



Highlights

- Morgan – Johnson “Discover the Cover” Field Day
 - Logistical assistance – very helpful for new SWCD staff to understand how to build a workshop.
 - Dave Brandt – 3rd of 3 events organized w/ CCSI
 - Had to cut off registration – very high demand
 - Tom Bechman, Indiana Farm Bureau facilitated panel – and wrote articles on cover crops, roots in tile from the event.
 - NRCS staff from SW Soil Health Team jumped in to help man a soil pit (unplanned extra)
- Events in general
 - 470 attendees
 - 14 events in 12 counties – Field level staff from at least 15 counties involved in development of the local events
- Research – Recommendations made to wind down current CCSI research project:
 - 2018 last year for field sampling
 - Analysis through Feb 2019
 - Data to be held in a public domain.

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting set (02/26). Invitations issued
- National No-Till Conference – (D, PM, A)
- First draft – list of “Soil Health Pro-Team” – List of farmers, current advocacy program affiliations (NWF Cover Crop Champ, NACD Soil Health Champ, etc)

2. Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers

- IASWCD Annual Conference roundtable (listening session). Key take-aways:
 - Need to teach basic soils / how soils work
 - Target outreach to female farming partners – often responsible for bookkeeping, key part of financial decisions
 - Target outreach to non-operating landowners (NOLOs)
 - Tillage transect may not be most accurate/best measurement of success, nor may it be the best tool for targeting geographic regions
 - Look at working w/ FSA to note tillage and/or cover crop intentions when farmers are certifying acreage.
 - Make economic resources like Rulon Case Study readily available to “show other farmers”
- Use of INFA meetings as listening sessions for issues, concerns, etc

3. Farmer Influencers

- NOLO focus group, led by TNC and partnering with CCSI, SHP, IANA, W4tL set for March

- 1/25 – ACI Conference, Indianapolis. Presentation on why soil health should be a priority (D) (20 att)

Upcoming / Work in Progress

- NOLO outreach / communications package development with NRCS, ISDA, oth3er partners

G2. Local Level Partnership Support

1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership's efforts to deliver soil health messaging

- 1/7 – SSCB Meeting – 2017 Annual Accomplishments (A, D, PM)
- 1/8 -9 – IASWCD Annual Conference
 - CCSI round table. See G1P2 for take-aways (D, A, PM (15)
 - NE Region Meeting. Visit w/ staff/supervisors on CCSI options for partnerships with districts (PM) (40)
 - Visit w/ Pulaski SWCD Supervisors re assistance w/ LARE grant promotion and recognition of project (PM)
 - Visit w/ Benton SWCD staff and partners re needs for a spring soil health day. (PM)
- Local Workshops
 - 1/4 – INFA W Central Regional Meeting, Covington - D, PM, A part of breakout sessions (50)
 - 1/17 – INFA SW Region Meeting, Ft Branch - - D, PM, A part of breakout sessions (40)
 - 1/23 – INFA, Noblesville (A) (15)
 - 1/23 – INFA, Franklin (A) (15)
 - 1/24 – INFA, Greenscastle (PM)
 - 1/25 – INFA, Lebanon (A)(20)
 - 1/25 – INFA Crawfordsville (A)(15)
 - 1/26 – INFA Jasonville (D)(20)
 - 1/30 – Southern Region Soil Health Workshop, Salem
 - Secured Dave Brandt as speaker
 - Vole presentation by Agronomist
 - 150 attendees
 - 1/30 – Putnam County Roundtable
 - Secured guest – Dave Brandt
 - Assisted w/ logistics (PM)
 - 20 attendees
 - 1/31 – Morgan-Johnson Soil Health Workshop
 - Secured Dave Brandt as Speaker
 - Provided logistical support (PM)
 - 50 attendees
 - 1/31 – INFA, Reynolds (A) (15)
 - 1/31 – INFA, Winamac (A) (20)
 - Tipton County Beginning Farmers series – Arrange Cameron Mills as speaker (20)

2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

- 1/25 – ACI Conference, Indianapolis. Presentation on why soil health should be a priority (D) (20 att)

3. Professional Development Opportunities

- Presentation and Media Skills trainings set for May 24 and 25
- Began compilation of all training attendees since 2013

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

- 1/16 – Soil Health Star WebEx featuring Stephanie McLain, IN NRCS State Soil Health Specialist (A, PM) (20)

G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

1. Marketing Campaign / Strategies

- Directive from CCSI Oversight Committee to develop outreach / communications package targeting NOLOs

2. Soil Health Messaging

G4. Research

1. Current Obligations

- 1/2 - 1/23 CCSI Research roles discussed by Eileen Kladviko, Barry Fisher, Stacy Zuber, Joe Rorick and Lisa Holscher.
- Recommendations submitted to CCSI Oversight Committee – Rec 2018 as final year for sampling on current CCSI sites and treatments; Analysis through Feb 2019

2. Action Plan

3. Vetting System

4. Other

- Work w/ Shalamar Armstrong re no-till planting / contracting w/ farmer to put out no-till plots (A)

G5. Funding

1. Budget Development

2. Capital Structure Plan

3. Funding Model

General Organization

- Oversight Committee Members set for 2018:
 - Jordan Seger, ISDA, Director, Division of Soil Conservation
 - Meg Leader, ISDA, Director of Soil Health, Division of Soil Conservation
 - Eileen Kladviko, Purdue University, Professor of Agronomy
 - Walt Sell, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Asst Program Leader for Soil Health
 - Shannon Zezula, USDA-NRCS, Indiana State Resource Conservationist
 - Jill Reinhart, USDA-NRCS, Indiana State Conservationist (Acting)
 - Jamie Scott, IASWCD, President, Board of Directors
 - Les Zimmerman, IASWCD, Associate Supervisor, Vermillion County SWCD
 - Bob Eddleman, SSCB, Member
 - Robert Woodling, SSCB, Chairman
 - Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD Executive Director (non-voting)
 - Lisa Holscher, CCSI Director (non-voting)