2018 National NPS Training Workshop

6 November 2016
Lisa Holscher
Lisa.Holscher@IN.NACDnet.net

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland
Mission:
To improve soil health on Indiana cropland
Soil Health Principles

Maximize Living Roots

Minimize Disturbance

Maximize Biodiversity

Maximize Soil Cover

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland
Soil Health Principles

- Integrate Livestock & Manures
- Minimize Disturbance
- Maximize Living Roots
- Maximize Soil Cover
- Maximize Biodiversity

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Advancing Soil Health Systems
Indiana Cover Crop Acres (Tillage Transect)

Source: Indiana USDA-NRCS

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland
Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland
Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Advancing Soil Health Systems
Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Advancing Soil Health Systems
Social Network / Social Capital

- Vertical Boundary Spanning / Bracing
- Horizontal Boundary Spanning
- Expertise Spanning
- Ideological Spanning
Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland
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
Awareness

Knowledge and Understanding

Applied Knowledge and Skills

Skills Development

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland
Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Advancing Soil Health Systems

Gibson County, Indiana – June 26, 2017

No-Till + Cover Crop

Multiple Tillage Passes

Photos: SW Indiana USDA-NRCS
Gibson County, Indiana – June 26, 2017
Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland

Source: Jerry Hatfield, USDA-ARS
NW Indiana – June, 2012

Conventional Tillage
No Cover Crop

65 Bu/Ac

No-Till
Cereal Rye Cover Crop

109 Bu/Ac

Photos: Ben Lambeck, Indiana USDA-NRCS
Central Indiana – Spring 2013, following 1.8” rain
Opposite sides of road

3 Tillage Passes after Soybeans

Strip-till after Corn and Cover Crops
Dubois County, Indiana – May 2017 following 8” rain

Conventional

No-Till Soybeans
Cereal Rye Cover Crop

Photos: Dubois County SWCD
What’s Next???