



Director's Update November 2012

It's Meetin' Season!

This fall, REACCH participants have contributed to several key national professional meetings. REACCH made its presence felt at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA (American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America) Annual Meetings - Oct 21-24 in Cincinnati, OH, where members of our team presented more than 20 talks or posters featuring our research and education efforts. Presenters included several of our faculty members and students. Highlights included talks by Dave Huggins and colleagues on Dynamic Agroecological Zones for the Inland Pacific Northwest, an effort that is a keystone in our efforts to understand the interplay between climatic factors and grower practices throughout the REACCH region. Another was a poster presentation by Jodi-Johnson Maynard, Katt Wolf (UI) and Jonathon Velez (OSU) on education and extension aspects of the project. I had an opportunity to present some ideas for how to address the complex issues facing agriculture, like those that are the focus of REACCH. One talk, coauthored with Dave Huggins and with Mark Walbridge and Steve Shafer from the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, laid out a vision for establishing a long term agricultural project, centered around activities at the Cook Agronomy Farm, but building on regional partnerships to enhance our capacity to conduct research, extension and education that can improve the sustainability of our region's agriculture. Another, co-authored with Lois Morton and Tim Martin (directors of our sister climate CAP projects, Sustainable Corn and PineMAP), proposed some new approaches to managing very large, transdisciplinary projects like REACCH so the work can be as effective and impactful as possible.

The ASA-CSSA-SSSA meeting included a special NIFA-sponsored session where all of the USDA-funded projects addressing issues related to climate and agriculture were represented (we were required to be there by NIFA). It was a great opportunity to learn about the scope of NIFA's efforts in this area and to network.

The Entomological Society of America (ESA) meeting, in Knoxville TN, Nov. 11-15, will include a special program symposium on Insects and Climate Change. REACCH is a co-organizer of this symposium and we will have a prominent talk in the lineup. Other talks include effects of climate on pests of forests and various systems from soybean to wheat to invasive species. Entomologists and climate scientists from across the country will participate.

Finally, this fall, we expect to have a presence at the American Geophysical Union meeting in December, as we did last year.

Meetings like the ASA-CSSA-SSSA and the ESA annual meeting are a crucial part of our efforts within REACCH, and with our partners and stakeholders. They allow us to share our results with other researchers and learn from them about aspects of our project, from the basic science related

to climate and agriculture to working with producers and other partners. They provide our students with exceptional opportunities to have their work examined by the best scientists and to build relationships as they build their careers. And these contacts help them do a better job of carrying out research that is useful and impactful.

Sanford Eigenbrode, REACCH Project Director