

## Highlights

### Staff Positions

Lois Mann accepted an offer to join the CCSI team as NE Program Manager. She will start April 1.  
Bryan Overstreet accepted an offer to join the CCSI / Purdue On The Farm teams. He will start on April 1.

### Trainings

- Intro to Soil Health – completed on 2/28 with 50 attendees. Attendance, review of recording or college level soils science class will be required for 3-Day Soil Health
- Fundamentals of Soil Health
  - April 4, 18, 25 = virtual, April 11 in-person
  - Registration currently open
- Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health) Training
  - Set for June 27-29
  - This training satisfies requirements for “Soil Health and Sustainability Training” for those seeking USDA-NRCS Conservation Planning Certification

## 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.*

- 03/09 Kyle Brooks, Hancock Co (SA)
- 03/27 Jamie Scott (D)
- 03/27 Cameron Mills (D)
- 03/29 Dan DeSutter (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)*

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### 1. Farmer Influencers

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

- 03/03 ADM (D)
- 03/27 Yichao Rui (D)

### 2. Presentations

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

- 3/1 Parke-Vermillion County Farmer Roundtable, Clinton, general discussion (12 attendees)
- 3/2 Ripley County Extension PARP, Hopewell, “Soil Health and More” (186 attendees)
- 3/7 Poseyville NWQI Meeting, Poseyville, “Nutrients, IPM, and Soil Health” (30 attendees)

- 3/8 Envirothon – Bedford, “Climate Change and Ag” (133 attendees)
- 3/9 Hancock County SWCD Annual Meeting, Greenfield (39 attendees)
- 3/10 Solar, Alternative Energy, and Carbon Markets, Veedersburg, “Carbon Markets” (49 attendees)
- 3/13, 3/15, 3/17 United Soybean Board Mesonet Workshops, Ft. Wayne, Evansville, Davenport, “Decision Support Tools” (40 total attendees)
- 3/14 Envirothon – Boonville, “Climate Change and Ag” (76 attendees)
- 3/14 Perry-Spencer Crop Day, St. Meinrad, “Soil Health and More” (41 attendees)
- 3/21-22 UAV Technology Program, Chrisney, “Modules 2 and 4” (8 attendees)
- 3/23 Wayne County SWCD Conservation Day, “Soil Health and More” (54 attendees)
- 3/23 Floyd County Master Naturalist Program, New Albany “Weather and Climate” (13 attendees)
- 3/25 Indiana Black Loam Conference, Bloomington, “Farmer Resource Panel” (14 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)*

#### Workshops Completed

- 03/01 Marshall / St Joe Workshop; 40 attendees
- 03/02 Ripley County Extension PARP
- 03/06 Orange County/Lost River Watershed Meet-n-Greet with Jim Hoorman; 20 attendees
- 03/07 Orange County/Lost River Watershed Field Day, Paoli; 45 attendees
- 03/07 Posey SWCD Breakfast; 50 attendees
- 03/09 Hancock County SWCD Annual Meeting
- 03/09, 10 ILMS Conference
- 03/10 Fountain County Carbon Credit Talk
- 03/10 Sullivan County Ag Day; est. 1500 attendees
- 03/16 Washington County / Twin Creek / Lick Branch Watershed Cover Crop Dig, Campbellsburg; 30 attendees
- 03/18 Black Loam Conference, Evansville
- 03/21 ADM re:generations, Clarks Hill; 70 attendees
- 03/22 Howard / Tipton workshop, Tipton; 50 attendees
- 03/24 Dubois County “Getting to the Root of Cover Crops” round table; 23 attendees
- 03/25 Brown County SWCD Annual Meeting, Nashville; 14 attendees
- 03/29 Southern Indiana Grazing Conference, Odon; 180 attendees

#### Workshops in Progress:

- 05/19 Hoosier Chapter SWCS Summer Meeting (tentative)
- 06/15 Gibson SWCD/Purdue Extension – Event with field buffer/filter strip
- Summer 2023 Roger Wenning Workshop
- Late summer/early fall Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day
- March – Miami County Winter PARP meeting
- 08/25 Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day
- August Roger Wenning Field Day – Date TBD

- DeKalb County SWCD Workshop – Date TBD
- 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

- 02/28 CCSI-SARE Intro to Soil Health, 50 attendees

### Trainings in Progress:

- 04/04, 18, 25 (virtual) 04/11 (in-person) CCSI-SARE Foundational Soil Health Series
- 06/27-29 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health)
- Soil Health Signature Program Curriculum Development
- 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:

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### Trainings in Progress

- 05/18 CCSI Training Team – Fisher Farm, Putnam Co
- 09/5, 7, 19, 21 Grow More – Engaging New Audiences

## 4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- 03/03 – NW Soil Health Team Meeting (NPM)
- 03/06 – Knox County SWCD Annual Meeting (D)
- 03/08 – Kankakee River Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (NPM)
- 03/13 – Purdue on the Farm Operations Leadership Team (SA)
- 03/14 – White County SWCD Annual Meeting (NPM)
- 03/16 – Lake County SWCD Annual Meeting (NPM)
- 03/21 – Jasper County SWCD Annual Meeting (NPM)
- 03/21 – Informal “meet and greet” with Vanessa Coria, The Meridian Group (NPM)
- 03/22 – WLEB Partners (D)
- 03/23 – Kankakee RCPP Steering Committee Meeting (D, NPM)
- 03/24 – Warren County SWCD (NPM)
- 03/25 – Brown Co SWCD Annual Meeting (SWPM)
- 03/27 – SE/SW Regional Teleconference (all)
- 03/27 – NE/NW Regional Teleconference (all)
- 03/28 – NWF Conservation Champions wrap-up (NPM, SA)

### 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.*

- March 1 - Events Newsletter; 2241 delivered; 52% open rate; 4% click rate
- March 15 – Events Newsletter; 2241 delivered; 31% open rate; 5% 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
  - Elli Blaine, IASWCD Urban Soil Health Program and Liz Brownlee, Young Farmers Coalition “Small Farms, Beginning Farmers, and Conservation”
  - (Scheduling) Mark Kingma, NW Indiana Farmer, and Betsy Bower, Ceres Solutions – Impacts of Soil Health Systems on Irrigation Efficiency
  - (Scheduling) Ray McCormick, SW Indiana Farmer, and Phil Neeham, Needham Ag – The importance of combine adjustments and seeding cover crops with a combine
  - (Scheduling) Jamie Scott, N Central Indiana Farmer, and Bill Johnson, Purdue University – scouting cover crop termination issues.
- Social Media
  - Twitter (limited postings as the platform reorganizes)
  - Facebook: 3154 reach
  - LinkedIn: building presence as replacement for Twitter
- Website: 568 users, 785 visits
- CCSI and Partnerships – 2022 Purdue Extension Impact Report
- Indiana State Climate Office Spring Outlook,  
<https://extension.purdue.edu/news/2023/03/warm,-wet-spring-predicted-for-indiana.html>

Materials in Progress:

- Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems, by Hans Schmitz and Matt Pearson, OISC
- HO-203, Effect of Cold Weather on Horticultural Plants in Indiana
- Full scale Root Project banners ordered – 7 sets total: one for each Program Manager, one for each Agronomist, one spare. These will be available for partners to borrow for their events.

### 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

- Grant proposals for Midwest Climate Hub Partnership and Midwest Climate Hub CAP submitted. (A)

#### **OTHER**

- SE Program Manager 03/28 EPLP Session 2 - Huntington
- S Agronomist – attended scouting meeting for a potential DTC training site by Purdue specialist Kyle Daniel