

Highlights

Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production

Registration for Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production was opened on the afternoon of June 3rd. By early afternoon June 4th, all seats were taken and a waitlist started. By June 7th, over 40 individuals had registered for the waitlist. Registration was closed and a survey created for ICP partners to determine number and location of subsequent trainings. Registrants are a good mix of NRCS, FSA, Extension, SWCD and ISDA staff.

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.

- 06/06 Pat Bittner (D)
- 06/18 Ray McCormick (D)
- 06/21 Roger Wenning (D)
- 06/28 Tom Rudolph (CSA)

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)

- 06/08 – Multiple (CSA)

3. Farmer Influencers

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

- Lucas Rhodes, Byron Seeds – multiple conversations (SEPM)

4. Presentations

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

- 06/03 – Stem to STEM UAV demonstration to science teachers from across the US; 30 attendees (DA)
- 06/04 - North American State Conservation Agencies – Partnership Panel Discussion (D)
- 06/06 – Proactive Agronomy Field Day, Dale “Warrick County Weather and Climate”; 70 attendees (CSA)
- 06/11-13 – Digital Ag Curriculum Training; 5 attendees (DA)
- 06/11-13 – Various presentations, 3-Day Soil Health Training; 35 attendees (CSA, A)
- 06/14 – Spray/Spread UAV Demonstration for 4-H Academy; 12 attendees (DA)
- 06/17 – Gibson County Master Gardeners, Princeton “2024: Year of Phenological Change”; 22 attendees (CSA)

- 06/21 UAV Demonstrations for Summer Kids Workshop
- 06/24-25 – Booth / Demos at IAAE Teacher Conference and Workshop (DA)
- 06/27 – NSW Area SWCD Meeting, Terre Haute “ESG, Carbon Markets, and Conservation”; 9 attendees (CSA)

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

- 06/06 Warrick Co Cover Crop Field Day, Joseph Kerns farm
- 06/11 Miami County SWCD Women’s Learning Circle
- 06/20 Pinney PAC Diagnostic Training
- 06/27 St Joseph County SWCD Meet Your Farmer

Workshops in Progress:

- 07/31- Sullivan County Field Day, Sullivan
- Late July / Early August – Wenning Field Day, Greensburg
- 08/07 The Andersons Agronomy Field Day
- 08/09-10 Manure Management Workshop
- 08/13 Indiana Soybean Association Cover Crop Field Day
- 08/14 FarmAdvisors Mentoring Program Launch
- 08/20 Aaron Krueger Field Day
- 08/21 Adams County On-Farm Demo Day
- 08/22 Regional Ag Forum, Princeton
- 08/14-17 Successful Soil Solutions events with Ray Archuleta and Barry Fischer – Miami, Wabash, Pulaski and Fulton Counties
- 08/27 SEPAC Field Day
- 08/27 Upper Wabash Regional Watershed Biological Field Day
- 09/04 Porter County Event with Ray Archuleta
- 09/26 Allen SWCD Soil Health Field Day
- September 2024 Hancock County Field Day
- 10/23-25 IDEA Fall Conference, Michigan City
- 10/29 – Orange County Amish Outreach
- November 2024 – Spencer County SWCD
- 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

- 06/11-13 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health) Training; 35 attendees

Trainings in Progress:

- 07/24 Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production - DTC
- Video development on collecting soils for soil health demonstrations
- Soil Health Scouting Modules
- Soil Health PARP Regulatory Topic Development
- UAV part 107 training for migrant workers

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)
- Mondays – Extension Field Crops Meetings (CSA, A, DA)
- Six times per month, North Central Climate Collaborative, Virtual (CSA)
- 06/03 – Scott County ANR Extension (SEPM)
- 06/03 – Jennings County ANR Extension (SEPM)
- 06/03 – RITA Techs (all)
- 06/04 – Field Crops and Weather Update (CSA)
- 06/06 – Hoosier Chapter SWCS summer meeting (NWPM)
- 06/17 – PUCESA Executive Team Meeting (CSA)
- 06/19 – ANR Leadership Team Meeting, Bloomington (CSA, DA)
- 06/20 – IDEA NNW Fall Conference Committee (NWPM)
- 06/20 – Jasper County SWCD Board (NWPM)
- 06/24 – IDEA NNW Meeting (NWPM)
- 06/24 – Purdue Rainscaping Education Program Team (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
 - Farming Under a Heat Dome: Hans Schmitz, CCSI/POTF and Austin Pearson, Midwest Regional Climate Center
- Social Media
 - Facebook:

- LinkedIn:
- Website: 972 visitors

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
- Cover Crop Termination Study Materials
- Planter types / parts video
- No-Till Drill video
- Solicited and flew drone-collected firefly videos, with the revelation that fireflies don't signal upwards.

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

Purdue On The Farm Trials

- 06/20 First scouting pass of POTF fields with soil samples pulled and submitted

OTHER

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

National Wildlife Federation Offshoots Program

CCSI has worked with NWF to include 5 individual from Indiana to complete a pilot certification program to enable those individuals to deliver the Engaging New Audiences trainings. The SWPM, NWPM and CSA along with Lais McCartney, Indiana SARE and Martha Miller, Monroe County SWCD have started that training program and will be leading trainings this fall.

Other

As a thank you for farmers who have hosted events or provided numerous presentations without compensation, a suggestion was made to ‘give them a good shovel and engrave it’. This led to a purchase of several high-quality shovels and having them engraved on the handles. The first shovels were presented to Michael Strassberger and Rodney Rulon for their assistance with the 2024 3-Day Soil Health Training.

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