

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

July 2013

Updates and

Key Accomplishments

What is the Training & Certification Program?

The Indiana Conservation Partnership's (ICP) Training and Certification Program (TCP) strives to improve efficiency in training amongst all technical employees, resulting in a more highly skilled workforce and seamless delivery to customers. The joint move towards a more standardized training, certification and development program was formalized by an ICP Agreement in September 2010. Partners also showed full support for the program as outlined in the 2013 Cooperative Working Agreement. Any employee trained and certified through this program will be recognized as competent by every agency in the ICP.



UPCOMING 2013 TRAININGS

Based on the training requests of over 300 Partnership employees, four key training needs were selected as "priority": cover crops, RUSLE2, Nutrient Management, & "Urban" trainings. In 2013, the ICP TCP will focus on Nutrient Management and "Urban" trainings. More information will be available soon.

Nutrient Management: a basic nutrient management course will be offered at the Daniels Turf Center in West Lafayette (July 30), Wabash (August 1), SEPAC Butlerville

(August 6), & Vincennes University Jasper Campus (August 7.) The course is being developed in conjunction with Professor Brad Joern of Purdue University's Department of Agronomy and Tony Bailey, NRCS. Topics include interpreting soil tests, fertilizer recommendations based on soil tests, nutrient cycling, BMPs for nutrient management in cropping systems and nutrient management associated with specialty crops.

Urban: featuring Rusty Schmidt, basic courses will be offered focusing on the basics



of rain gardens, plant selection and considerations, and more. This training will be hosted during the week of October 21-25. Five sessions will be offered across the state: Elkhart Co SWCD (October 21), Clark Co SWCD (October 22&23), Hancock Co SWCD (October 24) & Southwest (October 25).

UPDATES FROM THE COORDINATOR

Greetings! I hope you're enjoying your summer and also getting a lot of conservation on the ground around our state. Most of my time recently with the ICP Training and Certification Program has been spent trying to secure future funding to continue and improve our efforts. First, we applied for a \$100K NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG). Our pre-application was approved, and we were asked to submit a full application. In tandem, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) granted us \$25k to be used as

cash match towards this grant. Even if the CIG isn't funded, we'll still use the SSCB funds for upcoming trainings. Finally, we applied for a \$75k Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant. Besides grantwriting, I've been focusing my time on trainings. We're planning upcoming nutrient management and raingarden trainings, and I've also been coordinating efforts with the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative where our program goals overlap. The four RUSLE2 trainings are complete, and next we'll host

one for state leaders in Indianapolis. Finally, I'm pleased to report that about half of the attendees at NRCS Boot Camp are Partners (other half NRCS). It's great we're getting participation from several agencies. Thanks to all of our conservation employees for your work every day. If you have questions or needs from our program, please contact me.



FIND TECHNICAL TRAININGS, ADVERTISE TECHNICAL TRAININGS

Are you looking for specific technical trainings opportunities, or is your agency hosting a technical training they'd like to advertise to other Partnership employees? The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has volunteered usage of their Events Calendar, located within the eNewsletter "Conservation Update." Biweekly, the calendar showcases upcoming trainings, seminars, webinars, etc. from around the state and nation. You can also view the calendar at any

point from their website. It's an ideal way for Partnership employees to view or list upcoming trainings.

How do I get involved?

- View Conservation Updates online: <http://iaswcd.org/whatsnew/index.html>. The Events Calendar is located on the IASWCD website under "News and Weekly Updates."
- Sign up to receive the free eNewsletter. Please email info@iaswcd.org to be added to the mailing list.

Upcoming workshops:
Soil Health Expo:
 (August 14, Vanderburgh County). **Cover Crops & No-Till: Taking the Next Step** (August 20, Fountain County).

- List your agency's or organization's upcoming technical trainings that are open to all Partners on the Events Calendar. Simply type in the appropriate information on the Google Docs form.

RUSLE2 Success! Trainings have now been offered in each of the four regions.

Individuals who indicated they needed RUSLE2 training on their 2011 "Individual Development Inventory" were given the chance to participate.

Approximately 40 employees were trained.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING NEEDS LIST UPDATED

In early 2013, the ICP updated its "Individual Development Inventory". New and newer ICP employees were surveyed to determine their current technical training needs. Former employees were also removed from the list. (Current employees who submitted this information in 2011 were NOT asked to resubmit any information.) Overall, this led to an update of

roughly 70 employees. This updated information will be used to review current ICP training needs. One interesting item to note: in 2011, "cover crops" ranked as the 9th highest training request, but it's fallen to 25. This could be an indication of all of the quality training offered around the state. Great job Indiana! A complete overhaul of the inventory will take place in 2014.

"Ag Learn's Conservation Planning, Part 1 course provides a background and framework for conservation planning. This internet course is a prerequisite for additional training, and a great introduction to all technical work that we perform in the ICP. More details will be coming on how to set up Ag Learn accounts and how to find this course in the catalog."

- Susan Meadows,
NRCS



TEAM & TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

For more information, or to relay suggestions, please contact a member of the ICP TCP Team: Angie Brown (IDEM), Ann Ice (IDEA/Gibson Co SWCD), Bob Eddleman (SSCB), Brad Joern (Purdue), Doug Nusbaum & Zack Smith (IDNR), Brenda Gettinger

& Laura Fribley (ISDA), Michelle Howell (FSA), Paula Baldwin (IASWCD), Roger Kult (NRCS), Troy Hinkle (Knox Co SWCD), and Vickie Smith (Dearborn Co SWCD). Thanks to this group for all of their time.
Technical Review Board Members: Kathleen Hagan

(IDEM), Zack Smith & Gary Langell (IDNR), Laura Fribley (ISDA), Kent Tracey (DeKalb Co SWCD), Eric Kurtz (Elkhart Co SWCD), Troy Hinkle (Knox Co SWCD), Jennifer Chen (NRCS), and Jane Frankenger (Purdue). Thank you for your expertise.