



Farmer Mike Werling shows off beneficial root systems in his field

The Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) is a collaboration between Indiana Conservation Partnership organizations, the agriculture industry and Hoosier farmers.

Indiana farmers can meet world production demands by integrating today's conservation tillage technology with best management practices in nutrient management, pest management and cover crops.

Take production and conservation further with Conservation Cropping Systems. Contact the CCSI team today for help with your plan.

**The Indiana Conservation Partnership is:**

Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
 Indiana's 92 local SWCDs  
 Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
 Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
 ISDA Division of Soil Conservation  
 Purdue Cooperative Extension Service  
 State Soil Conservation Board  
 USDA Farm Service Agency  
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

[www.ccsin.org](http://www.ccsin.org)



[facebook.com/conservationcropping](https://facebook.com/conservationcropping)



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# Conservation Cropping Systems: YOUR Choice, Not Theirs

**August 19**



A cover crop mix plays a central role in building healthier, more resilient soils. Photo: Extension.org

## Event Partners



Steuben County SWCD  
 LaGrange County SWCD



Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative



CCSI & partners are equal opportunity providers.

# Conservation Cropping Systems: YOUR Choice, Not Theirs



**Dr. Ray Weil** is a Professor of Soil Science at the University of Maryland. He is best known for his ecological approach to soil science. He is a leader in researching and promoting the adoption of more sustainable agricultural systems in both industrial and developing countries. His research focuses on soil organic matter management for enhanced soil ecosystem functions and nutrient cycling for water quality and agricultural sustainability.

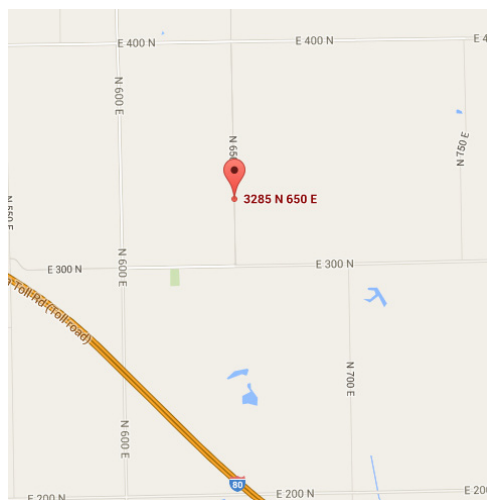
*“We want soil to work for us. We want it to hold water, recycle nutrients, and keep diseases at bay. But we pulverize it with plows and expose it to evaporation and erosion. Now, does that make sense?”*  
- Dr. Ray Weil

## August 19

**Moody Farms & Moody & Crew LLC**  
3285 North 650 East, Fremont, IN 46737  
[www.RayWeilAug19Moody.eventbrite.com](http://www.RayWeilAug19Moody.eventbrite.com)

- 8:00 Lessons Learned from Chesapeake Bay:**  
Soil Organic Matter Management for Nutrient Cycling and Agricultural Sustainability  
*Dr. Ray Weil, University of Maryland*
- 9:00 Economics of Soil Health Systems:**  
The Payback on a Systems Approach  
*Dan DeSutter, DeSutter Farms/Eisenhower Fellow*
- 10:00 Breakout sessions:**  
**Soil Pit - Dr. Ray Weil**  
**Cover Crop Plots**  
**Broadcast vs. Incorporated Seeding - Allen Dean & Tyson Franks**
- 11:30 Farmer Panel: Cover Crops:**  
Aha Moments and Lessons Learned
- 12:00 PARP Topic**  
*Crystal Van Pelt, Purdue Extension*
- 12:30 Lunch**

**For more information please contact:**  
**Steuben Co. SWCD at (260) 665-3211**



## Featured Speakers

**Dan DeSutter** returned to his family farm after earning a degree and pursuing graduate studies in finance at Indiana University, then working as a financial analyst and commodity broker. He farms full-time, raising crops and grass-fed beef, and remains an active spokesman and advocate for conservation agriculture. For the past decade, he has also been a leader in cover cropping, planting 2,000 to 2,500 acres of cover crops annually as part of the approach he calls “bio-till” to emphasize his commitment to a healthy soil ecosystem. In fall of 2014, Dan was awarded a prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship, which recently supported him on a month-long agricultural study tour in New Zealand and Australia. Dan focused his time on meeting with farmers, ranchers, soil scientists, and farm leaders who are committed to soil health.

**Tyson Franks** was born and raised on a farm in Branch County. He and his wife Lisa have one son, Adam, and reside near Bronson, MI. He attended Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in crop and soil science. He started working with Moody & Crew 16 years ago as a laborer and now is a farming partner with them. His real passion is in production agriculture and trying to improve the challenging Steuben County soil types. He has been involved in cover crops for about 10 years with a more concerted effort in the past 3-5 years. He was involved with the Western Lake Erie Basin Farmer Forum Farm Bill committee for the past 3 years with numerous trips to Lake Erie witnessing firsthand the algal bloom. He enjoys trying and researching new technology and has purchased a drone to aide in crop scouting and future remote sensing.

**Allen Dean** is the owner and manager of Dean Farms, a long term no-till and cover crop farm in Northwest Ohio. Their first experience with cover crops was in the early 1980's when they planted hairy vetch following wheat harvest. Since that first field, they have continued to research newly developed cover crops that will stop soil erosion, enhance soil health and improve water quality. Today they plant various mixes of cover crops into wheat stubble, corn and soybeans. The goal of Dean Farms Cover Crop Sales and Service is to help other farmers experience greater profits by utilizing cover crops while being better environmental stewards of the land.