



General Report September 2016

Date Range: September 1 - 30, 2016

Key Accomplishments

- Staffing
 - Joe Rorick hired as CCSI Agronomist
 - Full time after Master's Thesis Deposited (Dec)
 - Will be spending time with Top Farmers each season as continued education
 - Ashley Brucker hired as CCSI Program Manager
 - Part-time Oct 3, Full-time Oct 17
 - Will be spending time with Top Farmers each season as continued education
- SARE Professional Development Plan of Work 2017-18
 - Soil Health Area Finalized and Submitted
 - 3 Tracks: Commodity Crop Production, Specialty Crop Production, Livestock/Manure Mgmt / Composting
- Indiana Nutrient Management / Soil Health Strategy
 - Watersheds, groups identified as potential pilots for Ag Retailer Outreach (Big Pine, St Mary's, Patoka River, Washington Co + Surrounding)

Targeted goals through Dec 1

- Staffing
 - On-boarding of new staff with ICP agencies, top farmers
- Plan of Work with targeted timelines, responsibilities
 - Immediate = Onboarding of Staff
 - Immediate = Initial Communications Plan
 - Immediate = 2017 Soil Health Training Plan (Core Cover Crops, Advanced Cover Crops, Core Soil Health Systems, Advanced Soil Health Systems, etc)
- Final of CIG Report. 2 Versions: 1 NRCS report, 1 public "guide"
- Field Component of Research
 - CNST run
 - Collect input, yield information from farmers
 - Cover Crop Biomass, Ammonium and Nitrate run
- Finalize strategies w/ DSSs to
 - Reach out to SWCDs less engaged w/ CCSI
 - Follow-up on Ag-Retailer Outreach (see Nutrient Reduction, above)
 - Roller-crimper Initiative – provide coordination, not lead (See SARE PDP)
- Communications
 - Start deploying articles for ICP Field Staff use (newsletters, push to local media).
 - Start developing success stories – highlight successful ICP efforts to put more soil health practices on the ground; give others ideas they can adapt
 - Re-launch / Re-communicate Speakers Bureau support
- IASWCD Resolution for CCSI Funding, Draft Letter of Request



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Meetings / Visits / Appearances

Past

- NRCS State Soil Health Team, Sept 8, Indy
- Program Manager Interviews, Sept 15, W Lafayette
- Advanced Cover Crops – Sept 19, Pierceton
- JA Scott Cover Crop Field Day – Sept 20, Pierceton

Upcoming through Nov 30

- Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool – Vegetable Edition, October 10, Shelbyville
- INField Advantage meeting w/ Purdue Extension Educators, Nov 14 or 16
- Purdue Soil Health, Ag Water Management and Nutrient Management Research Forum, Nov 18, Danville
- “Seat Time with Top Farmers”
 - Taylor Lord with Ray McCormick, Mike Brocksmitth
 - Joe Rorick with Dan DeSutter, Cameron Mills
 - Ashley Brucker with tbd

General Assistance Provided:

- Speakers, Workshop Planning – Daviess-Martin SWCDs
- Workshop Planning – Annual Regional Workshop (Salem)