM)
- 07/29 Jim Moseley (D)
- 07/29 Dan DeSutter (D)
- 07/29 Cameron Mills (D)

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 – CCSI-POTF, Program Manager)

- 07/01, 22 Nick Green (A)
- 07/01 Ben Ahler (A)
- 07/05 Joe McCutchen (A)
- 07/19 Various farmers – lunch and tear down after Posey County 4H Fair Auction (CSA)
- 07/31 Dave Duttlinger (A)

3. Farmer Influencers

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

- 07/16 Joe Fisher and Kylie Uehbelor, Fisher Farms marketing (SWPM)
- 07/29 Barry Fisher (D)

4. Presentations

Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (CCSI-POTF)

- 07/09 Morgan County Farmers Breakfast “Carbon Markets and You”, Martinsville, 57 attendees (CSA)
- 07/16 PepsiCo North American and Global Sustainability Staff “FarmAdvisors – Farmers Mentoring Farmers”, Virtual (D)
- 07/23 Migrant Education UAV Program, 12 attendees (DA)
- 07/24 Ag 101 “A Year on the Farm”, W Lafayette, 40 attendees (CSA)
- 07/24 Ag 101 “Crop Growth Stages”, W Lafayette, 40 attendees (A)
- 07/24 Ag 101 “Equipment Basics”, W Lafayette, 40 attendees (DA)
- 07/25 Morgan County Carbon Program “Carbon Markets and You”, Martinsville, 27 attendees (CSA)
- 07/30-31 UAV Signature Program – Blackford County, 8 attendees (DA)
- 07/31 North Central Ag and Climate Conference, Peoria “Welcome and Logistics”, 63 attendees (CSA)

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

- 07/11 Starke County Soil Health Field Day, 20 attendees
- 07/24 DeKalb County Agronomy Field Day at the Andersons
- 07/25 Morgan County Carbon Credit, 25 attendees
- 07/31 Sullivan Summer Field Day, 25 attendees

Workshops in Progress:

- 08/01 Lower Salamonie Watershed “Piecing Together Soil Health”, Poneto
- 08/09-10 Manure Management Workshop
- 08/13 Indiana Soybean Association Cover Crop Field Day
- 08/14 FarmAdvisors Mentoring Program Launch
- 08/18 Indiana State Fair Soils Exhibit
- 08/20 Aaron Krueger Field Day
- 08/21 Posey County PARP
- 08/21 Adams County On-Farm Demo Day
- 08/22 Regional Ag Forum, Princeton
- 08/22 NEPAC Field Day
- 08/14-17 Successful Soil Solutions events with Ray Archuleta and Barry Fischer – Miami, Wabash, Pulaski and Fulton Counties

- 08/26 Marshall County Shop Talk
- 08/26 Boone County Soil Health Workshop
- 08/27 SEPAC Field Day (including edge of field practices)
- 08/27 Upper Wabash Regional Watershed Biological Field Day
- 08/28 Partnering with Farmers to Improve Your Land
- 08/28 Nutrien Ag PARP
- 09/04 Porter County Event with Ray Archuleta
- 09/09 Hancock County Field Day
- 09/24 Porter County Master Watershed Program
- 09/26 Allen SWCD Soil Health Field Day
- 09/27 Putnam County Conservation Day
- September 2024 Hancock County Field Day
- 10/23-25 IDEA Fall Conference, Michigan City
- 10/29 – Orange County Amish Outreach
- 11/02 Climate Workshop at VUJC
- November 2024 – Spencer County SWCD
- Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPPs

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

- 07/27 Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production, 40 attendees

Trainings in Progress:

- Video development on collecting soils for soil health demonstrations
- Soil Health Scouting Modules
- 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

- October 2024: Engaging New Audiences
- November 2024: Continuing Soil Health Education

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 (CSA)
- Mondays – Extension Field Crops Meetings (CSA, A, DA)
- Six times per month, North Central Climate Collaborative, Virtual (CSA)
- 07/01 Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Fellowship (CSA)
- 07/01 Randolph SWCD Board (NEPM)

- 07/01 Randolph County Extension (NEPM)
- 07/01 Madison County Extension (NEPM)
- 07/09 Martha Miller (CSA)
- 07/11 Natural Resource and Land Use Focus Group (CSA)
- 07/11 Grant County SWCD Board (NEPM)
- 07/11 Jay County Extension (NEPM)
- 07/15 Montgomery County SWCD Board (NWPM)
- 07/15 Elkhart County SWCD Board (NEPM)
- 07/16 Cass County Extension (NWPM)
- 07/17 Evansville Climate Collaborative (CSA)
- 07/17 Greene County SWCD (SWPM)
- 07/17 Owen County SWCD (SWPM)
- 07/17 IDEA SNE Area Meeting (NEPM)
- 07/17 Miami County Extension (NEPM)
- 07/18 Indiana NRCS State Technical Committee (D)
- 07/18 Jasper County SWCD (NWPM)
- 07/18 Gibson County SWCD Board (SWCD)
- 07/22 Fountain County SWCD Board (NWPM)
- 07/23 Ultimate Beef Project (SWCD)
- 07/23 SIPAC (SWCD)
- 07/25 Parke / Vermillion SWCD (SWPM)
- 07/25 Putnam County SWCD (SWPM)
- 07/26 Gibson County Extension (SWPM)
- 07/29 Pasture Project / Winrock (D)
- 07/31 Meridian Institute (D)

G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

1. Marketing and 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
 - Aaron Johnson, Riverview Farms, and Jerimah Windell, Advanced Agrilytics “Double Crop Corn?!”
- Social Media
 - Facebook: 17.8K reach, 810 followers
- Website: 1316 sessions, 1000 visitors, 27 countries

Completed Materials:

- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Series
- 07/12 Indiana Prairie Farmer – Crops Corner
- 07/25 Farmers Exchange

Materials in Progress:

- Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems, by Hans Schmitz, Ann Kline, Mathias Ingle, Ashley Adair, and Matt Pearson, OISC – PARP Regulatory Topic in draft status
- Cover Crop Termination Study Materials
- Planter types / parts video
- No-Till Drill video

G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

CCSI no longer leads research projects; CCSI provides connectivity between researchers and cooperators; potential research needs.

- Support – Purdue University NIFA – Empowering Indiana’s Organic Farmers – Assessing Regional and Farm Scale Soil Health with a Farmer Network (Rui)
- Purdue Weed Science / POTF – UAV Applications of Herbicides
- Support - SDSU and Pork Board – 5-year study with swine manure and effects of soil health on continuous corn

OTHER

Professional Development (*Training for CCSI Staff, Certifications*)

- “Train the Trainer: Interactive Nutrient Management Decision Making Exercise” (A)
- North Central Ag and Climate Conference (NWPM, CSA)
- 07/18 Why Grow Cover Crops Lunch-n-Learn (NEPM)
- **National Wildlife Federation Offshoots Training**
NWF is piloting a certification program for others to deliver their “Engaging New Audiences” trainings. Indiana was allowed 5 attendees: A, SEPM, NWPM, Lais McCartney Indiana SARE, and Martha Miller Monroe County SWCD. It is expected that those individuals will be certified to deliver the November 12, 13, 14, 15 CCSI-SARE Engaging New Audiences trainings.
- Growing Outreach Conference (SWPM)
- **Indiana SARE 25-26 Professional Development Plan**
Worked with Scott Gabbard and CCSI-Purdue On The Farm staff to craft budgets and narratives for the 2025-26 SARE PDP. Included in the PDP:
 - CCSI-SARE Soil Health Curriculum (little to no financial cost to SARE)
 - Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production
 - Ag 102: Communicating with Farmers
 - Ag 103: Setting Up On-Farm Trials with Producers

SEPM: Lead and Southeast Program Manager

SWPM: Southwest Program Manager

NWPM: Northwest Program Manager

NEPM: Northeast Program Manager

CSA: Soil Health/Climate Smart Ag Specialist

A: Soil Health/Agronomic Specialist

DA: Soil Health/Digital Ag Specialist

D: Director