

# Metrics Committee – July 14th

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## Agenda

- Introductions
- Review of 2021 Work Plan and Progress to date
- Update on piloting the Biodiversity and 4R optional features
- Planning for upcoming Biodiversity Metric review



## Metrics Committee

Name	Organization	Sector	Term ends
Steve Linscombe	USA Rice Federation	Grower	2023
Kaitlyn Briggs	Innovation Center for US Dairy		2023
VACANT			2022
Jesse Daystar	Cotton Inc		2022
Jeff Seale	Bayer	Agribusiness	2023
Adam Herges	The Mosaic Company		2023
John Jones	The Fertilizer Institute		2022
Andy Greenlee	John Deere		2022
Stefani Grant	Unilever	Brands & Retail	2023
VACANT			2023
VACANT			2022
Juan Calle Bellido	Mondelez		2022
Florencia Abram	The Nature Conservancy	Civil Society	2023
Michelle Perez	American Farmland Trust		2023
Heidi Peterson	Sand County Foundation		2022
Monica McBride	World Wildlife Fund		2022
Eric Cummings	University of Arkansas	Affiliate	2023
Sarah Sexton-Bowser	Kansas State University		2023
Evelyn Steglich	USDA-NRCS		2022
Juan Landivar	Texas A&M Agrilife research		2022



# 2021 Work Plan – Mid Year Review

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# Metric Review Schedule

Metric	Last year Metric review/revision completed	Review/Revision Schedule				
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Land Use	2019				X	
Energy Use	2018		X			
GHG	2020	*		X		
Irrigation	2019			X		
Water Quality	2021		X			X
Soil Conservation	2018			X		
Soil Carbon	2011	X	X			X
Biodiversity	2020	*	#			
<i>Pest Management</i>	2020	#				

**\* Indicates partial metric update**

**# Indicates review only**

# 2021 Work Plan

Objectives & associated tasks	Primary oversight	Deadline	Level of Effort
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finalize strategy for <b>soil carbon assessment</b> in the Fieldprint Platform, including identifying funding for necessary technical development.	Metrics Committee / Board of Directors	March	Medium
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finalize deployment of new STEP <b>water quality metric</b> in the Fieldprint Platform.	Staff	June	High
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finalize decision on how to assess <b>pest management</b> within the metrics framework.	Metrics Committee / Board of Directors	June	Medium
Finalize piloting and evaluation of existing Habitat Potential Index and initiate review of <b>biodiversity</b> metric.	Project Admin Network / Metrics Committee	September	Medium
Evaluate <b>energy use</b> datasets and frame recommendation on updates for the Metrics Committee.	Metrics Committee	End of Year	Medium
Coordinate on a more concentrated effort to pilot the beta tool for calculating <b>nitrous oxide emissions</b> reductions from use of 4R fertilizer management practices.	Project Admin Network / Metrics Committee	End of Year	Medium

**Related efforts – National Indicators Report, Benchmarks update, Research Database**

# Upcoming Metric Piloting and Review

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## Energy Use Metric Update

- Staff are currently reviewing the available data sources that underlie the Energy Use metric as part of two projects
  - 2021 National Indicators Report
  - Update to State and National Benchmarks
- By December we will have a summary of findings to discuss with the Committee
  - Are there data resources that need to be updated?
  - Are there new factors in Energy Use that need to be considered?
  - What feedback have we heard from users of this metric over the past several years?
- The Committee will discuss these findings and consider how to proceed with metric revision.





## Metric Review Process – Biodiversity Example

- **Scientific review:** We obtained several peer-reviews of the Biodiversity metric documentation in 2018 and will return to those reviewers for any additional thoughts
- **User Review:**
  - Is the metric useful to growers as an informational tool for making decisions regarding biodiversity in their farm management?
  - Is the metric useful to the supply chain (project sponsors) in terms of understanding and reporting against sustainability goals?
- Committee will review all three sources of feedback and use that to inform next steps:
  - Is a revision needed?
  - How should we go about a revision – refinement of existing metric, explore alternative tools, etc.

## Discussions with Projects on the Biodiversity metric underway

- Cotton focus
  - Discussions with staff of Quail Forever, U of Arkansas and Andy Jordan
  - Willing to test the full farm option for a few farmers and provide feedback on value to growers and usability.
  - Innovation Center for US Dairy is considering our metric in the development of their own biodiversity assessment
- More are welcome



## GHG Metric review in 2022

- There is an optional component to the GHG Metric that has not been broadly tested and we are seeking additional pilot projects
- A 4R practice survey is available for corn and wheat in certain regions to characterize nutrient management
  - Growers can qualify for a reduction in N<sub>2</sub>O if following the 4Rs, based on survey responses.
- Still seeking any potential projects to assist with testing out the 4R optional feature for N<sub>2</sub>O reductions
  - Survey is complex and requires detailed understanding of nutrient management by a grower or advisor
  - Provides a clear pathway to emissions reductions for projects focused on climate impacts.