



The Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

Conservation Innovation Grant

2012-2016



The Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) is a partnership of agencies, organizations, agronomists and farmers throughout Indiana dedicated to improving soil health and soil productivity. CCSI's goal is to carry out farm-scale agronomic and economic research on soil health, and educate farmers and those that interact with them about the benefits of conservation cropping systems and soil health.

Administered by the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD), CCSI established four regional hubs, one in each quadrant of Indiana. In all, 17 CCSI research sites around the state—12 hosted by farmers, 3 Purdue Agricultural Centers, and 2 soil and water conservation district-managed sites—reflected the diversity of Indiana's soil, crop and climactic conditions. Each site conducted demonstration plots and strip trials, hosted field days and farmer visits, and served as locations for extensive research by agronomists and economists.

CCSI's origins date back to the Conservation Tillage Initiative in Indiana in 2002, which promoted no-till across the state. With strategic planning and dedicated funding, the program was expanded to promote a systems approach to soil health and dubbed CCSI in 2009. In 2012, CCSI received a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) from NRCS.

Under the CIG, technical expertise on the project was provided by Lisa Holscher, Soil Health Manager; Hans Kok and Dan Towery, consultants; Barry Fisher, USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); and Eileen Kladvko, Purdue University. Wally Tyner and Myriam Bounaffaa of Purdue University provided their expertise in agricultural economics. Additional support both for communications and administration included Jennifer Boyle Warner, DeeDee Sigler and Liz Rice, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD); and staff at the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC). An Oversight Committee provided guidance to the project. Members of the Oversight Committee included IASWCD, Purdue University, USDA NRCS, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, CTIC, State Soil Conservation Board, the Indiana Corn Marketing Council and Indiana Soybean Alliance.

Funding

CCSI has been supported in every sense by the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP), a shining example of focused business, agency and academic relationships. Early funding was contributed by the Indiana NRCS, Clean Water Indiana, IASWCD, ISDA, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and others.

With the CIG—a \$1,668,177 50/50 matching grant—\$834,088.46 in NRCS grant funds were matched by funding from ISDA, the Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Soybean Alliance and Purdue University. IASWCD, the 12 hub farmers, and the Wabash and Dubois Soil and Water Conservation Districts provided in-kind contributions.



Early fog at JA Scott Farms. Cover crop plots with signage at left. Plastic bags cover signs that are part of an Advanced Cover Crops ID quiz.

The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP)

At the heart of CCSI's success is the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP), which unifies eight conservation agriculture agencies and organizations around the state around the mission of promoting soil health. Those entities include:

- Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD)
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Division of Soil Conservation
- Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
- State Soil Conservation Board
- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The ICP was conceived in the 1980s during an era of turf battles and tightening funding. Each agency brings its strengths and its funding, its resources and approach to supporting conservation agriculture. Dedicated to a unified message of conservation—manifested in the soil health and systems approach focus of CCSI—the Partnership provides technical, financial and educational assistance to each other's staffs as well as to the Indiana agricultural community.

"This level of cooperation is unprecedented," says Jane Hardisty, state conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Indiana. "We are successful because each organization is committed to delivering one conservation program in Indiana, and because it works from the field office level up."

Hardisty points out that the ICP and CCSI program contributed to each other's success.

"The ICP was committed to CCSI from the beginning and through the years, and provided whatever resources possible to make the program successful, whether funding or in-kind services," she says. "In turn, CCSI is an effective outreach mechanism for ICP—they help spread the word of the important work each of our organizations is doing."

Regional Hubs

Demonstration and research plots were located around four regional hubs throughout the state. Each of the four hubs was served by a designated team of farmers and Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) employees. Each hub's team developed its own work plan with guidance from a project manager and a technical coordinator. This innovative regional approach—working in partnership with agricultural producers, agencies, and private industry—provided consistency and continuity of outreach and communication across the state while addressing region-specific conservation training.

In all, 17 research sites included:

- 12 on-farm "hub farmers" sites
- Vincennes University and Dubois County SWCD
- Northeast Purdue Agricultural Center (NEPAC), Whitley County
- Southeast Purdue Agricultural Center (SEPAC), Jennings County
- Purdue University Diagnostic Training Center, Tippecanoe County
- Wabash County SWCD

The demonstration plots on 12 private hub farmer sites began with each farmer's current, proven systems, which in most cases consisted of no-till/strip-till, conscientious nutrient management, and in some cases, cover crops, and added a new component to bring the soil to an even higher level of soil health. In many cases, that meant utilizing more cover crops or more diverse cover crop mixes than their original practice.

CCSI hub farmers included:

- Marshall Alford, Moores Hill, Indiana
- Mike Brocksmith, Vincennes, Indiana
- Dan DeSutter, Attica, Indiana
- Larry Huffmeyer, Osgood, Indiana
- Cameron Mills, Walton, Indiana
- Ken, Roy and Rodney Rulon, Arcadia, Indiana
- Jamie Scott, Pierceton, Indiana
- Mike Shuter, Frankton, Indiana
- Kurt Stahl, Evansville, Indiana
- Don Villwock, Edwardsport, Indiana
- Mike Werling, Decatur, Indiana
- Roger Wenning, Greensburg, Indiana

"We're making sure everybody's on the same page, not duplicating each other's services or getting in each other's way. It's about delivering added benefits vs. added dollars."

Meg Leader
Director of Soil Health
Division of Soil Conservation
Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Agronomy Studies

A total of 148 strip trials were evaluated during the project. Measurements were made to compare their current, good system to the newer system to document and quantify the impacts of the new practices on soil health. Where possible, a neighbor's field on similar soil types but with more conventional practices was used as an additional comparison. The university farms or SWCD farms also started with good no-till practices and added a variety of cover crops to their systems. Those sites provided an opportunity to demonstrate and evaluate a wider variety of cover crops for their impact on soil health.

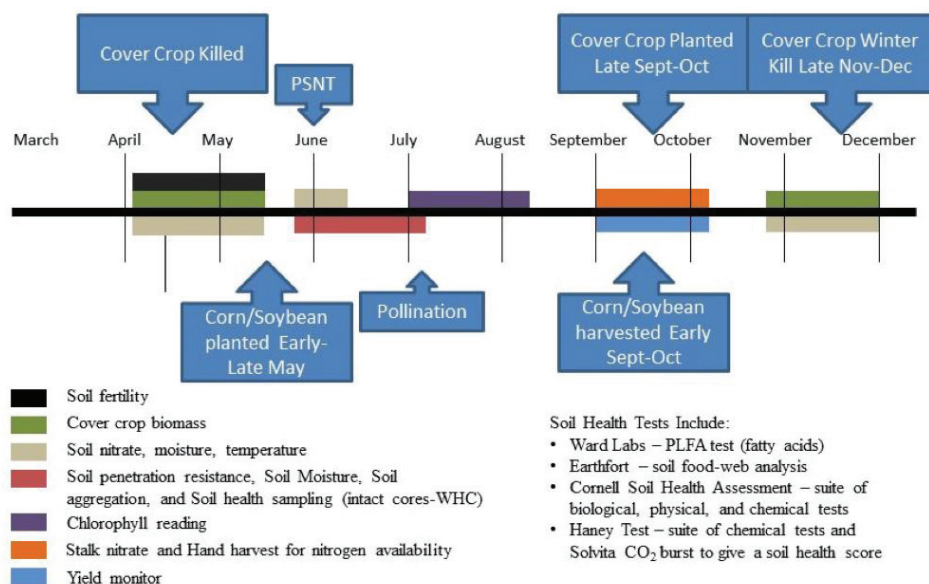
The demonstration sites provided researchers from NRCS and Purdue University outstanding access to sites representing most typical Indiana farming conditions, as well as a wealth of meta-data—including all cropping inputs used, yields, and other details—to contextualize the results of approximately 6,400 samples taken during the CIG term. Tests included conventional soil fertility tests, soil health analyses, soil nitrate and ammonium and other soil physical property tests such as aggregate stability, soil bulk density, soil penetration resistance, temperature and moisture. Sites were also studied for cover crop biomass and nitrogen content, and cash crop parameters including yield. Samples were sent to four soil health testing labs to compare processes and results.

A number of measurements were made on all 17 sites:

- Cover crop biomass samples were collected in fall—just prior to a killing frost—and spring, just prior to cover crop termination. Samples were dried, weighed, and sent for N analysis. Results show total productivity as well as total N uptake (plus fixation, if a legume).
- Soil nitrate samples at 0-12 inches and 12-24 inches were taken at the time of the spring and fall biomass samples and 0-12 inches at pre-sidedress N sampling time (PSNT). Those measurements allowed the research team to assess the effects of cover crops on N availability at various times during the growing season.
- Chlorophyll meter readings of corn crops were done in the field by team members at silking. Those values help interpret the N status of the corn crop in mid-season.
- Stalk nitrate tests quantified the N status of the corn crop at the end of the season.
- Standard soil fertility tests taken at the time of spring biomass readings in years 1 and 3 reflected overall soil nutrient status and the influence of the conservation cropping system on nutrients in the soil.
- Soil temperature was measured at spring sampling, pre-sidedress N sampling, silking and fall biomass collection.
- Biological assessments were conducted by four labs: Phospholipid fatty acid (PLFA) in years 1 and 3; Haney Soil Health Nutrient Tool in years 1, 2 and 3; Food Web Analysis in years 1 and 3; and Cornell Soil Health Assessment in years 1 and 3.
- Cash crop yield was measured on all sites.

Additional detailed measurements were made on a subset of fields (2 sites x 4 hubs) to quantify other important aspects of soil health. Those measurements included continuous soil moisture and temperature, soil penetration resistance, and soil aggregation. In short, a limited number of correlations have been observed in analyzing data from two to three years of changes in

CCSI Sampling Schedule



conservation systems within the program. Water holding capacity was not significantly different between cover crop sites and non-cover crop sites—yet. Eileen Kladvko, professor of Agronomy at Purdue University, who led the agronomic research, notes that this soil property is slow to change, and a 4-year, 10-state program measuring the same parameter has so far shown the same result. Aggregate stability also showed only small changes at the Purdue Agricultural Center plots and not at farmer sites.

There was no correlation among results from the four soil health labs analyses of samples from specific sites. “This is not surprising because each of the tests was assessing different things,” says Kladvko. “A key lesson from this finding is that people need to know what they are most interested in assessing before they choose one commercial test over another.”

Even data that purportedly measured the same parameters with different tests—for instance, respiration or active carbon—showed no correlation.

“We have students visiting the farm and I tell them, ‘I’m 58 and I waited too long. You’re young. Start now.’”

Mike Brocksmith
CCSI Hub Farmer
Vincennes, Indiana

Mountain of Data

An enduring lesson from the CCSI project is the mountain of data, results of approximately 6,400 samples of soil, leaf tissue and biomass. Following trends and seeking connections among the data points turned out to be a daunting task. And even with the volume of statistics already in the system, it became clear that such an ambitious and geographically broad program will require years’ more study to help bring the data into focus.

To achieve that, CCSI is moving ahead to a new, post-CIG phase. Organizers have secured funding for a Purdue post-graduate student to analyze the existing data, and have built a staff of a director, program manager and communications manager to continue the sample collection, analysis and outreach.

Les Zimmerman, an Indiana tree producer and chairman of the CCSI Oversight Committee, says the CIG was invaluable in launching long-term research efforts and helping CCSI mature into a program that can attract private funding.

“The CIG provided a funding stream that was absolutely critical for us to demonstrate that what we’re doing is possible,” he says. “The CIG has given us the opportunity to run with the program and establish the credibility of the program, staff up, and get us over the bridge so we can make the appeal for the best source of funds: private money.

“We’ve got the first three years or four years of data,” he notes. “We’ve put this together and gotten started. Now we’re in this for the long haul.”



Attendees of Advanced Cover Crops Training during hands-on identification.



Susi Stephan, Wabash SWCD, sampling cover crop biomass.
Photo Credit: Wabash County SWCD

At the first level of analysis, there was not a consistent pattern between new and previous treatments on most of the sites. More complex statistical analyses will be run by a newly hired Purdue post-graduate student, and more samples will be collected in the years to come. With more seasons and more data points, patterns are likely to become apparent. This CIG has set the stage for future success on this objective.

“It is hypothesized that with more years of growing cover crops, more soil properties would begin to change,” notes Kladvko. “One should also remember that many of the sites studied in the project were already under good soil management practices before the project started—particularly long-term no-till—so the baseline soil health for those particular soils was already likely better than if they had been in conventional tillage.”

Economic Research

The project provided the foundation for a masters’ degree thesis by Purdue student Myriam Bounaffaa—Benefits and costs of cover crops: A framework for data collection and analysis.

The overall conclusion of the research was that there were far too many variables to allow a statistically significant analysis of the economic impact of adopting conservation cropping systems under the CCSI protocol. In her thesis, Bounaffaa noted, “Given the fact that each farm is unique, the data collected resulted in a high variability and heterogeneity in the crop rotation, field soil types and soil slopes. This variability greatly reduced the data that could be used in the quantitative analysis.”

Bounaffaa took the lessons from those challenges and created a framework for future research of this type. According to her calculations, only farmers with 5 years of historic data should be included in such a study, and approximately 70 farmers and 350 fields would be needed for future research, controlled for soil characteristics, crop rotation and weather. Building on her work, Bounaffaa’s thesis advisor, Wallace Tyner, and masters’ degree candidate Steven Lira developed a more focused model for future studies.

“It is important to keep in mind the time challenge when talking with producers and when developing strategies to improve soil health—specifically, that significant improvements in soil health take time and cannot be expected within a few years of adoption of new practices in many cases.”

Dr. Eileen Kladvko
Professor of Agronomy
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana

In Search of the Logic

Arguably one of the biggest successes—and, at the same time, largest setbacks—to the CCSI CIG effort was the development of anecdotal economic case studies.

The CIG-funded project was intended to yield data that would allow agricultural economists to draw conclusions on the monetary value of changes in soil health—data that could stand up to the rigorous process of scientific peer review. After a few years of deep study, it became apparent that there are far too many variables within the CCSI plots, ranging from soil types to seed varieties to dynamic management effects as farmers reacted to growing conditions each year. A uniform data set was impossible to produce.

However, eight of the program's hub farmers shared detailed insight on the effects they see on their operations—some in the form of detailed spreadsheet analysis, others based on a lifetime of observing changes in how their land produces crops—which was captured in a series of economic case study sheets.

Barry Fisher, NRCS region soil health team leader and a technical advisor on the CCSI project, says the economic case study sheets have been extremely well received by farmers at presentations on conservation cropping systems around the state.

“These farmers are good businessmen; they know how to put numbers on a spreadsheet,” Fisher says. “What they struggle with is the logic: ‘How do I account for improving organic matter? What does that do for me?’”

“The reality is that no farmer's economic data matches another one's because farming is a dynamic management system,” Fisher says. “These farmers know that. What they're looking for is the logic behind another farmer's decision, so they can determine for themselves whether it would work with their own management.”

Rodney Rulon, one of the hub farmers profiled in an economic case study, agrees.

“I always challenge everybody to sit down and figure for themselves what those numbers ought to be on their farm,” Rulon says. “Mess with that. Disregard our numbers and see how it fits your farm. Put in a couple of strips and see what works for you.”

Education and Outreach

Education and outreach elements of the project reached conservation agency staff, crop consultants and other advisors, landowners and farmers with messages geared to their needs and interests. Field days, meetings, training workshops, informational bulletins and case studies, and online tools delivered findings and insight; a mentoring program was adapted to reflect real-world learning styles among farmers.

In all:

- During the CIG period, a total of 290 events drew 15,637 participants.
- 36 farmer workshops at the regional hubs drew a total of 2,634 attendees.
- 34 workshops were provided to 1,129 agency participants.
- 10 workshops for crop advisors and other ag professionals on conservation cropping systems reached 879 attendees.
- 3 annual meetings for farmers, ICP staff and others to discuss progress of the project, identify needed changes, and share data and insight gathered through the program.
- 12 farmers—three in each hub—served as informal mentors. Technical assistance efforts reached 146 farmers and 53 partners.
- 3 presentation and media skills workshops were delivered for hub farmers and agency staff.
- A “Meeting in a Box” toolkit of presentations and handouts was prepared to facilitate outreach.
- One hub farm hosted several Student Soil Health events at its demonstration plots.
- 11 NRCS fact sheets tailored to specific audiences and interests were published for producers and their advisors.
- 8 economic case studies were developed, each highlighting the perspective of a hub farmer.
- 6 soil health publications were produced by Purdue Extension under the project.
- 23 news releases were distributed during the project.
- 3 masters' degree theses—2 in agronomy and one in agricultural economics—and at least 9 academic posters were based on data from this project; academic papers are pending.
- CCSI Twitter feed (@CCSI_IN) has more than 1,000 followers from across the U.S. as well as from Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and more—a total of 32 countries on 6 continents.
- CCSI's tweets were retweeted 30.4% of the time since May 2012 and favorited 25.4% of the time during the same period.
- Further online communications extended outreach efforts to Facebook (/conservationcropping) and Pinterest, as well as the www.ccsin.org website.

“Any conservation expense we incur is not for that immediate return. It’s a journey.”

Larry Huffmeyer
CCSI Hub Farmer
Osgood, Indiana

Demonstrations and technical assistance at every level was critical to the success of CCSI, notes Shannon Zezula, Indiana state resource conservationist with NRCS.

“The one thing we knew right off the bat was once we got the farmers hooked on the concept, the next thing they’d need was quality technical assistance at the local level,” Zezula says. “It’s important to back up our outreach with technical assistance. Farmers need to be successful the moment they try these systems; otherwise we may lose them for a generation.”

With that in mind, extensive training for staff of ICP members was a major focus of CCSI. Feedback indicated that the training was helpful in reinforcing cooperation among staff and sharing the latest insights on conservation systems coming from the program.

“Whether talking with speakers one-on-one or incorporating those things that you learn from the training events into what you’re doing in the field, the training helped increase my knowledge and helped me pass it on to producers,” says Robert Zupancic, NRCS grazing lands specialist in North Vernon, Indiana.

By the end of the CIG period, CCSI extended its training to emphasize influencer marketing, developing workshops for crop advisors, ag retailers, seed dealers, commercial applicators and others in the agricultural consulting and supply chains. Betsy Bower, CCA, an agronomist with Ceres Solutions in Vincennes, Indiana, says influencers and advisors see business opportunity in conservation systems, and are eager for insight.

“If our customers want to cover crop, we’re going to figure out how to help them do that, and we’re going to learn right along with them,” Bower says.

CCSI was recognized nationally with two prestigious awards: the 2014 Soil and Water Conservation Society Merit Award and the 2016 National No-Till Innovator Award, presented by No-Till Farmer magazine and Syngenta.

Recommendations and Key Lessons Learned

A project as ambitious and broad-based as CCSI has yielded many recommendations that could help guide future projects in Indiana and across the country.

For assessing improvements in soil health, a longer study—five or even 10 years—would allow the generation of enough data to begin to reveal trends and minimize the impact of a single wet season or drought on the data. Finding conventional comparisons for all conservation plots would be extremely helpful in highlighting differences.

From the perspective of a soil scientist looking for data, an ideal cooperators would be one who is currently farming conventionally and is willing to convert to conservation cropping systems such as cover crop/no-till, which is likely to show much more improvement in a shorter period of time.



“The cover crop business occurs at different times than our regular business, so it gives us another time to visit with our customers.”

Betsy Bower, CCA
Agronomist
Ceres Solutions
Vincennes, Indiana

However, to help ensure successful demonstrations and helpful mentoring relationships, the CCSI team deliberately selected cooperators who were skilled in no-till and experienced with cover crops, willing to host other farmers on their farm, and eager to coach interested colleagues. From that perspective, the 12 hub farmers were outstanding choices and were extremely successful. For future efforts, data on changes in soil health on farms newly brought into conservation cropping systems could be more instructive.

A formal, paid trainer/trainee program was not well accepted by mentors or targeted farmers. Instead, CCSI switched to an informal, free approach to one-on-one advising, which was highly successful. (See sidebar.)

Economic research should emphasize either rigorously reviewed single-farm results or draw a larger sample from a smaller, more uniform geography.

“The farmer-to-farmer network of peers is invaluable in helping us sell conservation. CCSI’s hub farms are being used not only for data comparisons, but also for demonstrating the benefits of soil health in a way that farmers can visibly see and understand how cropping systems work.”

Jane Hardisty
State Conservationist, Indiana
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Mentor Relationship

One of the most striking lessons of the CCSI CIG project was the failure of the mentorship program—at least in its formal sense. The original plan was to provide funds that would be used to pay hub farmers and other advisors to provide one-to-one technical insight to producers interested in adopting conservation cropping systems. The experienced growers would act as mentors to the conservation system beginners, and be paid for their efforts.

To the surprise of CCSI organizers, the experienced growers declined to enter into formal, paid relationships with their “trainees.”

“It’s a sociological thing with farmers,” says Barry Fisher, NRCS region soil health team leader and an Indiana farmer himself. “Farmers, of any business in the whole world, are most willing to share their deepest secrets with their neighbors. But they were not comfortable charging for that information. They didn’t want to enter a formal customer relationship with other farmers. They wanted to build a relationship rather than treat that person as a customer.”

“The end result was just as good,” Fisher notes. “Farmers were mentoring other farmers. They were in constant contact with each other, and using social networks to stay in contact with each other.”

Ultimately, the objective and funding proposal for this portion of the project was rewritten to abandon the formal, paid trainer/trainee relationship and focus instead on training workshops to help prepare mentors to share one-on-one technical assistance informally. By the end of the project, 146 farmers and 53 partners received technical assistance.



Differences in soil health between conventionally managed plots (left) and conservation systems (right) were abundant. Differences in color, structure and earthworm activity were immediately apparent.



Annual ryegrass-oilseed radish-crimson clover-rape cover crop mix in soybean stubble. Photo Credit: Barry Fisher, NRCS

“Most of the people are willing to share what they’re doing to help other people, because most of us who are doing this think it’s a better way to be farming, that we’ll all be better off if we farm this way.”

Mike Shuter
CCSI Hub Farmer
Frankton, Indiana

Conservation on the Ground

In all, the program’s technical assistance reached 146 farmers and 53 partners. The foundation for technical assistance and workshop training also laid the groundwork for an ongoing series of training workshops for crop advisors, ag retailers, seed dealers, commercial applicators and other grower influencers. Leveraging ICP relationships allowed the CCSI team to build connections with other conservation programs in the state, including the Great Lakes Cover Crop Initiative, the Resource Conservation Cooperative Partnership, Infield Advantage and others.

The CCSI team also demonstrated its capabilities to help researchers such as Tyner, Lira, Brad Joern, Christian Krupke and others connect with farmer-cooperators for their studies, expanding the opportunities for academic research in Indiana.

The greatest success is the adoption of conservation cropping systems—best indicated by the adoption of cover crops—on the ground.

In 2010, prior to the start of the CIG project, Indiana cover crop acres totaled about 40,000. In 2011, the year before the start of the CCSI CIG, Indiana led the nation in cover crops with 68,141 acres applied through federal programs and an estimated total of 180,000 acres planted.

By 2013, the year after the CIG began, program cover crop acres totaled 154,590, and the Indiana conservation tillage transect indicated a total planted acreage of 441,000 acres of cover crops. That reflects a 3:1 adoption ratio, or a planting rate of 3 acres of cover crops for every 1 acre of federal incentive through EQIP or CSP.

In 2014, the transect indicated 933,000 acres of cover crops across the state (and 199,197 acres enrolled in federal programs), and in 2016, the total was estimated at 1.1 million acres (with 228,400 program cover crop acres—an adoption ratio of nearly 5:1). Though adoption cannot be linked directly to the CIG, it is fair to say that the demonstrations, mentoring and outreach efforts funded under this project created a powerful engine and extensive set of tools to help ICP partners promote conservation cropping systems during the most rapid period of growth in adoption.

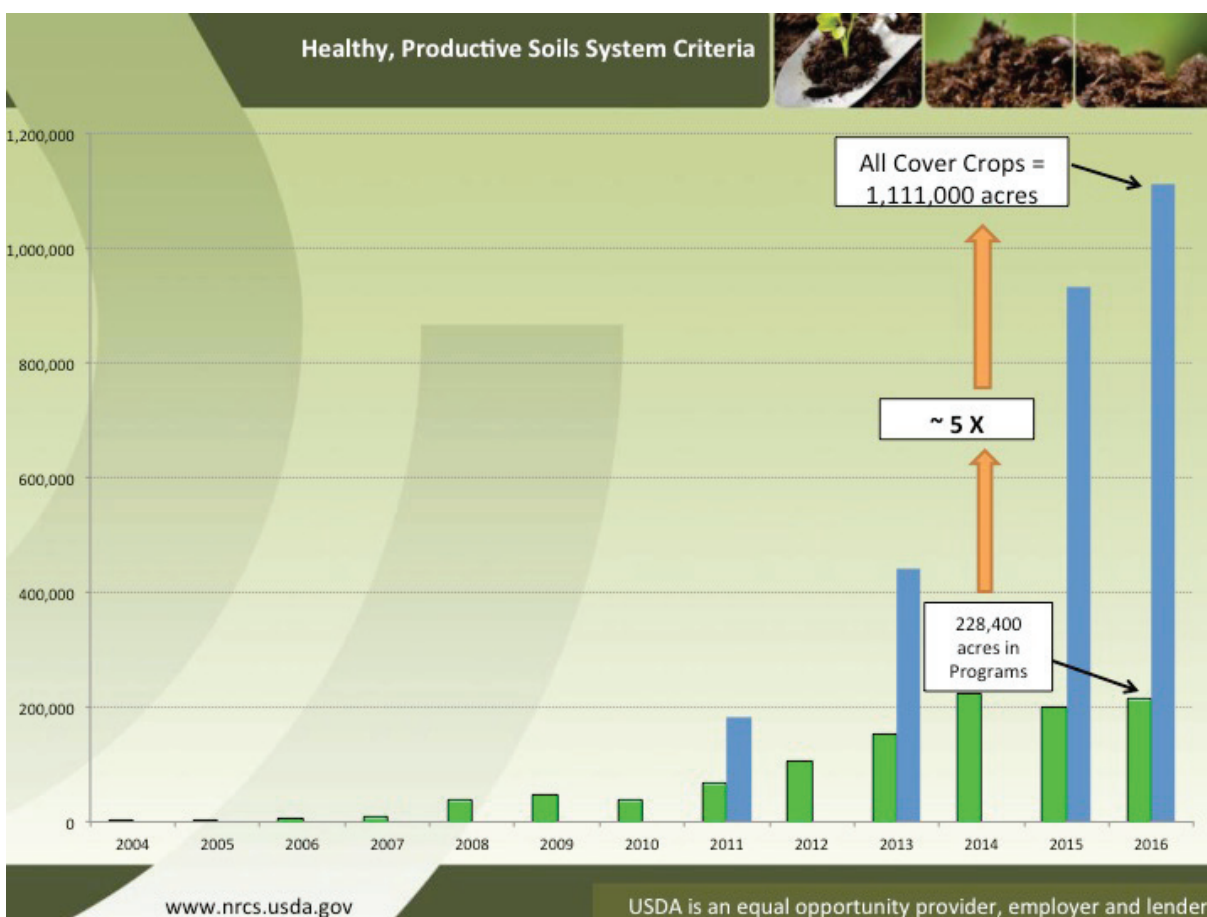
Another major success has been the CCSI goal to become a model for outreach on soil health. During the program period, the CCSI team has consulted with colleagues in Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, California and Ontario on creating similar programs.

“It’s important to back up our outreach with technical assistance. Farmers need to be successful the moment they try these systems; otherwise we may lose them for a generation.”

Shannon Zezula

Indiana State Resource Conservationist

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Shannon Zezula, USDA NRCS, Indiana

Into the Future

The CIG was invaluable in bringing together partners to study, demonstrate and promote soil health and conservation cropping systems; elevate the level of research and visibility of the systems approach to improving soil health; generate statewide discussions and engagement on soil health; and set the stage for continued research on its economic and biological impact.

As CCSI shifts to its post-CIG strategy, organizers have secured funding to build a staff comprised of a director, a program manager, agronomist, post-doc researcher and a communications manager who will continue the research, analysis and promotion of conservation cropping systems and soil health. The network is in place, the hubs are active, and Indiana's producers are increasingly aware of soil health research and now well-equipped with information and contacts to help them adopt systems that can help them improve soil health on their farms.



Class of conservation partnership staff hands-on and in soil pit as part of three-day soil health training.

CCSI's Partners in Conservation:

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the 92 local SWCDs; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service; Indiana State Department of Agriculture; State Soil Conservation Board; Indiana Soybean Alliance; Indiana Corn Marketing Council; Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC); Vincennes University, Jasper Campus; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Wabash County SWCD; Dubois County SWCD.

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For more on the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, visit www.ccsin.org.

