

Highlights

Clean Water Indiana Breakfast at the Statehouse

- CCSI and NRCS staff manned a soils health demonstration area that also included a selection of cover crop root banners.
- CCSI Agronomists coordinated with NRCS, ISDA, SWCD and Purdue staff to collect soils from most of Indiana's legislative districts to use during soil health demonstrations for elected officials.

National No-till Conference

- CCSI, NRCS, ISDA, Purdue, and SWCD staffed an Indiana Conservation Partnership soil health demonstration booth organized by CCSI.
- Video of slake demos by Don Donovan, NRCS, were recorded by a Ying Li, a TNC staff member based out of Asia. Within hours of sharing with her China-based farmer groups, the video had been viewed hundreds of times
- Video of Amanda Kautz, Darlene Florence, and Sarah Vaughn, all NRCS, was recorded by a visiting Ukrainian Farmer with over 45.5K YouTube subscribers. The video featured all of the available soil health demonstrations as well as the CCSI cover crop root banners.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bvh9tQRs0hg>
- CCSI was invited by Randall Reeder, OSU professor emeritus, to bring the booth to the Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference in Ada Ohio – March 12-13

Podcast

- Jay Brandt, son of David, and Jimmy Emmons, Oklahoma farmer-rancher, talked about the legacy of David Brandt: How his farming practices changed the Brandt's soil type from cardigan clay to a "different performing product" as well as his legacy and impact on countless other farmers around the world.

Southwest Program Manager

- Julie Loehr, CCSI SW Program Manager submitted her resignation with her final day being February 2nd.

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.*

- 01/09-12 National No-Till Conference – All staff
- 01/18 Oscar Wells (NEPM)

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)

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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)

- 01/04 Purdue ANR Extension: CCSI Program and partnerships with Purdue (D)

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

- 01/07-09 Pay Dirt, Goshen
- 01/09 – IASWCD Clean Water Indiana Breakfast at the Statehouse,
- 01/09-12 National No-Till Conference, 800 attendees
- 01/12 Indiana Farmers Union
- 01/19 Area Corn and Soybean Day, Evansville
- 01/18 Ft Wayne Farm Show
- 01/22-23 Indiana Hort Conference
- 01/30 Howard County SWCD Annual Meeting

Workshops in Progress:

- 02/01-02 Northern Indiana Grazing Conference
- 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
- 02/28 St. Joe and Marshall SWCD Producers Meeting
- 03/05 Orange County Soil Health Workshop
- 03/13 Landwise Workshop, Daviess County
- 03/20 SoilCon, Kosciusko County
- 03/26 St Joe PARP
- 03/2024 – ADM Growers Meetings
- 03/2024 Howard/Tipton Workshop
- March or April – Purdue Extension Nutrient Management Workshop
- 08/09-10/2024 Manure Management Workshop

- 08/2024 Indiana Corn/Soy Upper White Growers 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

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

- 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)

- 01/16 Miami County SWCD Board Meeting

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
 - Mike Lessiter and Hans Kok – National No-Till Conference: Past, Present, Future
 - Jay Brandt and Jimmy Emmons – The Legacy of David Brandt
- 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
- 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

- 2024 Purdue On The Farm led efforts:
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OTHER

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

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Other

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- 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