



# MinnesotaCorn

## RESEARCH & PROMOTION COUNCIL

### PROGRESS REPORT

PROJECT TITLE: Carbon Smart Programming

PROJECT NUMBER: 6067-21DD

REPORTING PERIOD: July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Joel Larson

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1.) PROJECT ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. *(Describe project progress specific to goals, objectives, and deliverables identified in the project workplan.)*

Three UMN Extension soil health field days were completed Aug 16 and Sept 7 and 8.

1. On August 16, an ag field day titled "Protect Your Field's Investment" focused on soil protection and health, attracting a diverse audience of 36 farmers, government representatives, and Ag industry experts near Granite Falls. The event featured UMN research highlighting the benefits of planting soybeans into green rye cover crops, showcased two soil pits to emphasize the importance of soil structure in erosion control and its impact on crop productivity, provided valuable farmer insights on planting green, and offered guidance on setting up planters for success in green planting situations. In addition to support from the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council, this collaborative initiative was made possible through the partnership of Renville and Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), Minnesota Agricultural Services, and the University of Minnesota Extension.

2. On September 7, the UMN Extension "Soil Solutions Field Day" convened 66 farmers, government representatives, and agricultural experts in Morris, MN, for a day-long exploration of innovative strategies to improve farm productivity by focusing on soil health. This event addressed the challenge of balancing long-term soil health goals with the immediate advantages of tillage. The day concluded with a farmer panel session, where experienced farmers offered invaluable real-world insights and practical advice, emphasizing the benefits of these sustainable practices for enhancing soil health and productivity. Attendees gained valuable insights through various sessions covering topics such as selecting appropriate tillage methods for varying soil conditions, managing water resources with cover crops, implementing green planting techniques during arid periods, and understanding the critical role of soil health in sequestering carbon, a crucial element in mitigating climate change. The field day was organized by UMN Extension, Grant and Swift County SWCDs, local crop consultants, and was generously sponsored by the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, and North Central Region SARE.

3. The "Thriving Roots: Women in Ag Field Day" held on September 8, 2023, in Morris, MN, attracted 25 women in agriculture eager to delve into the world of soil health and innovative solutions. Organized

by the UMN Extension Women in Ag Network, this event offered hands-on sessions led by Extension educators, soil specialists, and topic experts. Attendees explored diverse soil-related topics, including tillage techniques for different soil conditions, the impact of cover crop roots on soil health, green planting strategies with cereal rye crops, methods to mitigate soil erosion, and the economic aspects of cover crops. This outdoor event provided ample networking opportunities, fostering connections among women driving innovations in soil health, all while enjoying a complimentary lunch and beverages. The field day was organized by UMN Extension, local crop consultants and Grant and Swift County SWCDs, and was generously funded by the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, North Central Region SARE, AgCountry, and Saddlebutte Ag.

2.) IDENTIFY ANY SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS AND RESULTS OF THE PROJECT TO DATE.

See description in Section 1.

3.) CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED. *(Describe any challenges that you encountered related to project progress specific to goals, objectives, and deliverables identified in the project workplan.)*

None identified currently.

4.) FINANCIAL INFORMATION *(Describe any budget challenges and provide specific reasons for deviations from the projected project spending.)*

Type	Budget	Previous Expenses	Expenses this quarter	Expenses to Date	Available Balance
Salary and Fringe	\$15,315	\$15,672	\$359	\$16,031	-\$716*
Travel	\$5,500	\$1,003	\$456	\$1,459	\$4,041
Supplies & Services	\$8,000	\$388	\$6,973	\$7,361	\$639
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,292</b>	<b>\$17,062</b>	<b>\$7,788</b>	<b>\$24,851</b>	<b>\$3,964</b>

\* We are examining this within our financial system and will update our reports accordingly.

5.) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES. *(Describe any conferences, workshops, field days, etc. attended, number of contacts at each event, and/or publications developed to disseminate project results.)*

**July-September Carbon presentations**

Jodi DeJong-Hughes presented at four soil health field days held in different counties across MN. Her presentations were centered around the significance of enhancing soil organic matter, particularly carbon content, within the soil. These events took place in Breckenridge, where she addressed an audience consisting of 37 farmers, government staff, and members of the agricultural industry; in Waverly, where she engaged with 55 farmers, government staff, and individuals from the agricultural sector; in Springhill, where she shared her insights with an audience of 95 farmers, government staff, and members of the

agricultural industry; and in Northfield, where she delivered her presentation to 65 farmers, government staff, and individuals connected to the agricultural sector.

Besides the Sept 7 and 8 field days in Morris, Anna Cates presented in Breckenridge July 12, Wadena Aug 8, Brown's Valley Sept 13, to the Lehman Swine Conference Sept 19, Each event included information on the importance of soil organic carbon in MN Agricultural soils.