



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The end of year and holiday season are fast approaching, bringing with them reflections of what has been accomplished, plans for the upcoming year and also the hectic search for perfect gifts for our friends and family. Yet, unlike us, who give gifts on certain occasions, gifts from the soil come year round. Soil, together with water and air, provides ecosystem services to all life on earth – the soil's gift to all of us. As soil scientists and members of the CSSS we must create opportunities to raise awareness about the importance of soil and its roles in global issues. CSSS keeps its membership up to date on what is happening in the discipline of soil science through its conferences, scientific publications and newsletters. To that end, I look forward to seeing you at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Peterborough, ON (June 10-14). Planning is underway for some interesting sessions that reflect the current focus and interdisciplinary nature of soil science. Also, a reminder that in June, 2018, the CSSS will co-host a conference with the Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU) and Computational Infrastructure for Geodynamics (CIG) in Niagara Falls, ON.

As of January 1, 2017, our new CSSS Council will take their positions; hence, there are new members to welcome and several to thank for their service to the Society. Thanks to Nathan Basiliko, outgoing Eastern Councillor, for his efforts as our newsletter editor and welcome to Judith Nyiraneza. Thanks to Carolyn Wilson, who is ending her term as Student Representative and welcome to Michael Carson. Carolyn has been a strong students' voice on the Council and she took upon herself several initiatives such as production of CSSS merchandise and organization of student events at our annual meetings in Kamloops and Montreal. Thanks to Barbara Cade-Menun, who served as President Elect, President and Past President, providing leadership and strong support of the CSSS. I am personally thankful to Barbara for her advice, suggestions, discussions and ongoing support. Welcome to Noura Ziadi, our incoming President Elect. Steve Sheppard and Barbara Sanipelli, continue to do an outstanding job in running our Business Office; hence, a heartfelt 'thank you' to both of you. And last but certainly not least, thank you to all of the members who published papers in the CJSS and attended the Annual Meeting in Kamloops, BC this year. Such contributions are essential for our Society, strengthening it as an organization and also as a community.

By serving as your President and also the Chair of the Organizing Committee of 2016 Annual Meeting, I had numerous opportunities to meet many CSSS members and to hear your ideas for our Society and our discipline in general. I am encouraged by your passion and dedication to soil science, especially from our new members and also from student members. Thanks for all of your interest in the Society and for your continuing support of it. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our Society as its President.

Wishing you every happiness this holiday season and all the best for 2017!

Maja Krzic
President, CSSS



CSSS Council 2016

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CONGRATULATIONS TO BARBARA CADE-MENUN!

Soil Science Society of America Announces 2016 Award Recipient

MADISON, WI, Jul 22, 2016 – The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) announces the following 2016 award recipient to be formally presented at the SSSA Awards Ceremony on 2016-11-07 during the scientific society's Annual Meeting, Nov 6-9, Phoenix, AZ - Sheraton Grand Phoenix Ballroom C. The annual awards are presented for outstanding contributions to agronomy through education, national and international service, and research. Dr. Barbara Cade-Menun is a research scientist with Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada at the Swift Current Research and Development Centre in Saskatchewan, Canada. She received a BSc (Hons.) in Biology from Queen's University and MSc and PhD degrees in Soil Science from the University of British Columbia. She is internationally recognized for her use of ³¹P nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (P-NMR) to study phosphorus in soil and water. Dr. Cade-Menun has authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications. She holds adjunct appointments at the Universities of Saskatchewan, Regina and Northern British Columbia. She is active in the Soil Science Society of America, the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, and the Canadian Society of Soil Science. She is frequently invited to speak at national and international conferences, and regularly hosts scientists from around the world for training in P-NMR for the analysis of soil and other environmental samples.



SSSA Fellow: Fellow is the highest recognition bestowed by the Soil Science Society of America. Members of the Society nominate worthy colleagues based on their professional achievements and meritorious service. Up to 0.3 percent of the Society's active and emeritus members may be elected Fellow.

For more information on the 2016 awards, including award descriptions, visit: www.soils.org/awards/view.

(Note: this article was reprinted from a SSSA News Release)

CSSS ANNUAL MEETING 2017: TRENT UNIVERSITY, PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO

The next (2017) Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Meeting will be held at Trent University from June 10th to 14th, 2017. Trent University is a public liberal arts and science-oriented university located along the Otonabee River in Peterborough, Ontario. Trent University is home to Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program under Trent School of Environment. The conference theme is "Soil and the Environment" and includes sessions on nutrient cycling, soil health, water quality, soil modelling, soil mapping, forest soils, and soil science education. A preconference pedology/ soil mapping tour and a two days SWAT modelling workshop are also scheduled. Our website will be live shortly (<http://csss-conference.ca/2017/>). Stay tuned for "Call for Abstract" in late Jan/early February 2017.

The Greater Peterborough Area is a unique community known for its beautiful setting in the Kawartha's tourism region. Peterborough has everything including a multitude of recreational opportunities, and a diverse industrial, commercial and agricultural base. The largest known concentration of Aboriginal rock carvings (petroglyphs) in Canada, depicting turtles, snakes, birds, humans and more; known as "The Teaching Rocks" is located within the 50 km distance from Peterborough.

Election Results and Thank You to Outgoing Members of CSSS Council

It is with great pleasure that we announce and welcome our new President-Elect (Noura Ziadi), Eastern Councillor (Judith Nyiraneza), Student Representative (Michael Carson) and CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Newton Lupwayi). We would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for council members Barbara Cade-Menun (Past-President), Xueming Yang (CJSS Editor-in-Chief), Nathan Basiliko (Eastern Councillor), and Carolyn Wilson (Student representative) whose terms will end on the 31st of this month. We would also like to thank Barbara Sanipelli and Steve Sheppard for their assistance with the election.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy holiday season!

As of January 1, 2017 the Council for the Canadian Society of Soil Science is as follows:

President, Joann Whalen
President-elect, Noura Ziadi
Treasurer, Kent Watson
Eastern Councillor, Judith Nyiraneza
Journal Editor, Newton Lupwayi

Past-president, Maja Krzic
Secretary, Amanda Diochon
Student representative, Michael Carson
Western Councillor, Wole Akinremi

Biographies of the new members follow:

Noura Ziadi (President Elect) is a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Quebec City. She holds a B.Sc. (Agronomy) from Tunisia and a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. (Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition) from Laval University, Quebec. Noura is an Adjunct Professor at Laval University, Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Science (Beijing, China), and Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Noura has a distinguished career in soil science especially soil fertility and plant nutrition and she's conducting her research on national (from Coast to Coast) and international scales (France, China, Switzerland, Finland, Tunisia) in multi-disciplinary teams including government and university researchers and industry partners. Her research includes training of post-doctoral fellows and graduate and undergraduate students (+30). Noura published more than 130 papers, five reviews and 11 book chapters. These publications were in collaboration with 50 Canadian researchers and 25 international researchers. Noura joined the CSSS in 1994 and has served as the Eastern Councillor and associate editor. She has been recognized for her contributions to soil science and to the CSSS with a Fellow Award in 2015.



Michael Carson (Student Representative): I'm a PhD candidate at Laurentian University studying under Dr. Nathan Basiliko, just beginning my fourth year. Originally from Colorado, I did my undergraduate work at Hastings College in Hastings, NE and got my masters at Kansas State University studying biogeochemistry and carbon/nitrogen cycling in tallgrass prairie soils with Dr. John Blair. My current research focuses mainly on the ecology of methanogens in peatland soils. Projects range from looking at the long-term effects of mining and subsequent sulfur and metals deposition on methane production and methanogen community composition, to evaluating a global network of peatland soils (partnership with the US Forest Service and Joint Genomic Institute) for potential methane production, and most recently working to enrich and isolate novel methanogens from peat. Through my PhD I aim to broaden the knowledge of methanogen ecology and contribute to the cumulative understanding of methane dynamics in peatlands under a changing climate. I'm also involved in an array of collaborative research centered on soil microbial ecology and teach workshops on R to other graduate students.



Judith Nyiraneza (Eastern Councillor) is a research scientist with agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Charlottetown Research and Development centre, Prince Edward Island. She has a BSc in agronomy, a master degree in plant and soil from Michigan State University and a PhD degree in soil and environment from Laval University. She is an adjunct professor at Laval University, Quebec, and at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia. Her research focuses on identification of best nutrient management practices to improve crop yield and quality and to minimize the impact on the environment and evaluation of synthetic fertilizer and organic amendment effectiveness in improving crop yield and economic returns. She is associate editor of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science and an active reviewer of manuscripts submitted to the Canadian Journal of Soil Science: She was nominated among five outstanding reviewers for 2015. She reviews manuscripts submitted to several other journals and supervises graduate and co-op students from different institutions. Judith joined the CSSS since she was a PhD student in 2008.



Amanda Diochon
CSSS Secretary

Message from the Canadian Journal of Soil Science

Non-legitimate ("predatory", "vanity", "parasitic") publishers: In academic publishing there has been an explosion in the number of legitimate author-pays open access journals over the last decade. Predatory open access publishing, a bad twin brother of open access journals, has arisen and developed at the same time. These non-legitimate publishers publish junk science on one side and on the other side they waste honest researchers' time, energy and money, especially those researchers who are just starting their careers and those are still unaware of predatory journals. In order to attract researchers' attention to avoid being victimized by these non-legitimate publishers, Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) has recently put together a list to expose the signs of these publishers including:

- The publisher has a large catalogue of online journals that are inaccessible, non-functional (e.g. broken links), have no or few published articles, or have few obviously poor-quality articles;
- The publisher has no functional telephone number or fixed postal address (e.g. a Post Office box), or if the address is residential rather than commercial;
- The journal makes false claims of being indexed by databases such as SCOPUS, Web of Science, PubMedCentral, etc.;
- The journal makes false claims of being members of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association and the Committee on Publication Ethics;
- The article processing (= publishing) charges are not listed transparently;
- The peer-review process undertaken by the journal is not clearly described and claims of unrealistically quick peer-review to publication turn-around times are made (e.g. 1 week);
- The journal has published only a small number of articles per year but has an inordinately large editorial board (e.g. 50 articles published per year and hundreds or thousands of editors), or vice versa.

For more information, please visit Predatory Open Access Publishing in Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predatory_open_access_publishing) or Scholarly Open Access in CSP (<https://scholarlyoa.com/2016/01/05/bealls-list-of-predatory-publishers-2016/>).

Change of Editor Structure for the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (by CSP): One year after Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) acquired the *Canadian Journal of Soil Science* (CJSS), the journal is thriving and continuing to evolve. CSP is working closely with the society and editorial board of the journal to expand the reach of the journal and increase submissions through an extensive sales network, sponsorships, partnerships, marketing and promotion. CSP has also updated the process for handling the editorship of the journal. Previously, the journal operated with three editors, each with a three-year term but the terms were staggered so that a new Editor replaced an outgoing Editor every year and each Editor took on the Editor-in-Chief role for the last year of their term. This meant a new Editor-in-Chief each year.

In consultation with CSSS, CSP has opted for longer terms for the CJSS Editor-in-Chief so that the Editor-in-Chief not only has time to learn all aspects of being Editor-in-Chief and become comfortable in the role but to also provide strong leadership and stability for the journal. Thus, Newton Lupwayi has agreed to be the Editor-in-Chief of CJSS from January 2017 to December 2018. Anne Naeth will be Editor for the same period and will take on the Editor-in-Chief role from January 2019 to December 2021.

Rest assured that CSP is committed to working with CSSS for the selection of future Editors-in-Chief, and CSP will be calling on CSSS to suggest suitable candidates for the Editor-in-Chief role as the terms of the current appointments come to an end. However, the final decision on the editorial appointment rests with CSP's Executive Editor-in-Chief.

CSP would like to thank all CSSS members for supporting CJSS by publishing your research in the journal and also reading and sharing the work of your peers and colleagues. Both CSSS and CSP are committed to working together to promote and develop CJSS to ensure the journal's long-term success. CSSS members are invited to sign-up for the quarterly CJSS newsletter by visiting this link and selecting "Canadian Journal of Soil Science": <http://cdnsciencepub.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=3dbbb7edc0980303245831e0e&id=241d9ce737>. CJSS is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CanJSoilScience.

Xueming Yang
Editor in Chief of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science

A Tiered Mentoring Approach: Training Future Soil Scientists

The Grassland Set-Aside (GLSA) research team at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, is a great example of the multi-level training and mentorship which can occur within a research group. Led by Dr. Maja Krzic (Associate Professor) and Dr. Sean Smukler (Junior Chair of Agriculture and the Environment and Assistant Professor), the team is evaluating the effects of set-aside rotations on soil properties and subsequent crops. The early study findings have provided useful information to the industry, but an equally important accomplishment of this project has been the numerous mentoring and training opportunities that have taken place at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

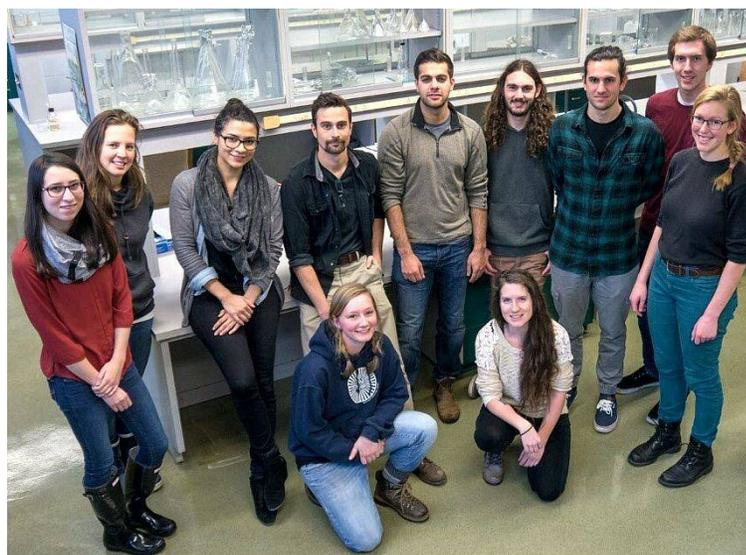
With the support of their supervisors, graduate students Jason Lussier and Khalil Walji have made undergraduate mentorship a priority in their research. Jason and Khalil explain that the decision to engage students came from both a need for additional assistance and a commitment to give back the opportunities which they had as undergraduates. “I feel very fortunate to have had some great mentors who provided me with opportunities and guidance early on”, says Jason. “It has been a rewarding experience to give a small part of that back.” Khalil, who was once an Undergraduate Research Assistant himself, adds “Mentorship is how I was first engaged in natural systems research. I was brought into a research lab and had the opportunity to learn and be inspired daily by more skilled researchers than myself. Our GLSA team is hoping to give undergrads, who often do not have an active role in research and may feel it is beyond their skill set, an opportunity to develop research skills.”

In the first 18 months of the project, a total of 14 volunteers and 6 research assistants have participated. Students have received training on various lab analytical methods for soil physical, biological and chemical properties, as well as field assessments. Recruitment for undergraduates has involved classroom announcements, social media outreach and postings through local soil science organizations such as the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science. The UBC Work Learn program has also played a large part in undergraduate employment by subsidizing wages. Students assisting on the project have come from various universities and diverse programs including: Applied Biology, Forest Conservation and Environmental Sciences. The project has even included the involvement of senior high school students who are keen to gain some early work experience.

The opportunity for students to collaborate on this project has been a great learning experience for everyone involved. Andrea Stevenson, an Undergraduate Research Assistant, explains, “Working on the GLSA project has allowed me to further develop laboratory skills and see first-hand the teamwork that research requires. I look forward to using these skills in my own postgraduate work in the future”. Alfred Ke, who transitioned from volunteer to research assistant on the project and is now working in the industry adds, “The skills I gained during my time on the GLSA project have allowed me to thrive in my new workplace. Having the opportunity to work closely with more experienced graduate students pushed me to become a more efficient worker”. Jason and Khalil agree that working in a team environment has equally enriched their experience as graduate students by allowing them to further develop soft skills which they anticipate will help them in their careers.

The GLSA project has been an early success story. It has provided the industry with some important preliminary findings; however, its biggest success thus far has arguably been the training provided to graduate and undergraduate students. Examples like this emphasize the importance for universities to foster undergraduate and graduate student engagement outside of the classroom and promote a tiered-mentoring approach to inspire and train future soil scientists.

*Jason Lussier and Khalil Walji,
MSc students, University of British Columbia*



Left to right: (Back row) Chantel Chizen, Brianna Thompson, Andrea Stevenson, Jason Lussier, Khalil Walji, Jared Barney, Lucas Otruba, Thomas Buettner, Monica Nederend (Front row) Thea Rodgers and Rachel Amundsen.

“FROM THE FIELD” : WHAT IS SOIL HEALTH

I am an MSc Agriculture student at Dalhousie University, where I study soil health on Maritimes farms alongside my co-advisors Derek Lynch and Aaron Mills. I hold a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, where I worked on public perceptions of water issues. I am particularly interested in agriculture, human-environment interactions, and perceptions of natural resources.

Soil health is proposed to be the physical, chemical and biological properties that promote a soil's ability to support human, plant and animal needs and maintain or enhance environmental quality (1). However, definitions and methods of assessing soil health remain disputed (2) and there may be a wide gap between farmer and scientist interpretations (3, 4). Our research explores these differences in perception, differences which impact how farmers and scientists communicate with each other about soil health.

We are exploring Maritime farmers' perceptions of soil health, how farmers assess soils on their farm, and how farmers' soil health assessments relate with lab soil health measures: the Cornell Soil Health Test, growth of the bio-indicator *Folsomia candida* (5), and phospholipid fatty acid analysis. Interviews and soil sampling was conducted on 34 diverse organic and conventional farms in the Maritimes. Farmers completed an in-field soil health score-card and samples were collected from farmer-identified “good” and “poor” soils.

Initial results show that farmers use a wide variety of indicators to assess soil health, and that organic and conventional farmers assess soils differently. Farmers mentioned 58 indicators that they use to assess soil health, the most common of which were nutrient levels, plant health, earthworm presence, soil organic matter, soil life, and soil aggregation. Fifty-four percent of farmers used a combination of soil attributes and plant attributes to assess soil health, and in general, organic farmers used more indicators to assess soil than conventional farmers.

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Carolyn Mann



What's up with soils education at Canadian colleges and universities?

As global issues continue to place increasing demands on the soil resource and as postsecondary soil science education is changing, the need for innovations in soil science education is becoming more prominent. The Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS), through establishment of the Soil 4 Youth program focused on high school curricula (<http://soil4youth.soilweb.ca/>) and the Soil Education Sub-Committee, is enhancing the promotion of soil science education in Canada. The Soil Education Sub-Committee provides a formal platform for exchange of ideas and coordination of activities among the CSSS members who share a common interest in soil science education. The idea for our study came up at the inaugural meeting of the CSSS Education Sub-Committee in May 2014 and was sparked by our desire to better understand the current situation of postsecondary soil science course offerings in Canada. Despite the immense importance of soils both in Canada and globally, a good baseline was lacking regarding the state of post-secondary soil science education in our country.

Based on our 2015 survey of Canadian postsecondary institutions there are 149 undergraduate soil science courses taught in universities and colleges, averaging 3.2 courses at each university and 1.9 at each college where soil science is part of the curriculum. About two-thirds of universities and one-third of colleges offer undergraduate soil science courses as part of degrees or diplomas, with a shift in the majors enrolling in soil science courses away from agronomy towards environmental science and natural resource science. One approach towards expansion of soil science course offerings, especially at institutions that do not have any soil science courses, might be through the inclusion of online courses available at other post-secondary institutions. Enrollments in soil science courses across the country are projected to be steady with some anticipated growth.

This paper was recently accepted for publication in the Canadian Journal of Soil Science and was also selected as an "Editor's Choice" article by Canadian Science Publishing! <http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/journal/cjss>
Diochon A, Basiliko N, Krzic M, Yates TT, Olson E, Masse J, Amiro B, Kumaragamage D (In press) Profiling undergraduate soil science education in Canada: Status and projected trends. Can. J. Soil Sci. 10.1139/cjss-2016-0058

*Amanda Diochon
CSSS Secretary*

The History of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, and the search for our next historian

Darwin Anderson (Professor Emeritus, Department of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan) has tracked down printed copies of the histories of our Society and we are working on scanning them to upload to the Society website as soon as possible. A notice will be circulated by email when this is completed. The last update to the Society's history was by Yash Kalra in 1997.

Would any of our members like to tackle writing the last 20 years of our history? If so, please contact Maja Krzic (maja.krzic@ubc.ca) or Nathan Basiliko (nbasiliko@laurentian.ca).

Personal Histories: A Centenary Project of IUSS

The initiative mentioned above is also well-aligned with one of the Centenary Projects of the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) focussed collecting personal histories of leading senior figures working within the areas of soil science represented by the IUSS. The collection of personal histories will form a valuable record of the development of soil science around the world and the contributions made by individuals involved. The personal histories will be collected in the form of an interview (either video or audio) with an associated written summary of the main points.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Sigbert Huber (IUSS Secretary) at iuss@umweltbundesamt.at.

*Nathan Basiliko, CSSS Eastern Councillor
and Maja Krzic, CSSS President*

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Society of Range Management, January 29 – February 2, 2017, St. George, UT. Conference theme "Linking Science, Practice, and Decision Making" (<http://www.rangelands.org/events/>)

Water Environment Federation (WEF) Residuals and Biosolids Conference, April 8-11, 2017, Seattle, WA. Conference theme "The Future of Bio-solids and Bioenergy" (<http://www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids/>)

European Geosciences Union (EGU), General Assembly, April 23-28, 2017, Vienna, Austria (<http://egu2017.eu/home.html>).

EGU together with WASWC, ESSC and SSSA, IUSS will organise the session "*The contribution of the Soil Science Societies to scientific knowledge, education and sustainability*" in the programme 'SSS1 – History, Education and Society of Soil Science, Taxonomy' of the Division SSS – Soil System Sciences (<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2017/session/23790>)

IUSS kindly invites you to contribute to this session with oral and poster presentations. Contributions demonstrating good examples of capacity building, soil awareness and knowledge transfer to different target groups are welcome. In particular, contributions that show new educational approaches, cooperation with other disciplines and efforts to improve sustainability are of interest. The call for abstracts is open until **11 January 2017** (<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2017/sessionprogramme>)

1st World Conference on Soil and Water Conservation under Global Change (CONSOWA), June 12-16, 2017, Lleida, Spain. Conference theme "Sustainable Life on Earth through Soil and Water Conservation" (<http://www.consowalleida2017.com/>)

11th North American Forest Ecology Workshop, Edmonton, AB, June 19- 22, 2017, Conference theme "Sustaining forests: from restoration to conservation" (<http://nafew.org/>)

Soil and Water Conservation Society, 72th Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, July 30-August 2, 2017. Conference theme "Conservation Connections: Creating Pathways to Sustainability" (http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2017_annual_conference/)

American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America. Tampa, FL, October 22-25, 2017, Conference theme "Managing Global Resources for a Secure Future" (<https://www.acsmeetings.org/>)

2017 National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health, Indianapolis, IN, November 8-9, 2017.

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