

Highlights

Intro to Soil Health

- 60 registrants, 45 live attendees (some register to watch the videos later)
 - 30 NRCS
 - 8 University: 5 Purdue, 1 Michigan State, 1 Ohio State, 1 University of Missouri
 - 13 SWCD, including 1 from Iowa
 - Others included: CTIC, New Jersey Audubon Society, a community empowerment group

Cover Crop Root Boxes

- Instructions acquired from Becks Seed on methods used to create corn root display (see photo)
- Elam Fisher, Byron Seeds will be working this summer to replicate the process using cover crops



No-Till and Cover Crop Handbook

- Approval was given to purchase enough No-Till and Cover Crop Handbooks for each Indiana USDA Service Center, non co-located SWCDs, and all county-level Extension offices to have one.

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.

- 02/02 Jim Moseley (D)
- 02/08 Blake Vince (D)
- 02/28 Cameron Mann – references of sources for untreated seed (NEPM)

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)

- 02/09 Seib Farm (CSA)
- Participation in Agronomy Department Head Interview – Stakeholder Meetings (D)

2. Farmer Influencers

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

- 02/02 Hal Hamilton, Sustainable Food Lab (D)
- 02/15-16 Various – Louisville Farm Show (D)
- 02/22 Noah Radde, ADM

3. Presentations

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

- Ongoing – AGRY 598 Course, 23 students – 3 graduate students and 20 undergraduate students (DA)
- 02/02 – Area 1 Purdue ANR Educator Meeting, Butlerville, “CCSI and Purdue on the Farm” (10 attendees) CSA
- 02/06 – Jackson County PARP, Seymour, “Soil Health and Climate Smart Strategies” (80 attendees) CSA
- 02/07 – HOSTED, NOT PRESENTED – NECI Professional Development Meeting featuring Sarah Mae Nelson, Virtual “Climate Stewards Curriculum” (30 attendees) CSA
- 02/07 – District 6 Farm Bureau Meeting, Edgewood, “Current Status of Climate Smart Commodities” (25 attendees) CSA
- 02/07 Area 3 Extension Field Day “UAV Uses in Agriculture and Conservation”, 40 attendees (DA)
- 02/12 Tipton SWCD Annual Meeting “UAV Uses in Agriculture and Conservation”, 50 attendees (DA)
- 02/15 – CAMF Webinars, Virtual, “Climate Adaptation” (10 attendees) CSA
- 02/15 – Bartholomew County Master Gardener Basic Training, Virtual, “Weather and Climate in the Garden” (13 attendees) CSA
- 02/19 – Shelby County PARP, Shelbyville, “Soil Health and Climate Smart Strategies” (60 attendees) CSA

- 02/26 – HOSTED, NOT PRESENTED – NC3 Webinar, Virtual “MRCC Tools with Melissa Widhalm” (70 attendees) CSA
- 02/28 – Jay County PARP, Portland, “Soil Health and Climate Smart Strategies” (28 attendees) CSA
- 02/29 – Franklin County PARP, Brookville, “Soil Health and Climate Smart Strategies” (110 attendees) CSA
- 02/26 Winter Farmer Breakfast PARP (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 Completed

- 02/01-02 Northern Indiana Grazing Conference, Shipshewana; Provided ICP Soil Health Booth. 1375 attendees
- 2/6 Regional Soil Health Workshop, Salem; 110 attendees
- 2/6 Jackson Co PARP Meeting; 82 attendees
- 02/07 Area Corn and Soybean Day, Evansville; 35 attendees
- 02/14-15 Joint Council of Extension Professionals Leadership Conference
- 02/21 Posey County Ag Day, New Harmony
- 02/22 Ag Women Engage 2024 Conference, Ft Wayne
- 02/26 Lake County Winter Farmer Meeting
- 02/28 St. Joe and Marshall SWCD Producers Meeting; 28 attendees

Workshops in Progress:

- 03/05 AGree Farmer-led Mentoring program design meeting
- 03/05 Orange County Soil Health Workshop
- 03/05-7 Pay Dirt, Goshen
- 03/12-13 Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference – Soil Health Demo Booth, Ada, OH
- 03/13 Landwise Workshop, Daviess County
- 03/14 Going Green for Ag, Decatur
- 03/20 SoilCon, Kosciusko County
- 03/21 Wayne Co Conservation Focus Workshop
- 03/26 St Joe PARP
- 03/2024 – ADM Growers Meetings
- 03/2024 Howard/Tipton Workshop
- March or April – Purdue Extension Nutrient Management Workshop
- 08/09-10/2024 Manure Management Workshop
- 08/24 Ray Archuleta Events – Cass, Miami, Fulton, and Pulaski Counties
- 08/2024 Indiana Corn/Soy Upper White Growers Workshop
- 2021 – 23 – Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)
- 09/24 Porter County Event

- November 2024 – Spencer County SWCD

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

- 02/13-14 MCCC Annual Conference, Indianapolis
- 02/27 CCSI-SARE Intro to Soil Health (Virtual) 60 registrants, 45 live attendees (some register to watch the videos later)

Trainings in Progress:

- 04/2, 9, 16, 23 CCSI-SARE Foundations of Soil Health Systems
- 06/11-13 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff
- 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

- September 2024: Engaging New Audiences

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)
- 02/03 Adams SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 02/06 Kosciusko SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 02/07 ANR Monthly Update (CSA, A, DA)
- 02/08 Hamilton SWCD Annual Meeting (NWPM)
- 02/08 Natural Resource and Land Use Focus Group Meeting (CSA)
- 02/09 IASWCD Board of Directors (D)
- 02/09 Purdue Mesonet Team Meeting (CSA)
- 02/12 Purdue ANR Extension Area 11 Meeting (NEPM)
- 02/13 NNW IDEA Fall Conference Planning (NWPM)
- 02/13 Stark SWCD (NWPM)
- 02/15 Purdue ANR Extension Area 10 Meeting (NEPM)
- 02/15 Wells SWCD Annual Meeting (NEPM)
- 02/15 Jasper Co Extension (NWPM)
- 02/16 St Joseph SWCD Annual Meeting (NEPM)
- 02/19 Purdue Agronomy Extension Meeting (CSA, A, DA)
- 02/21 Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape / Conservation Law Center (D)
- 02/24 Blackford SWCD Annual Meeting (NEPM)
- 02/26 CCSI Regional Teleconferences

- 02/26 Montgomery SWCD (NWPM)
- 02/26 IEEA Spring Conference Planning (CSA)
- 02/28 Northern Indiana Grazing Conference Planning Committee (D)
- 02/29 Lower Kankakee Watershed Initiative (NWPM)
- 02/29 Newton Co Extension (NWPM)
- 02/29 LaPorte SWCD Annual Meeting (NWPM)

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
 - Mike Lessiter and Hans Kok – National No-Till Conference: Past, Present, Future
 - Jay Brandt and Jimmy Emmons – The Legacy of David Brandt
- Social Media
 - Facebook:
 - Instagram:
 - LinkedIn:
- Website:

Completed Materials:

- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Series

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
- Indiana Prairie Farms Crops Corner (NA)
- Giant Ragweed and Waterhemp germination plots (NA)

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

OTHER

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

- Making Retail Conservation Real, Des Moines, IA
- Midwest Cover Crops Council, Indianapolis

Other

- <https://ag.purdue.edu/news/2024/02/a-hoosiers-guide-to-the-galaxy.html>

- <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/ag-week/episodes/Greenhouse-Gases-e2gfc0g>
- Organized/staffed Purdue Extension booth at Midwest Cover Crop Council Annual Meeting
- Began planning summer climate meeting using awarded NTAE funds to NC3

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

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