

Highlights

- Following guidelines set by Gov. Holcomb, Purdue University, and USDA – CCSI staff began social distancing COB on March 13th. Based upon information from partners, in-person meetings are expected to resume in July with size restrictions.
- **Alternative Outreach Delivery**
 - *Core Cover Crops and Core Soil Health Systems*
Due to Stay-at-Home orders, these trainings were redesigned into a virtual learning platform virtual platform. A series of 2-hour Zoom meetings will be held on May 21, May 28, and June 4.
- **Soil Health Demo Kits**

An inventory of existing soil health demo kits was conducted by NRCS. In consultation with NRCS, funds from an existing agreement with the agency have been allocated to the purchase of supplies to ensure all 92 counties are equipped with demonstration kits. ICP partners and farmer-mentors can have access to their use. CCSI and the Soil Health Teams will conduct training in their use to ensure a consistent soil health message is maintained. Orders are being shipped to Vincennes University where they will be assembled for distribution. Kits will include:

 - Table-top rainfall simulators
 - Table-top infiltration demos
 - Slump demos
 - Slake demos
 - In-field infiltration kits
 - Pit fall trap kits
 - 5-gallon buckets with lids
 - 40-gallon tote to store and transport items

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.

- 04/20 – DeSutter phone (A, D)
- 04/23 – Brandt phone (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 - A, NPM, SPM)

- White River Co-op – Agronomist Plot discussions (A)

3. 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.

- Soil Health Careers discussions w/ Clinton/Carroll county farmer. (A)

4. Presentations

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

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 Cancelled or Postponed:

- 4/1 Upper Wabash River Field Day, Cancelled
- 4/17 Morgan/Johnson FFA/Ag Youth Field Day, Trafalgar, Cancelled
- 04/24 Soil Health for Legislators, Pike County, Cancelled
- 5/1 Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council Workshop Cancelled
- 6/13 Landowner Field Day, Tippecanoe County, Postponed
- June 2020 SWCS Summer Field Day, Postponed
- June Advanced Soil Health Trainings w/ TNC, Postponed
- 2020 Soil Health Sustainability Workshop - cancelled

Workshops in Progress:

- 6/13 Landowner Field Day, Tippecanoe County
- June 2020 SWCS Summer Field Day
- June Advanced Soil Health Trainings w/ TNC
- 2020 Soil Health Sustainability Workshop
- 7/9 – Posey County Soil Health Breakfast
- July 2020 – Advanced Soil Health Trainings for Ag Retail w/ TNC
- July 2020 – Ag 101
- Summer 2020 – Virtual Soil Health Trainings for Ag Retail w/ IANA and TNC
- 2020 SWCS Summer Field Day
- 8/27 Soil Health Expo, Princeton Princeton.
- 8/28 - SE Area Event TBD with Adam Daugherty
- 11/17 – Spencer/Perry Workshop
- December 2020 – VUJC Field Day
- Vigo Co Small Farm Program – TBD
- Soil Sampling 2.0
- March 2021 Clay Co Soil Health Field Day
- Daviess Co – Soil Health Field Day, TBD 2021

- SARE Livestock Integration Training

Other

- Have secured/made available for partner meetings and communications:
 - Second Teleconference line
 - WebEx
- 04/24 NW SWCD WebEx (set-up, attend)
- 04/28 Huntington SWCD Board Meeting Teleconference
- 04/11, 04/12 – Pasture Project REGAIN virtual platform review (D, SPM)
- Purchase of demonstration kits/supplies to supplement existing kits so that all 92 Counties' ICP partners and farmer-mentors have access to a kit.

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

Trainings in Progress:

- 05/21, 05/28, 06/04 – Core Cover Crops and Soil Health Systems Virtual Trainings
- July (tent) Ag 101
- July Intro to Soil Health
- 08/25-27 3-Day Soil Health Training
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review
- Soil Health Nexus 3-Day Soil Health Training / In-service
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual

3. 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:

- Date TBD - Summer 2020 SWCS Summer Mtg
- Week of Sept 21 Advance Cover Crops (4 trainings, 1 in each region)

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- 04/02 NW District Teleconference w/ ISDA and partners (NPM)
- 04/08 NE District Teleconference w/ ISDA and partners (NPM)
- 04/18 SE District Telconference with ISDA and partners (SPM)
- 04/24 Setup and attend NW District WebEx with ISDA and partners (NPM)
- 04/24 Indiana SARE Professional Development Advisory Council (D, A)
- 04/27 CCSI SE Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM, NPM)
- 04/27 CCSI SW Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM, NPM)

- 04/28 NE District MS Teams Meeting w/ ISDA and partners (NPM)
- 04/29 SW District Teleconference with ISDA and partners (SPM)
- 04/29 CCSI NE Regional Teleconference (D, A, NPM)
- 04/29 CCSI NW Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM, NPM)
- 04/30 SW District Teleconference with ISDA and partners (SPM)

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.

- 04/18 SWCD Staff Teleconference (SPM)
- 04/24 SWCD Staff WebEx (NPM)
- 04/28 NE SWCD MSTeams (NPM)
- 04/29 SWCD Staff Teleconference (SPM)
- 04/30 SWCD Staff Teleconference (SPM)

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:

- Blogs
 - March Updates from CCSI & Partners
 - Planting 2020 Has Commenced
 - Protecting Earth’s Skin – Earth Day 2020
 - Women4theLand
- Podcasts:
 - Spring Herbicide Considerations (Jamie Scott and Cameron Mills)
- Other
 - Connected Progressive Farmer writer with contact for bison in Indiana article.

Materials in Progress:

- Billboards – A series of 4 different billboard designs featuring the hashtag #LOVINSOIL will begin deployment in May. A social media campaign will accompany their deployment.

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G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

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

- Yoder et. al. (IU SPEA/Ostrom Lab) - Participatory Farmer Monitoring on Nitrate Loss: Using Farm-Scale Data to Improve Nutrient Management and Water Quality Norms (SARE)
- Armstrong et. al. – Precision Winter Hardy Cover Cropping for Improving Farm Profitability and Environmental Stewardship (SARE Proposal)
- Soil Health Institute – Soil Health Systems and Economics, multiple projects
- Prokopy et. al. – (Natural Resources Science Lab) Effectiveness of Outreach Events on Conservation Adoption (NWF)

OTHER

Professional Development

- 04/21, 04/28 – Cover Crop Leadership Lab – Virtual Training Meeting Development and Messaging (D)
- 04/28 – Setup Teleconference line for Hunting Co SWCD Board Meeting (NPM)
- Zoom, WebEx platform / virtual meeting moderation practice (A, D, NPM, SPM)