

Highlights

Soil Health Signature Program

Purdue Extension's new Soil Health Signature Program submitted to Ag Communications for formatting. Rollout expected in winter 2024.

Clean Water Indiana: Breakfast at the Statehouse

Scheduled in place of the Legislator Breakfast during the IASWCD Annual Conference. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to visit the Indiana Statehouse on the morning of January 9th and meet with legislators. The event will feature presence of CCSI, SICIM, USH, IASWCD. ISDA will provide touchscreens for in-depth information on CWI funding. IDEA will assist in day-of organization.

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)

Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.

- 10/01 Jim Droege (SA)
- 10/02 Mike Norman (NEPM)
- 10/03 Bob Klemp (NA)
- 10/03 Cameron Mills (D)
- 10/05 and 07 Joe McCutchan (NA)
- 10/06 Loran Steinlage (D)
- 10/15 Jamie Scott (NA)
- 10/17 Hackman Family Farms (SEPM)
- 10/19 Elam Fisher (D)
- 10/19 Cameron Mills (D)
- 10/24 Jamie Scott (D)
- 10/24 Cameron Churchill (D)
- 10/30 Whitney Buccicone (SA)
- 10/30 Devon Churchill (D)
- 10/31 Jim Moseley (NA)

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 - A, NPM, SPM)

- 10/25 Tony Jones (SEPM)
- 10/31 Zellers Farm shop visit (NEPM)

2. Farmer Influencers

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

- 10/05 Noah Radde (D)

3. Presentations

Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)

- 10/30 UAV Workshop, 15 attendees (NA)
- 10/25 – Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, Newport, IN “Climate Change Effects on Indiana Water” (16 attendees)
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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

- 10/04 (SA Host) NECI Webinar, Virtual, “Invasive Species in a Changing World with Jeffrey Dukes” (21 attendees)
- 10/23 – (SA Host) NC3 Webinar, Virtual, “My Life in Climate with Marilyn Thelen” (69 attendees)
- 10/05 Bale Grazing Workshop, Madison; 60+ attendees
- 10/06 Bale Grazing Workshop, Dubois; 60+ attendees

Workshops in Progress:

- 11/04 Sand County Foundation Event
- 11/13 Montgomery County PARP
- 11/14 Dubois County event
- 11/15 Pike Regenerative Ag Q&A Field Day
- 11/29 Regional Ag Forum, Princeton
- 11/27 Porter County PARP
- 12/04 Dubois County Data Driven Decisions
- 12/12 Grant County PARP
- 12/17 Newton County PARP
- 12/19 Grant County PARP
- December – AGree Farmer Mentoring
- 01/08-09 IASWCD Annual Conference
- 01/09-12 National No Till Conference
- 01/12 Indiana Farmer’s Union
- 01/16 Area Corn and Soybean Day, Evansville
- 02/06 Regional Soil Health Workshop, Salem
- 02/22 Ag Women Engage 2024 Conference, Ft Wayne
- 03/20 SoilCon, Kosciusko County
- 03/2024 West Boggs Soil Health Event
- March or April – Purdue Extension Nutrient Management Workshop

- 08/09-10/2024 Manure Management 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
- 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

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Trainings in Progress:

- 11/14 MCCC Cover Crop Training
- 11/17 ANR Retreat – Soil Health Demos
- 12/13-14 MCCC Annual Conference
- Soil Health Signature Program Curriculum Development – submitted to Ag Communications for formatting
- 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:

- 09/05 Engaging New Audiences, Madison, 19 attendees
- 09/07 Engaging New Audiences, Lynnville, 15 attendees
- 09/19 Engaging New Audiences, Rensselaer, 14 attendees
- 09/21 Engaging New Audiences, Ft Wayne, 20 attendees

Trainings in Progress

- 11/28 Conservation Staff Training with Adam Daugherty, Coffee Co TN NRCS
- 11/30 – CCSI-SARE Continuing Education: Economics of Soil Health

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 (SA)
- 10/04-5 IDEA Conference (SEPM, SWPM, NEPM, NWPM)
- 10/04 Midwest Climate Hub MAC-T Meeting (SA)
- 10/09 Purdue ANR Area 8 Meeting (NWPM, NA)
- 10/11 National Extension Climate Initiative Executive Committee Meeting (SA)
- 10/16 SWCS Council (NWPM)
- 10/18 – Indiana CoCoRaHS Coordinator’s Meeting (SA)
- 10/27 – PUCESA AI Continuing Education Workshop (SA)
- 10/24 SSCB (D, NWPM)
- 10/25 SW NRCS Area Meeting (SWPM)

- 10/25 Allen County SWCD (NEPM)
- 10/30 SE/SW Regional Teleconference
- 10/30 NE/NW Regional Teleconference
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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
 - Ray McCormick, SW Indiana Farmer, and Phil Neeham, Needham Ag – *Combines, Crop Residue, and Cover Crops* -The importance of combine adjustments and seeding cover crops with a combine.
 - (Recorded) Barry Fisher, Fisher Soil Health, and John Pike, Pike Ag LLC – *Bio Strip-tilling with Cover Crops* – Seeding a combination of winter-killed + overwintering cover crops to provide a planter ready “strip-tilled” field and the advantage they have seen.
- Social Media
 - Facebook: 3421 reach, 746 followers
 - Instagram: 115 reach, 313 followers
 - LinkedIn: building presence as replacement for Twitter
- Website: 715 users, 528 sessions

Completed Materials:

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
- Purdue On The Farm led efforts:
 - Kingma – comparisons of weed pressures, disease presence, insects, and tissue samples

- Scott – comparisons of three tillage situations for weed pressure, disease presence, insects, and tissue samples
- Waterhemp and Giant Ragweed germination plots

OTHER

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

- 10/4 Emerging Professionals Leadership Program (SEPM)

Other

- Meeting with Logan Jenkins, Exec. Dir., Circular Ventures Lab, Evansville (SA)
- Meeting with Wabash Valley Resources, LLC at West Terre Haute plant (SA)
- Two virtual meetings with Chad Fiechter, Purdue Ag Econ, and one concept paper drafted (SA)
- Meeting with Daniel Poynter, Carbon Neutral Indiana (SA)
- Reviewer Training, National Adaptation Forum (SA)
- Manuscript reviewed for Crop, Forage, and Turfgrass Management (SA)
- Reviewed National Adaptation Forum submissions (SA)