

NCCC 211 Meeting

Meeting date: April 8-9, 2014, Warsaw, IN

Reporting dates: 10/2012 to 2/2014

Participants: Eileen Kladvko (Purdue Univ.), Marisol Berti (North Dakota State Univ.), Andy Lenssen (Iowa State Univ.), Dean Bass (Michigan State Univ.), Tom Kaspar (USDA-ARS), Clark Gantzer (Univ. Missouri), Matt Ruark (Univ. Wisconsin-Madison)

The NCCC 211 Meeting was held in conjunction with the Annual Midwest Cover Crop Council Conference (total attendance: 50). The following is the agenda of the MCCC meeting, which included a business meeting for the NCCC 211. State reports were presented during the conference and will be available on the MCCC website.

Agenda

Tuesday April 8

- 8:00 Welcome, introductions, logistics Eileen Kladvko
- 8:15 Update on MCCC activities Dean Baas
- 8:30 Start state/province reports—15 minutes each
- Ontario
 - Michigan
 - Ohio
 - Indiana
- 9:30 Break
- 9:45 Start updates from partners—20 minutes each including discussion time
- Green Lands Blue Waters—Richard Warner
 - SARE—Rob Myers
 - PFI, NWF—Sarah Carlson
- 10:45 Andrea Basche (Iowa State)-- Cover crop modeling approaches and opportunities for the MCCC Selector Tool
- 11:05 Resume state/province reports—15 minutes each
- Missouri
 - Illinois
 - Iowa
 - Wisconsin
- 12:05 LUNCH
- 1:00 Demonstration of iPad app for Corn and Soybean Pocket Guide, and discussion of what we might want to include in cover crop app—Corey Gerber, Purdue Diagnostic Training Center (DTC)
- 2:00—5:00 Field trip to Jamie Scott farm
- 5:00 NCCC-211 Business meeting, for members

Wednesday April 9

- 7:30-9am Pocket guide revision folks meet to finalize edits
- 8:00- 9am All others participate in a working group, brainstorming ideas for:
- a) Ipad app—ideas for inclusion, what needed, how approach
 - b) Cover crop growth curves, C:N ratios, database—ideas for obtaining species (and varieties?) growth curves for models and database, C:N for selector tools,

variety info for different regions. Options to enlist help of NRCS Plant Materials Centers for more of this?

c) Other work group?

9:00 Working groups report out major ideas to larger group

9:20 Break

9:30 Resume state/province reports—15 minutes each

- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Nebraska
- Kansas

10:30 NRCS update on Soil Health Initiative--Barry Fisher, NRCS

10:40 Landscape Cooperatives—Gwen White, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Svc.

10:50 Updates on annual ryegrass, and Illinois Best Mgmt Practices Council work on cover crops—Mike Plumer

11:15 Economics of cover crops—CIG project with CTIC, and ideas for further collaborations with MCCC members on estimating benefits of cover crops—Wally Tyner, Purdue Ag.Econ., via speaker-phone

12 noon—LUNCH

1pm Discussions regarding MCCC organization, funding, etc.

3pm Adjourn.

NCCC 211 Business Meeting Participants: Eileen Kladikvo (acting chair, Purdue Univ.), Marisol Berti (North Dakota State Univ.), Andy Lenssen (Iowa State Univ.), Dean Bass (Michigan State Univ.), Tom Kaspar (USDA-ARS), Clark Gantzer (Univ. Missouri), Matt Ruark (secretary, Univ. Wisconsin-Madison)

- Election of new officers for 2014: Matt Ruark (chair), Marisol Berti (secretary)
- Writing team for renewal: Matt Ruark, Dean Bass, Tom Kaspar, Andy Lenssen, Marisol Berti

State reports

- Detailed state reports can be found at (<http://www.mccc.msu.edu/MCCCmeeting.html>)

Accomplishments

National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health, 17-19 February 2014, Omaha, NE.

- The committee's role was to assist with planning, managing the breakout sessions, and working with the NCR-SARE program to compile notes on how to further the adoption of cover crops into Midwestern cropping systems. Several members were also speakers or session chairs.

Midwest Cover Crop Council Website

- In 2013, the MCCC website received over 34,000 visits from 22,000 unique visitors. These visitors viewed approximately 110,000 pages of cover crop information from the website.
- The MCCC listserv subscribers grew to 394 this past year. These subscribers regularly receive information, request advice and discuss current issues through the listserv.

- In 2013, the web-based MCCC Cover Crop Decision Tool was accessed 2,700 times by over 2000 users to assist them in making decisions about the implementation of cover crops.
- Member states are updating state information on website.

Midwest Cover Crop Field Guide

- The Midwest Cover Crop Field Guide, produced by a team from the MCCC, has been in print for two years. To date, over 28,000 copies of the Field Guide have been purchased and distributed. The Field Guide is currently being revised with a fall 2014, release anticipated.
- The Field Guide is being expanded to include Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.
- The Field Guide is currently being revised. The revision team, which includes 15 people, has included six separate conference calls and meetings to finalize. The final revision is expected by May 2015.

Great Lakes Cover Crop Initiative

- Cover crop acres continue to increase in the region through the efforts of and collaborations between MCCC members. For example, the Great Lakes Cover Crop Initiative (GLCCI), a collaborative effort by Conservation Technology Information Center, Michigan State University, Ohio State University and Purdue University to promote cover crops and conservation tillage throughout the Great Lakes Watersheds in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan increased cover crop use by 37,000 acres. The GLCCI was funded through an EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant and based on information calculated through the step-L model, has reduced nitrogen by more than 72,000 pounds, phosphorous by more than 24,000 pounds and sediment by nearly 1,500 tons in the Great Lakes by assisting producers to plant cover crops through this project.

North Central Soybean Grant

- Objectives
 - Conduct surveys and interviews with soybean farmers (cover crop users and nonusers) about cover crop use in NCR states to determine what information farmers need to use cover crop more effectively.
 - Compile, review and consolidate the current knowledge on cover crop use in NCR soybean production.
 - Collaborate with members of Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC) and other interested researchers to develop a management guide for NCR farmers on cover crops and soybean production.
 - Identify knowledge gaps in the use of cover crops in soybean production.
 - Assess and prioritize future research needs to increase cover crop use in soybean production for the North Central Soybean Research Program.
- PIs: Dean Bass (Michigan State Univ.), Eileen Kladvko and Shawn Casteel (Purdue Univ.), Tom Kaspar (USDA-ARS), Don Wyse (Univ. Minnesota), Jim Hoorman (Ohio State Univ.), Richard Hoormann (Univ. Missouri), Matt Ruark (Univ. Wisconsin), David Clay and Sharon Clay (South Dakota State Univ.)

Impact statements

1. Increased cover crop acres in Midwest. Based on the latest USDA Ag Census, both Indiana and Wisconsin have over 550,000 acres of cover crops and other Midwestern states have between 350,000 and 450,000 acres.
2. Educated graduate students on advances in cover crop research
3. Increased knowledge for field-level decision makers
4. Increased knowledge for policy makers
5. Cover crops have been included as a nutrient loss reduction practice for both N and P in the Nutrient Reduction Strategies for Iowa, Minnesota, and Ohio.