

## Highlights

### Landwise Workshops – Daviess County

Led by Daviess County Extension, a pair of workshops were held on 11/6 (Commodity Crop) and 11/7 (Small Farms / Specialty Crops). The focus was to educate the predominantly Plain community around Boggs Lake about practices that will both build resiliency in farming operations and reduce nutrient and sediment loading into the lake.

Initial reports show a tremendous turn-out (160 for commodity and 50 for small farms). It has been reported that a several attendees were struck by the information and especially the demonstration conducted by Travis Gogel, NRCS.

### Step-up for Ag

An invitation only roundtable the night before the Sustainable Ag Summit was organized by PepsiCo and the Sustainable Food Lab on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Participants included Consumer Packaged Goods / Retailers, NGOs, and organizations like CCSI. Discussions revolved around financial and capacity-building needs of organizations like CCSI and the support NGOs and CPGs could provide. There was very strong support by the organizations involved to develop framework, financial and structural support to conservation organizations.

The meeting will be followed up with one-on-one meetings with CPG representatives to develop a framework, identify geographic interest, priority commodities, finding availability and timelines. Support will be designed to be farmer-first and locally rooted. A goal has been set to have a proof of concept by end of 2025.

### Purdue On The Farm

POTF has started deployment and installation of weather stations for a “Winter Kill and Injury to Cover Crops” grant supported by Indiana Soybean Alliance / Indiana Corn Marketing Council. Information gathered will include temperature at 3 different heights, windspeed, precipitation and barometric levels.

Bryan Overstreet CCSI/POTF Soil Health and Agronomic Specialist, will be working with Soil and Water Outcomes Fund as a consultant agronomist.

## 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.*

- 11/1 Jim Moseley (D)
- 11/2 Dave Duttlinger (A)
- 11/4 Rodney Rulon (D)

- 11/6 Cameron Mills (D)
- 11/8 Jamie Scott (A)
- 11/11 Keaton and Kelly Cheesewright (A)
- 11/12 Michael Strasburger (D)
- 11/12 Dan DeSutter (D)
- 11/12 Ray McCormick (A)
- 11/14 Michael Strassberger, Josh Cox, Dan DeSutter, Barry Fisher (D)
- 11/26 Jamie Scott (A)
- 11/27 Andy and Bob Klemp
- 11/30 Ray McCormick (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 – CCSI-POTF, Program Manager)

- 11/01 UAV Mapping re crop damage (DA)
- 11/07 Gary Fritts (A)
- 11/07 Gary Hamstra / Justin Albring (A)
- 11/11 Nick Green – set up trials to look at Mn deficiency with / without cover crops (A)
- 11/12 Larry Holscher – with McCormick tour (A)
- 11/13 Joe McCutchen (A)
- 11/13 POTF Cooperator (DA)

## 3. Farmer Influencers

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

- 11/12 Barry Fisher (D)

## 4. Presentations

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

- 11/1 Field Fire Mapping (DA)
- 11/8 Thermal Sensing with UAVs (DA)
- 11/12 Knox Co PARP – Sulfur Use in Corn and Soybeans with Cover Crops, 25 attendees (A)
- 11/12 Pike Co PARP – Sulfur Use in Corn and Soybeans with Cover Crops *and* Preparing for Next Year's Cover Crop, 7 attendees (A)
- 11/18 CCSI-SARE Manure and Commercial Fertilizer Management Training – Anhydrous Ammonia Safety and Soil Health Considerations, 50 attendees (A, DA)
- 11/20-21 ANR Retreat – Soil Erosion Lab + Climate Smart Ag (DA)
- 11/26-27 UAV Signature Program, Winchester (DA)

## 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

- 11/12 Knox County PARP, 25 attendees
- 11/12 Pike County PARP, 7 attendees
- 11/12 Women4theLand Learning Circle, Montgomery Co, 12 attendees
- 11/14 Hoosier Chapter SWCS Fall Meeting, Muncie, 25 attendees
- 11/14 HUAP and Pasture Management, Brown Co, 25 attendees
- 11/14 Manure Management Workshop, Greene Co, 20 attendees
- 11/19 Dubois Co Soil Health Workshop, 34 attendees
- 11/20-21 ANR Retreat, West Lafayette

#### Workshops in Progress:

- 12/04-5 Purdue Extension Professional Development Conference
- 12/06 Rensselaer Ag Business Class
- 12/06 Newton County PARP
- 12/9 Starke County PARP
- 12/11 Tippecanoe County PARP
- 12/13 Montgomery County PARP with the Halderman Group
- 12/17-18 Indiana CCA Conference
- 1/10/25(?) Dollars and Cents of Soil Health, Clay County
- 01/16/25 Ft Wayne Farm Show
- 01/31 and 02/01/25 Northern Indiana Grazing Conference
- 02/03 Washington County SWCD Annual Meeting
- 02/04 Regional Soil Health Workshop, Salem
- 02/19 Lake County SWCD / Extension Breakfast
- February – Knox County Breakfast
- February – Soil Health Signature Program – Putnam, Clay, Owen Counties
- 03/01 – Jennings County SWCD Annual Meeting
- March – Floyd County Pasture Field Day
- 04/24-25 Indiana Extension Educators Association Spring Conference
- Spring – Greene County – Drill set up/ maintenance/ multi species planting to go along with the new drill they will purchase with CWI funds
- 2025 Dearborn County Women’s Learning Circle
- Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)

## **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

- 11/20 ANR Extension Retreat; W Lafayette

#### Trainings in Progress:

- 12/4-5 – Purdue Extension Professional Development Conference
- 02/25/25 CCSI-SARE Intro to Soil Health 9:00-12:00 Eastern; Virtual
- 04/01, 08, 15, 22 OR 04/08, 15, 22, 29 CCSI-SARE Fundamentals of Soil Health; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> session virtual; 3<sup>rd</sup> session in person at the Beck Ag Center, W Lafayette

- 06/09-12 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-1/2 Day Soil Health) Training; Beck Ag Center, W Lafayette
- Video development on collecting soils for soil health demonstrations
- 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:

- November 18: CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Education: Manure and Commercial Fertilizer Management, 95 attendees

#### Trainings in Progress

- Winter 2025 – CCSI-SARE Engaging New Audiences
- July 2025 – CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Education - Equipment

## **4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships**

*Monthly Targets: 2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NWPM, NEPM, SWPM, SEPM)*

- 11/04 Floyd County Extension (SEPM)
- 11/06 ANR Extension (D, DA)
- 11/06 ADM Regen Ag Manager (SWPM)
- 11/07 Wallace Center / Washington SWCD (SEPM)
- 11/07 Starke Co SWCD Board Meeting (NWPM)
- 11/07 Sullivan Co SWCD (SWPM)
- 11/12 Delaware SWCD (NEPM)
- 11/13 Marshall SWCD Board (NEPM)
- 11/14 Dearborn County SWCD and Purdue Extension (SEPM)
- 11/14 Green Co FFA Advisor (SWPM)
- 11/15 IASWCD Board of Directors (D)
- 11/19 Clinton/Carroll County Extension (DA)
- 11/19 Pre-Sustainable Ag Summit Roundtable with CPGs (D)
- 11/19-21 Sustainable Ag Summit (D)
- 11/19 Clinton / Carroll ANR Extension (DA)
- 11/20 Lower Kankakee Steering Committee (NWPM)
- 11/22 Imact<sup>2</sup> regen ag intake on corn/soy acres (D)
- 11/22 WHIN (DA)
- 11/25 CCSI Soil Health Update (All)
- 11/26 Purdue Agronomy Extension Team (A)
- 11/26 Harrison County Extension (SEPM)
- 11/23 NW Area NRCS Meeting (NWPM)

## **G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication**

### **1. Marketing and Messaging**

*Quarterly Targets: 3 Podcasts; 6 Newsletters; Use social networks and other media tools to deliver soil health messaging and information.*

Completed Materials:

- Podcasts
  - Brian Friedan, USDA-RMA and Lisa Holscher, CCSI – Just the facts on crop insurance, cover crops and other soil health practices
- Website: 1060 sessions, 885 unique visitors, 32 countries
- Facebook: 5.8K views, 1.4K reach

Completed Materials:

- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Series
- 07/12 Indiana Prairie Farmer – Crops Corner
- 07/25 Farmers Exchange
- 08/02 WLQI
- 08/12 Indiana Prairie Farmer – Crops Corner

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
- Cover Crop Termination Study Materials
- Planter types / parts video
- No-Till Drill video
- Soil Health Scouting Materials
- Winter Kill and Injury to Cover Crops

#### **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
- Support - SDSU and Pork Board – 5-year study with swine manure and effects of soil health on continuous corn
- POTF – Winter Kill and Injury to Cover Crops

#### **OTHER**

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

- National Wildlife Federation Grow More: Engaging New Audience training lead certification (SEPM) – Also provided great vetting of potential speakers.
- Heart of America Grazing Conference (SEPM)

SEPM: Lead and Southeast Program Manager

SWPM: Southwest Program Manager

NWPM: Northwest Program Manager  
NEPM: Northeast Program Manager  
A: Soil Health/Agronomic Specialist  
DA: Soil Health/Digital Ag Specialist  
D: Director