Farmer Group Timeline

Year 4

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<tr>
<th>Climate Extension Educator Checklist</th>
<th>Complete</th>
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<td>Discuss survey and interview findings with extension educators to inform ongoing development of outreach strategies and materials.</td>
<td>In progress</td>
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<td>• The quarterly report was drafted and submitted on December 4, 2015. It was approved on December 7, 2015.</td>
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<td>• On December 7, 2015, a Doodle poll for the CSCAP Results Webinar was created and distributed to speakers and planning committee members. Speakers and committee members were informed that the conference call would be held on December 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>• On December 10, 2015, time was spent determining the date and time for the planning committee members to meet via webinar. An agenda was drafted and distributed. The webinar was held on December 14, 2015. Discussion was held about the event date and time, speaker topics, time allotment, expectations, logistics for engaging other states, and event promotion. Following the webinar, the speakers were contacted to determine the time of day for the webinar. It will be held from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on February 11, 2016. Work was also done on the farmer cooperator invitation.</td>
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<td>• Jeff Strock, UM submitted a draft webinar guide on December 14, 2015. It was proofread and returned to Jeff on December 15, 2015.</td>
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<td>• On December 17, 2015, a webinar was held to discuss the February 11 event. Eileen Kladivko, Purdue University, will address the topic of cover crops. Rick Cruse, Iowa State University (ISU) will provide tillage information. Jeff Strock, UM will speak about drainage water management. Joe Lauer, University of Wisconsin will explain crop rotation findings. J. Arbuckle or Jamie Benning, ISU will provide a summary of the farmer surveys.</td>
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<td>• Information for a postcard and flyer were sent to Lori Abendroth, ISU on December 28, 2015.</td>
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<td>• The CSCAP Team Meeting was held on January 4, 2016. State updates, operations updates, and the online stores update were given. Information was provided regarding the February 11 webinar. Discussion was held regarding farmer surveys and work group progress.</td>
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<td>• At the December webinar, discussion was held regarding the possibility of continuing education units (CEUs) for webinar attendees. Richard Wolkowski, University of Wisconsin, submitted an application for one credit of Crop Management and one credit of Soil and Water Management. The credit can only be claimed after the webinar is held. Registration for the CEUs will be done through the Iowa State University (ISU) webinar platform.</td>
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Practice sessions were scheduled for the speakers. The moderator script, moderator PowerPoint presentation, speaker bios, and presentation summaries were drafted and reviewed by the Extension Team. Information was posted on the Sustainable Corn website at http://www.sustainablecorn.org/.

ISU created save-the-date postcards that were distributed via mail and email to landowners and agency personnel. The mailing list was created on January 13, 2016.

Practice sessions for J. Arbuckle and Rick Cruse were held on January 25, 2016. The practice session for Eileen Kladivko was held on January 26, 2016. The practice session for Jeff Strock was held on January 28, 2016.

Reminders about questions and PowerPoint presentations were sent to presenters on February 9, 2016.

The practice session was held with Joe Lauer on February 10, 2016.

On the morning of February 11, 2016, a reminder was sent to presenters to login to the webinar no later than 12:45 p.m. The script was reviewed, door notice posted, and questions for presenters drafted.

The Findings and Recommendations for Corn Belt Farmers webinar was held on February 11, 2016. Jan Voit served as moderator, summarized the grant, and covered some housekeeping details. Presenters were Eileen Kladivko, Purdue University – cover crops; Rick Cruse, Iowa State University (ISU) – tillage management; Jeff Strock, University of Minnesota – drainage water management; Joe Lauer – University of Wisconsin – extended crop rotations; and J. Arbuckle and Jamie Benning, ISU – farm adaptation and conservation practice adoption.

Before each presentation, Jan Voit introduced the speaker. Each had a 17-minute time period for their presentation, followed by a five-minute question/answer session. Questions were asked by attendees using the chat box. After all of the presentations were complete, another question/answer period was held.

There were 64 webinar attendees. 10 farmers attended the webinar in Lamberton. In addition, were the six presenters, three HLWD staff, one RCRCA staff, and two ISU staff. The webinar will be posted on the website at www.sustainablecorn.org.

Educators continue to develop farmer-led watershed groups and local farmer peer groups.

On December 8, 2015, a North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grant application was submitted. This application was a direct result of the Cover Crop Steering Committee. The application was for a side by side trial on two 35-acre fields – one with cover crops, one without. The Haney test would be done to determine soil improvement.

An application was drafted for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Cover Crop Champion program. The grant application is for an opportunity to expand cover crop partners to include local farm cooperatives. Training is provided by the NWF. The techniques learned will be used in meeting with staff from each cooperative to determine the possibility of incorporating cover crops into their test plots in the fall of 2016. The application was submitted on December 21, 2015.
On January 15, 2016, the NWF informed Jan Voit that the proposal was successful. Once the contract is signed and finalized, work can begin.

After the webinar on February 11, 2016, the group of farmers discussed what they have been doing to add cover crops to their operations. Good discussion was held and many asked questions about how they could also use the practices that were covered in the presentation.

Lekha Knuffman, NWF, sent a draft version of the grant agreement on February 16, 2016. Once the agreement is approved by NWF, work may begin.

Dave Christoffer and Catherine Wegehaupt will be attending media training in Chicago at the beginning of March. Hotel reservations were made on February 16, 2016. On February 16, 2016, Catherine Wegehaupt drafted an invitation to the Cover Crop Steering Committee. The invitation was sent to all committee members. It was also sent via email to cover crop farmers in the surrounding area.

The Cover Crop Steering Committee meeting was held on February 24, 2016 at the Heron Lake Community Center. The event began with a brief overview of the grant. Justin Fruechte, Millborn Seeds in Brookings, South Dakota was the featured speaker. Justin covered topics that included: soil benefits of using cover crops, research that has been completed, timing of application, cover crop mixes, and herbicide use. There were 14 people in attendance, most of them being local farmers. Three Cover Crop Steering Committee members were present. After the presentation, a majority of the farmers stayed for another hour. Discussion was held about their cover crop experiences - what has or hasn’t worked.

Active farmer groups use performance-based environmental management tools to collect data on water, carbon and nitrogen in their watershed and apply experiments similar to Objective 2 field trials.

Selected farmer leaders attend year 4 annual convening to increase farmer-scientist exchanges.

Educators work with producers in their respective state with various web tools.

After the webinar on February 11, 2016, Shawn Wahnoutka and Catherine Wegehaupt briefly covered U2U tools with the farmer group and also where to access all web tools.

Data gathered from tools are aggregated and shared with individuals and farmer groups.

Reporting
A report will be required by May 30, August 31, November 30, 2015 and February 28, 2016. The report should be emailed to Dr. Jeff Strock at jstrock@umn.edu and carbon copied to Molly Werner at werne022@umn.edu.

Payment Terms
Total payment of $15,585.00 from 3/1/14 to 2/28/15. Please include an invoice with each report. The amount of each quarterly invoice should be $3,896.25.