

Highlights

CCSI – Purdue On The Farm Positions

- As of December 1, Adam Shanks has joined the CCSI-POTF team as a Soil Health and Digital Ag Specialist.
- Bryan Overstreet, Soil Health and Agronomic Specialist was elected to serve on the Indiana CCA Board

Clean Water Indiana: Breakfast at the Statehouse

As part of the event, CCSI-POTF staff and Area Soil Health Teams have been collecting soils with a goal of having samples from every legislative district in Indiana to demonstrate the effects of soil health systems. In addition Soil Health Teams have used the opportunity to train newer staff on sample collection and processing.

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.

- 12/05 Randy Lee (A)
- 12/06 Mike Werling (A)
- 12/06 Cameron Mills (D)
- 12/06 Pat Bittner (D)
- 12/06 Jamie Scott (D)
- 12/08 Ben Delbecq (A)
- 12/11 Rick Clark (D)
- 12/12 Terry Taylor (D)
- 12/14 Mike Norman (NEPM)
- 12/14 AGree Roundtable (D, NWPM)
- 12/15 John Miller (A)
- 12/15 David Ransbottom (A)

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)

- 10/25 Tony Jones (SEPM)
- 10/31 Zellers Farm shop visit (NEPM)

2. Farmer Influencers

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

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3. Presentations

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

- 12/07 Rush County Fall PARP, Rushville “Preparing for a Successful Cover Crop”; 105 attendees (A)
- 12/07 Fayette County PARP, Connersville “Preparing for a Successful Cover Crop”; 35 attendees (A)
- 12/12 – Knox County PARP, Vincennes, “Nutrient Management in Soil Health Systems”; 67 attendees (CSA)
- 12/16 Tri-County Winter Crop update, Wolcott “Preparing for a Successful Cover Crop”; 40 attendees (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

- 12/04 Dubois County Data Driven Decisions
- 12/06 (CSA Host) NECI Webinar, The Climate Majority Project with Rupert Read; 53 attendees
- 12/07 Shop Talk / Newton County PARP; 62 attendees
- 12/07 ISDA Soil Fertility and Manure Management Webinar; 58 attendees
- 12/12 Grant County PARP
- 12/14 AGree Farmer Mentoring Roundtable, Arcadia; 21 attendees
- 12/15 Indiana Farm Bureau Convention Trade Show; 670 attendees
- 12/17 Newton County PARP
- 12/19 Grant County PARP
- 12/19 Indiana CCA Conference, Indianapolis; 550 attendees
- 12/24 (CSA Host) NC3/IN/IL Climate Webinar, Virtual, Plant Physiology in a Changing Climate with Jeff Volenec; 56 attendees

Workshops in Progress:

- 01/08-09 IASWCD Annual Conference
- 01/09-12 National No Till Conference
- 01/12 Indiana Farmer’s Union
- 01/16 Area Corn and Soybean Day, Evansville
- 01/18 Ft Wayne Farm Show
- 01/30 Howard County SWCD Annual Meeting
- 02/06 Regional Soil Health Workshop, Salem
- 02/06 Jackson County PARP
- 02/07 Area Corn and Soybean Day, Evansville
- 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
- 03/05 Orange County Soil Health Workshop
- 03/13 Landwise Workshop, Daviess County
- 03/20 SoilCon, Kosciusko County
- 03/2024 Howard/Tipton Workshop
- March or April – Purdue Extension Nutrient Management Workshop
- 08/09-10/2024 Manure Management Workshop
- 2021 – 23 – Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)
- 2024 – Ray Archuleta – Cass, Miami, and Fulton Counties
- 09/2024 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

- 12/13-14 Purdue Development Conference (A, CSA, DA)
- 12/18 Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Series Pilot, Greenfield; 18 attendees (A, CSA, DA)

Trainings in Progress:

- 02/13-14 MCCC Annual Conference
- 02/27 CCSI-SARE Intro to Soil Health
- 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

- 11/28 Conservation Staff Training with Adam Daugherty, Coffee Co TN NRCS
- 11/30 – CCSI-SARE Continuing Education: Economics of Soil Health

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)
- 12/05 MRCC Monthly Update (CSA)
- 12/05 Steuben Co Extension (NEPM)
- 12/05 SW NRCS Area Meeting (D)
- 12/08 Women4theLand (NWPM)
- 12/08 IASWCD Board of Directors (D)

- 12/11 INFB District Coordinator (CSA)
- 12/11 POTF Operations Team Meeting (CSA, A, DA)
- 12/11 Posey County Extension (CSA)
- 12/13 State Soil Health Team (D, CSA, A, SEPM, NWPM)
- 12/14 Upper Wabash Watershed (NEPM)
- 12/19 St Joeseph Co Extension (NEPM)
- 12/20 NW NRCS Area Meeting (D, NWPM)
- Area 5 Purdue Extension (CSA)

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
 - Barry Fisher, Fisher Soil Health, and John Pike, Pike Ag LLC – *Bio Strip-tilling with Cover Crops* – Seeding a combination of winter-killed + overwintering cover crops to provide a planter ready “strip-tilled” field and the advantage they have seen.
- Social Media
 - Facebook: 3421 reach, 746 followers
 - Instagram: 115 reach, 313 followers
 - LinkedIn: building presence as replacement for Twitter
- Website: 715 users, 528 sessions

Completed Materials:

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 - 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)
- Support – Purdue University NIFA – Empowering Indiana’s Organic Farmers – Assessing Regional and Farm Scale Soil Health with a Farmer Network (Rui)
- Support – 1000 Farms Project, Ecdysis Foundation (Lundgren) – 2023 sampling coordination in W IN
- Purdue On The Farm led efforts:

- Kingma – comparisons of weed pressures, disease presence, insects, and tissue samples
- Scott – comparisons of three tillage situations for weed pressure, disease presence, insects, and tissue samples
- Waterhemp and Giant Ragweed germination plots

OTHER

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

- Professional Development Conference, Lafayette (CSA, A, DA)

Other

- Installed new pyranometer and completed winter site check for SWPAC weather station (CSA)
- Assisted in locating Posey County mesonet site installation (CSA)
- 12/15 ICP Training Brainstorming Meeting (D, CSA, A, DA, SEPM)
 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