

Highlights

Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference, Ada OH

- CCSI and ICP partners were invited to bring the ICP Soil Health Demonstration Booth (as seen at the National No-till Conference) to the CTTC by conference organizer Randall Reeder
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Farmer-led Mentoring Program

- Led by Jim Moseley and supported by AGree/Meridian Institute a group of top soil health farmers from around the state have been meeting to design a farmer-led mentoring program.
- Next in-person meeting will be in June
- Rollout / soft launch summer 2024

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.

- 03/01 Nevin Stumler, Fredericksburg – currently corn/soy/pumpkin rotation (SWPM)
- 03/07 Joe McCutchen, Montgomery Co – burn down and demo plot plans (A)
- 03/07 Ben Lindsey (CSA)
- 03/08 Andy Klemp, Jasper Co (A)
- 03/13, 18 Allen Reese, Fulton Co – cover crop establishment issues (A)
- 03/19, 27 Andrew Fansler, Shelby/Decatur Co (A)
- 03/25 Jon and Nathan Kingma, Jasper Co – Seeding rate demo (A)
- 03/25 Dan Perkins, Jasper Co – seeding in hoop houses, mulching (A)
- 03/27 Elam Fisher, Byron Seeds – demo tour and examination of drone seeded plots (CSA, A)
- 03/22 Cameron Mills and Jamie Scott – drone seeded plots (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)

- 03/25 Gary Hamstra / Justin Abbring (A)
- 03/22 Alan Funk, Fulton Co (A)

- 03/27 Ryan Stratman (CSA) – wanting to start a small scale family based business around high-labor, high value specialty crops

2. Farmer Influencers

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

- 03/12-13 Various – CTTC, Ada OH

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)
- 03/04 Newton County PARP “Preparing Now for Next Year’s Cover Crop”; 21 attendees (A)
- 03/06 – HOSTED, NOT PRESENTED – NECI Professional Development Meeting featuring Rachel Bezner Kerr, Virtual “Climate Change and Food Systems” (25 attendees)
- 03/11 Jasper County PARP “Preparing Now for Next Year’s Cover Crop”; 14 attendees (A)
- 03/12 – Area 9 ANR Educator Meeting, Virtual, “CCSI and Purdue on the Farm” (6 attendees)
- 03/13 – SC Indiana Envirothon, Bedford, “Renewable Energy in Indiana” (200 attendees)
- 03/21 – Boone County PARP, Lebanon, “Soil Health and Climate Smart Strategies” (50 attendees)
- 03/21 – Resurrection Catholic Church Senior Group, Evansville, “Climate Change in Indiana” (15 attendees)
- 03/25-26 – UAV Signature Program, Loogootee, co-teach with Valerie Clingerman (10 attendees)
- 03/28 – HOSTED, NOT PRESENTED – IL/IN Webinar Series, Virtual, “Climate Change and Water with Dominguez” (30 attendees)

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

- 03/05 AGree Farmer-led Mentoring program design meeting
- 03/05-7 Pay Dirt, Goshen
- 03/05 Orange Co Soil Health Workshop, approx. 30 attendees.
- 03/12-13 Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference – Soil Health Demo Booth, Ada, OH; 725+ attendees
- 03/14 Going Green for Ag, Decatur
- 03/20 SoilCon, Syracuse; 130 attendees
- 03/20 Howard/Tipton Workshop; 35 attendees
- 03/21 Wayne Co Conservation Focus Workshop, approx. 70 attendees
- 03/26 Fayette Preparing for Cover Crops workshop (supplied root banners and projector), 63 attendees
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- 03/26 St Joe PARP

Workshops in Progress:

- ~~03/13~~ Landwise Workshop, Daviess County POSTPONED
- March or April – Purdue Extension Nutrient Management Workshop
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- 04/04 Mud is Fun, Rochester
- 04/05 Hamilton Co PARP
- 04/10 Soil Health event at DTC
- 04/17 Spray Drone Field Day
- 04/23-25 IEEA Spring Conference
- 06/06 Warrick Co Cover Crop Field Day, Joseph Kerns farm
- 08/09-10 Manure Management Workshop
- 8/22 Regional Ag Forum, Princeton, Secured Jim Hoorman and working on RMA speaker
- 08/14-17 Successful Soil Solutions events with Ray Archuleta and Barry Fischer – Miami, Wabash, Pulaski and Fulton Counties
- 08/27 Upper Wabash Regional Watershed Biological Field Day
- 08/2024 Indiana Corn/Soy Upper White Growers Workshop
- 09/2024 Porter County Event
- 09/26 Allen SWCD Soil Health Field Day
- 10/23-25 IDEA Fall Conference, Michigan City
- 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

- 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
- 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:

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)
- 03/01 IEEA Board Meeting (A)
- 03/01 IN SARE Advisory Council Meeting (D, CSA)
- 06/06 ANR Leadership Team Meeting – virtual (CSA)
- 03/06 NW Soil Health Team (NWPM)
- 03/07 Elkhart SWCD Annual Meeting (NEPM)
- 03/08, 27 IEEA Conference Committee (A)
- 03/11 POTF Operations Team – virtual (CSA, A, DA)
- 03/13 SE NRCS Area Meeting – virtual (SEPM)
- 03/13 National Extension Climate Initiative Executive Committee (CSA)
- 03/14 ANR Extension Leadership Team (CSA, A)
- 03/18 ANR Extension Area 3 (A)
- 03/18 NC3 Leadership Team Meeting – virtual (CSA)
- 03/18 Agronomy Extension Monthly Meeting – virtual (CSA)
- 03/21 Tara Wessler-Henry, ISDA (SEPM)
- 03/21 Lower Salamonie Steering Committee Meeting (NEPM)
- 03/22 Soil Health Nexus Event Planning Committee Meeting (CSA)
- 03/25 CCSI Soil Health Update
- 03/26 Marshall Co Planning and Extension (A)
- 03/26 NE NRCS Area Meeting (NWPM)
- 03/28 Black Loam Conference (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
 - One person can make a huge impact – the Legacy of Fred Woods with Barry Fisher, Fisher Soil Health (NRCS ret), and Chris Lee, SE NRCS Area Conservationist
- 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
- Cover Crop Termination Study Materials
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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

OTHER

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

Other

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