MCCC Conference

Lisa Holscher, CCSI
Jamie Scott, Scott Seeds / JAS Farms

15 March 2017
Indiana FARMERS ARE PLANTING COVER CROPS AS PART OF THEIR MANAGEMENT DECISIONS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - NOT RELYING ON PROGRAMS = SUCCESS!

All Cover Crops = 1,111,000 acres

~ 5 X

228,400 acres in Programs

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Advancing Soil Health Systems
WHAT is CCSI?

How is it Funded?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Year</th>
<th>What it Funded</th>
<th>Total Project Costs</th>
<th>Partner 1</th>
<th>Partner 2</th>
<th>Partner 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2010</td>
<td>1-1/2 FTE Technical</td>
<td>$180,663</td>
<td>$90,316 Indiana NRCS</td>
<td>$90,316 CWI</td>
<td>$10,000 TNC (videos)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
<td>2 WQ monitoring site equip. CCAs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
<td>1-1/2 FTE Technical</td>
<td>$433,335</td>
<td>325,001 Indiana NRCS</td>
<td>$89,000 CWI</td>
<td>$19,333.92 IASWCD, ISDA, others (in-kind)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
<td>2 WQ monitoring site equip. CCAs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2012</td>
<td>1-1/2 FTE Technical</td>
<td>$355,646</td>
<td>$177,646 NWF</td>
<td>$178,000 CWI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2014</td>
<td>2 WQ monitoring site equip. CCAs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2012</td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>$1,795,759</td>
<td>$834,088 National NRCS</td>
<td>$140,000 ISDA (not CWI)</td>
<td>$124,000 Indiana Corn/Soy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 2015</td>
<td>Sampling &amp; Analysis Trainers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$697,671 Purdue + other partners (in-kind)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 Research sites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Case Studies, Public Report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2014</td>
<td>Urban Soil Health Specialist Program Manager</td>
<td>$884,332</td>
<td>450,999 Indiana NRCS</td>
<td>$267,000 CWI</td>
<td>$166,333 Marion SWCD, ISDA, Others (Cash &amp; in-kind)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2018</td>
<td>Conservation Agronomist Technical Speakers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>Director Communications Manager</td>
<td>$490,950</td>
<td>$368,100 Indiana NRCS</td>
<td>$75,000 CWI</td>
<td>$47,850 IASWCD</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,013,105</td>
<td>$2,246,153</td>
<td>$839,317</td>
<td>Over $1,065,188</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Advancing Soil Health Systems

CCSI & Indiana

Many other groups
Social Network / Social Capital

- Vertical Boundary Spanning / Bracing
- Horizontal Boundary Spanning
- Expertise Spanning
- Ideological Spanning
Workshops and Field Days - since 2009

- Over **375** Workshops and Field Days since 2009 - reaching over **19,000** individuals

- **52** Staff Training and CCA Workshops impacting over **2250** staff and ag professionals
Workshops and Field Days

... 2016

- Materially participated in 64 events, reaching over 3,000 farmers, landowners, staff, and ag professionals

- 8 SARE-CCSI Staff Training Workshops reaching 245 staff and ag professionals
More than “Standard” Field Days and Workshops

- Indiana CCA Conference
- Indiana Hort Congress
- National NoTill Conference
- Indiana TNC Board Meeting
- Webinars
- Live-Streaming
Workshops and Field Days
CCSI-SARE Train the Trainer Events

- Basics of Soil Health (odd years)
- Core Cover Crops
- Core Soil Health Systems
- Advanced Cover Crops (Commodity Crop Track)
- Advanced Cover Crops (Specialty Crop Track)
- Advanced Soil Health Systems (Commodity Crop Track)
- Advanced Soil Health Systems (Specialty Crop Track)
- 3 Day Soil Health Training (even years)
- NoTill Goof Plots
- Presentation and Media Skills
Out of State Events

- **2017 Midwest Cover Crop Council Annual Meeting**, March 15, Grand Rapids, MI

Webinars

- **Manure and Cover Crops**, Mar. 9
- **Soil Health Economics: A Farmer’s Perspective**, Mar. 14
- **Soil Health for Non-Operating Land Owners**, Apr. 11
- **Neonicotinoid Insecticides: Efficacy and Best Management Practices**, Apr. 27

About CCSI

The Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) is a statewide project that works to connect and enhance soil health efforts in Indiana. Visit our [website](#), [Twitter](#), or [Facebook](#) for more information.

To have your event listed on the Soil Health Calendar, [contact your local Hub Team](#) or email [ccsi@iaswcd.org](mailto:ccsi@iaswcd.org).

The information contained here is by no means all inclusive of the information regarding the events listed. Detailed information may be obtained by following the included links and/or other resources.

Join Our Mailing List!

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 225 S. East St, Suite 740, Indianapolis, IN 46202

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Sent by ccsi@iaswcd.org in collaboration with

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Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – *Advancing Soil Health Systems*
Partner Projects 2017

• Collaborative Communications Strategies
• Women 4 the Land
• Indiana Nutrient Management / Soil Health Task Force”
• INField Advantage
• Vo-Ag Curriculum Development (Purdue Extension – SARE)
• Retailer Trainings (pilot)
• Indiana Water Resources Association
• SARE Professional Development Programming
One of the biggest challenges around cover crops is trying to calculate their value in dollars and cents. Ken, Roy and Rodney Rulon of Arcadia, Indiana, took that challenge head-on, determining that the cover crops on their 5,600-acre operation deliver back more than triple their investment.

“We’ve been able to confirm for ourselves the value of cover crops,” says Rodney. “We have fewer reservations about spending money on cover crops. We’ve been much more committed to follow this through, even when you’re signing that check for seed. It’s a lot easier to stay the course and a lot easier to invest the money when you can put numbers to the benefits.”

The Rulons have been planting cover crops for more than a decade. In 2009, Rulon Enterprises started a strip trial on their farm in cooperation with Purdue University and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation

**Significant Investment**

Rodney Rulon is the first to agree that cover crops represent a significant investment. The Rulons’ cover crop seed and seeding bill topped $90,000 in late 2014 on just over 3,500 acres.

That worked out to $14 per acre in seed and $11.73 in planting costs, which included aerial seeding fees, tractor hours, labor, fuel, and planter wear and repair.

**Yield Boost**

Though the Rulons emphasize maximizing profitability over maximizing yields, their yields tend to be 13 to 14% higher than county average for both corn and soybeans across the farm. During drought years, the Rulons’ yields were 130% of the county average, an edge they attribute to healthy no-till, cover-cropped soils.

In fact, the Rulons charted a three-year average yield advantage of 7.1 bushels of corn and 2 bushels of soybeans following cover crops, compared to no-till without covers. In 2013, a dry season following the withering 2012 drought, the...
CCSI 2017 Plans and Pilots

- Curated Image Library
- Collaborative Communications Plan
- Articles for Newsletters
- Online Support Forum similar to Ag-Talk
Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Advancing Soil Health Systems
Q: Please indicate how influential the following groups and individuals are when you make decisions about agricultural practices and strategies.

Results from a 2012 survey of Midwestern corn producers conducted by Useful to Usable (U2U) and SustainableCorn.org.
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*Note: Darker colors indicate counties that reported a greater percentage of combined corn and soybean acres utilizing cover crops in 2015.
2015 Living Covers Planted in Corn

Statewide, 9% (518,000 acres) of the harvested corn acres had living cover crops and cereal grains planted in them.

April 7, 2016
Drein Faiherd, ISDA Program Manager

http://fpw.isawood.org/

For more information, visit the Conservation Tillage Program webpage at http://www.in.gov/fdp/2383.htm, or contact the Indiana State Department of Agriculture at ISDA/NutrientReduction@isda.in.gov.

2015 Living Covers Planted in Soybean

Statewide, 11.5% (628,000 acres) of the harvested soybean acres had living cover crops and cereal grains planted in them.

April 7, 2016
Drein Faiherd, ISDA Program Manager

http://fpw.isawood.org/

For more information, visit the Conservation Tillage Program webpage at http://www.in.gov/fdp/2383.htm, or contact the Indiana State Department of Agriculture at ISDA/NutrientReduction@isda.in.gov.
Sampling by the Numbers

... 2016

- Over 1500 individual soil and plant samples pulled
- 17 original CCSI Replicated Strip Trials - 148 treatment strips
- 7 new conventionally-tilled sites
- 5 different funding sources for sampling alone!
• In-depth analysis of current results and interim reports

• CCSI sites are now part of USDA-NRCS National Soil Health Division project to calibrate soil health tests

• Special Projects
  • Vole Pressure
  • Cover Crops and Deer Herd Health
  • SCN and Weed Suppression

• Purdue-CCSI-TNC: Outreach through Ag Retailers
Other Research Projects…

- 7 “conventional comparison sites” for Joern study on highly disturbed soils (Reclaimed Mineland is also part of this)
- Identify and enroll cooperators in Tyner Cover Crop Economic Studies
- SARE-Purdue Extension VoAg Outreach Grant
2016 By the Numbers…

• **24,000** Total Daily FaceBook page reach.

• **49,750** Total FaceBook impressions

• Fans from **27** countries and **5** continents
2016 By the Numbers...

• Over 1000 Twitter followers from over 32 countries... and all continents except Antarctica

• Over 300 new followers in 2016.

• Over 30% of Tweets retweeted since May 2012

• Potential reach of 11 million
Indiana FARMERS ARE PLANTING COVER CROPS AS PART OF THEIR MANAGEMENT DECISIONS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - NOT RELYING ON PROGRAMS = SUCCESS!

CCSI

All Cover Crops = 1,111,000 acres

~ 5 X

228,400 acres in Programs
Cover Crops – an Indicator of Success

2011 - 184,000 acres of cover crops
  68,000 funded by cost share

2016 - 1.1 million acres
  228,000 funded by cost share

Indiana TNC Goal:
  5 million acres by 2025
Thank You

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Jamie Scott
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*Guaranteed to be checked at least 1x/year

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