

Ongoing Quarterly Reporting

C131 - ECOAG COLLABORATIVE, INC., DBA Momentum Ag

10/28/2024 –

Hi Tom --

All is going well with the project. The Winter Meeting is scheduled for December 5th. We should have full attendance minus one farmer who's got a back surgery the previous week (pretty solid excuse). All of the soil samples have been sent in and we've done final farm visits.

We're currently in the process of sifting through the whole season of data for each farm and building Case Studies for farmers to share at the Winter Meeting.

Soil samples are beginning to trickle back in from Cornell showing SOC gains in the Clover living mulch system in all cases so far -- though some gains are modest, while others are more impressive. We'll aggregate all those numbers for our final report, but it will be another month at least until we have all our results back from Cornell.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Lincoln

9/07/2024

Hi Tom --

Attached is our first request for reimbursement, along with receipts. It is for \$23,800, and matches our proposed budget.

Here's a progress report:

We've got a lot of living mulch trials going on, as planned. Some are more successful, some less so, but that's all part of the process.

So far, we're seeing impressive SOC gains in the clover living mulch plots as compared to bare soil plots, even when the yields are not excellent. So from a soil health perspective, that's great. More work to be done still in terms of identifying how to maintain yields to unlock those soil health benefits at scale, which is what we'll be doing as we analyze trial results and meet as a group in December.

Deliverables:

We hosted a CISA-sponsored field walk at Atlas Farm with almost 50 attendees -- almost all farmers! -- very good for an event in the middle of the growing season.

We hosted a NOFA-sponsored field walk at Waltham Fields Community Farm with over 60 attendees. We also collaborated with CRAFT -- a farm apprenticeship program -- for that event, so most attendees were new and beginning farmers, which was exciting.

Next week, Atlas will again be hosting MA Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer, Representatives Sabadosa, Blais, and Domb, Senator Comerford, and staffers from MDAR, NRCS and other local orgs. We'll be looking at Atlas' trials and we'll be sure to thank the Healthy Soils Challenge Grant for making those trials possible, and highlighting the importance of bringing that funding to bear on climate mitigation/adaptation efforts.

Hiccups and Adjustments:

Most farms got their baseline CASH tests, but a few didn't due to the late start of this grant cycle. For those farms, they'll simply be doing a single CASH test towards the end of this month or early in October to compare SOC in control vs. treatment. It's not ideal because there's no baseline, but a control vs. treatment test is still very useful in assessing how SOC diverges under different management techniques.

We lost a couple farms due to poor clover stands. We used the opportunity to double down on trials with three participating farms who are really doing an outstanding job -- going above and beyond in terms of communication and data collection, and putting larger acreages into trials work. Those farms will be receiving two incentive payments each because they are producing at least twice the data of average participants. This has the added advantage of not requiring any adjustments to the budget.

Next Steps:

In the next two months, we'll finish up our CASH testing, and farmers will continue to submit yield data and photos.

Our Winter Meeting to develop CLM BMPs is scheduled for early December.

Also this Winter, we'll do our final two deliverables: a farmer-led presentation at the NOFA Winter Conference, and a CISA-sponsored webinar to highlight our soil health and CLMS BMP findings.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this update, our progress generally, or the attached reimbursement request.

This has been super fun so far and we're looking forward to aggregating everyone's data in the coming months. Thanks for making it possible!

With gratitude,

Lincoln
