



United States Department of Agriculture



Wisconsin ANNUAL REPORT | 2018



**Wisconsin
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/



Helping People Help the Land

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GREETINGS

Welcome from the State Conservationist

Welcome to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Wisconsin Annual Report. The report provides highlights of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) approach in "Helping People Help the Land" to ensure our natural resources are regenerative for future generations.

You'll learn about our program and outreach successes, along with highlights of the work we do, which is strongly focused on meeting our responsibilities in a cost-effective and accountable manner. You will meet many Wisconsin farmers and landowners who have had success in working with us to put conservation on the ground. You'll also see highlights of how NRCS is promoting soil health principles to benefit our natural resources and local farms.



Angela Biggs, State Conservationist

Through our continued focus and emphasis on conservation planning, we are connecting with our customers on farms and in field offices across the state to develop and implement plans to protect, conserve and enhance natural resources within our client's social and economic interests. NRCS delivers one-on-one, personalized advice on the best solutions to meet the unique conservation and business goals of those who grow our nation's food and fiber.

The 2014 Farm Bill has enabled us to continue investments in conservation efforts across the state through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). We are also continuing investments in our Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and specialty programs and initiatives, such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), designed to focus conservation at the landscape scale. We encourage you to visit our website for information regarding technical tools, services and assistance available to farmers and landowners.

NRCS–Wisconsin had many great accomplishments this year and we could not do it without our partners. I would again, like to take this opportunity to thank them. Thanks to the farmers and landowners who partnered to enroll in the EQIP, CSP and the various other initiatives, adding new acres of conservation. Thanks to the customers reaching out to field offices seeking conservation technical assistance to remedy an erosion problem, improve water quality or enhance wildlife habitat. Thanks to





all the partners in conservation that we work with, collaborating to make the most of our dollars and helping to provide the best assistance and programs possible. Thanks to the NRCS staff, who continue to work towards our mission, day in and day out, tirelessly.

NRCS will continue to support our customers in efforts helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of Wisconsin agriculture. I am pleased to share with you the Wisconsin Annual Report highlighting our conservation accomplishments. I welcome your comments and feedback, and look forward to continuing our partnership efforts in "Helping People Help the Land."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Biggs'.

Angela Biggs, Wisconsin State Conservationist

Grow with us by visiting

www.Farmers.gov

Farmers.gov provides farmers, ranchers, private foresters, and agricultural producers with online self-service applications, education materials, engagement opportunities, and business tools to increase efficiency and productivity while preserving and fostering long-held traditional relationships between local USDA offices and producers.



BACKGROUND



Wisconsin NRCS History

The First in the Nation for Conservation

Our agency was born in 1935, during a time of hardship and desperation, when the very soil that put food on our tables was literally blowing in the wind.

Erosion was such a serious problem in the 1930s that it awakened the nation to heed the message of a man named Hugh Hammond Bennett to save our soil. We began to realize then, and we must not ever forget, how the protection of our soil and water is the foundation of the health and wealth of our country.

It took only 70 years, from the time of the first infusion of settlers, to the early 1930s, for traditional farming methods to reduce the land around Coon Creek, Wisconsin, and elsewhere in the state, from pristine to the brink of agricultural uselessness.

Wisconsin became the home of the first erosion control demonstration project in the country, the wildly successful Coon Creek Watershed in Vernon County. It was 22 miles long, nine miles wide, 92,000 acres over three counties, with outlet directly to the Mississippi River. There, the science and art of soil conservation to protect our land, water, food and nation, was born.



Helping People Help the Land

Thanks to the vision of early conservation leaders, our prosperity as a nation aware of conservation, is flourishing. The conservation legacy in this state, from our Coon Creek Watershed beginnings, led to today's establishment and success of the USDA– NRCS.

NRCS is committed to helping private landowners care for the land, use it productively and excel as stewards for the future. America's working lands produce food and fiber, clear air and water, wildlife and healthy soil. Farming can be one of the most environmentally compatible uses of land there is.

NRCS is the leader in helping people make sound choices, to ensure healthy land and water. Through voluntary incentive-based programs, NRCS works directly with farmers and landowners to provide technical expertise and financial assistance to make conservation work on private lands.

The agency promotes conservation practices, everything from practices that manage excess nutrients and waste on farms, to practices that promote soil health, among a host of others, all of which are helping to protect our natural resources for the long term, while at the same time improving Wisconsin farms. Taking care of the landscape in concert with agricultural productivity is our goal.

NRCS celebrates over 80 years of working with farmers and landowners, local and state governments and other federal agencies to maintain healthy and productive working lands.

State Resource Priorities

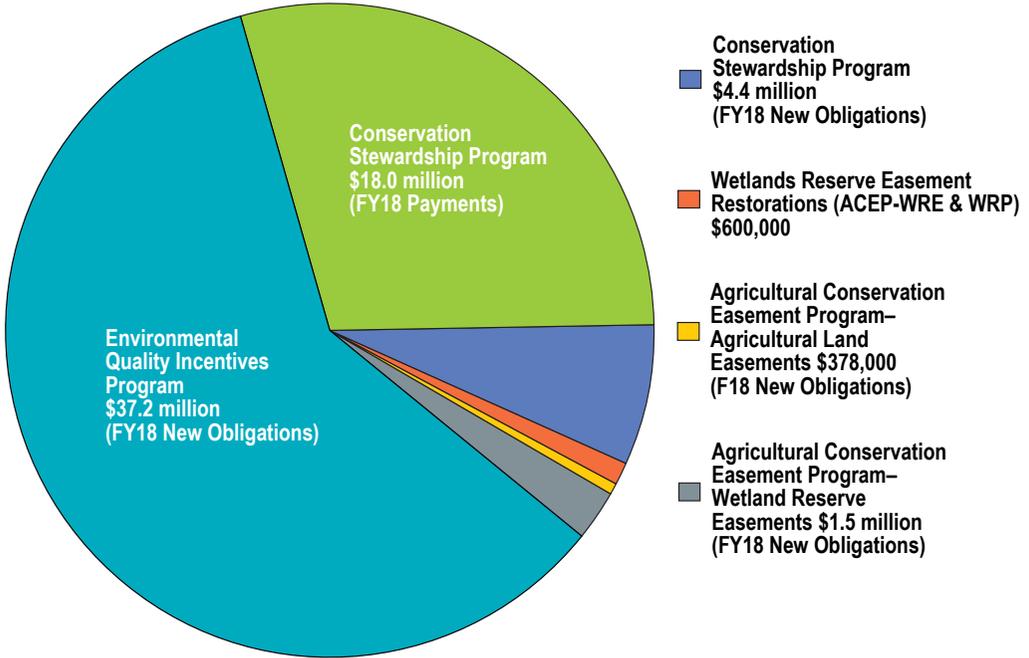
- Water Quality Degradation
- Soil Erosion
- Soil Quality Degradation
- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
- Degraded Plant Conditions
- Livestock Production Limitation
- Excess Water and Insufficient Water
- Air Quality Impacts
- Insufficient Energy Use



HIGHLIGHTS

🌿 Budget Overview

FY2018 NRCS–Wisconsin Program Dollars



\$62 Million Provided Through Conservation Programs

🌿 Local Working Groups

Local Working Groups, a subcommittee of the State Technical Committee, offer an avenue for interested individuals and groups to advise NRCS on local resource priorities for program funding. Local Working Groups are comprised of two or more counties united by geography, similar land use, resource and type of agriculture.

In 2018, each of the 18 Local Working Groups met to gather input on resource concerns and identify EQIP funding priorities for the upcoming year. Over 300 participants attended Local Working Group meetings. Collaboration was excellent, continued learning took place and partnerships were developed and strengthened. If you are interested in attending your county local working group meeting, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/newsroom/pnotice/.



Technical Assistance

NRCS offers technical assistance to address opportunities, concerns and problems related to the use of natural resources to help landowners make sound resource management decisions on private, tribal and other non-federal lands.

Every county in Wisconsin has a conservation team to assist in conservation planning. Having a conservation plan allows landowners to participate in financial assistance and easement programs. Conservation Technical Assistance is a voluntary program carried out by NRCS, partnering with local county conservation professionals.

Conservation Performance Results

NRCS assists landowners in conserving resources on private lands by providing technical and financial assistance available through voluntary incentive-based programs. Highlights of our accomplishments are listed below.

- 2,434 Conservation Plans written on 348,417 acres
- 665 acres of wetlands created, restored, or enhanced
- 50 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans written
- 414,216 acres with conservation applied to improve water quality
- 2,058 acres with conservation applied to improve agricultural irrigation water management
- 3,468 acres with conservation applied to improve irrigation efficiencies
- 361,014 acres of cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality
- 39,052 acres of cropland with conservation applied to improve soil health and sustainability
- 3,854 acres of cropland with applied soil health management systems
- 450,537 acres of conservation applied to improve environmental quality
- 35,374 acres of non-federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat
- 37,355 acres of forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve vegetative condition
- 19,066 acres of grazing land with conservation applied to improve resource base
- 9,512 acres of grazing land with conservation systems applied to achieve a sustainable forage-animal balance

Data Source: Resource Economic & Analysis Division (October 2018)



CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides voluntary conservation promoting agricultural production, forest management and environmental quality to help install or implement structural, agronomic or management conservation practices to protect soil and water quality.

Farmers develop a conservation plan for the acreage affected by EQIP practices. Conservation practices must meet NRCS technical standards. NRCS evaluates and ranks each application, with higher priorities given to the practices that address local resource concerns and provide the most environmental benefit.

Special EQIP Opportunities

Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)—A CAP can be developed for producers to identify conservation practices needed to address a specific natural resource need. NRCS—WI obligated \$564,622 in 231 contracts covering 15,657 acres.

High Tunnel Systems—NRCS helps producers plan and implement high tunnels, steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures that extend growing seasons in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality, fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment and better air quality. NRCS—WI obligated \$824,522 in 89 contracts covering 226 acres.

New and Beginning Farmers—Funds have been set aside to assist new and beginning farmers to develop and maintain economic viability on their farm operations. NRCS—WI obligated \$6,068,236 in 366 contracts covering 16,776 acres.

On-Farm Energy—NRCS and producers develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP) or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. Audit data is used to develop energy conservation recommendations. NRCS—WI obligated \$1,394,442 in 25 contracts covering 2,547 acres.





Left: USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey visits a successful stream restoration site with NRCS District Conservationist Joe Schmelz.

Organic—NRCS helps certified organic growers and producers, and also those working to achieve certification, to install conservation practices to address resource concerns on organic operations. NRCS–WI obligated \$103,787 in 13 contracts covering 586 acres.

Soil Health Initiative—Sound principles and systems that include no-till, cover crops, diversifying the crop rotation and managing nutrients and pesticide applications to improve soil health, which results in increased soil organic matter and water infiltration, as well as better profits and crop yields. NRCS–WI obligated \$6,261,574 in 255 contracts covering 46,976 acres.

Socially Disadvantaged Groups—Funds have been set aside to assist socially disadvantaged, limited resource and Veteran farmers. NRCS–WI obligated \$1,282,465 in 35 contracts covering 4,551 acres.

FY2018 EQIP Funding Highlights

- Provided \$37.2 million in financial assistance (includes all initiatives and special funding).
- Established 1,615 contracts.
- Enrolled 151,704 acres.



CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

TOP 40 EQIP OBLIGATED PRACTICES BY FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

(Includes all initiatives and special funding)

Practice	Practice Count (Number)	FY18 Obligation (Dollars)
Cover Crop	1,316	10,884,439
Waste Storage Facility	48	2,992,403
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	211	2,680,444
Pond Sealing or Lining, Concrete	28	1,978,340
Roofs and Covers	22	1,676,341
Heavy Use Area Protection	97	1,378,581
Fence	246	1,244,676
Lighting System Improvement	57	1,228,569
Waste Facility Closure	51	1,032,574
High Tunnel System	95	873,068
Waste Transfer	44	813,650
Prescribed Grazing	306	747,584
Sprinkler System	18	685,512
Access Road	45	671,748
Grade Stabilization Structure	81	645,780
Conservation Cover	130	599,957
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	294	584,356
Grassed Waterway	190	527,680
Livestock Pipeline	137	484,592
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	33	442,013
Pumping Plant	36	372,941
Forage and Biomass Planting	114	344,574
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan - Written	39	314,177
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	97	307,830
Forest Stand Improvement	66	281,411
Mulching	262	277,386
Forest Management Plan - Written	170	254,531
Subsurface Drain	48	243,858
Brush Management	165	218,815
Trails and Walkways	20	152,815
Underground Outlet	43	149,399
Nutrient Management	11	145,948
Obstruction Removal	130	137,165
Spoil Spreading	89	134,076
Waste Treatment	3	128,430
Stream Crossing	53	125,707
Wetland Restoration	25	117,121
Farmstead Energy Improvement	10	114,681
Lined Waterway or Outlet	17	110,956
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	31	104,746

Data Source: Resource Economic & Analysis Division (October 2018)



TOP 40 EQIP OBLIGATED PRACTICES BY PRACTICE COUNT

(Includes all initiatives and special funding)

Practice	Practice Count (Number)	FY18 Obligation (Dollars)
Cover Crop	1,316	10,884,439
Prescribed Grazing	306	747,584
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	294	584,356
Mulching	262	277,386
Fence	246	1,244,676
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	211	2,680,444
Grassed Waterway	190	527,680
Forest Management Plan - Written	170	254,531
Brush Management	165	218,815
Critical Area Planting	150	37,343
Livestock Pipeline	137	484,592
Conservation Cover	130	599,957
Obstruction Removal	130	137,165
Forage and Biomass Planting	114	344,574
Heavy Use Area Protection	97	1,378,581
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	97	307,830
High Tunnel System	95	873,068
Watering Facility	95	56,700
Spoil Spreading	89	134,076
Grade Stabilization Structure	81	645,780
Forest Stand Improvement	66	281,411
Tree/Shrub Establishment	59	86,882
Lighting System Improvement	57	1,228,569
Stream Crossing	53	125,707
Waste Facility Closure	51	1,032,574
Irrigation Water Management	50	77,435
Waste Storage Facility	48	2,992,403
Subsurface Drain	48	243,858
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	46	36,227
Access Road	45	671,748
Waste Transfer	44	813,650
Underground Outlet	43	149,399
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan - Written	39	314,177
Pumping Plant	36	372,941
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	33	442,013
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	31	104,746
Pond Sealing or Lining, Concrete	28	1,978,340
Grazing Management Plan - Written	26	52,869
Herbaceous Weed Treatment	26	16,731
Wetland Restoration	25	117,121

Data Source: Resource Economic & Analysis Division (October 2018)



CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) uses partnerships to multiply conservation investments and reach goals on a regional or watershed scale, promoting coordination between partners to deliver assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance through partnership agreements and program contracts or easement agreements.

NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved. RCPP encourages partners to join in efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources.

Wisconsin secured four new projects to improve the nation's water quality, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability.

1) Baraboo River Watershed II– This project seeks to improve water quality within the Baraboo River Watershed in Sauk County and Juneau County in Wisconsin through the promotion and installation of soil and water conservation practices. The partners will target areas which contribute to phosphorus and sediment loading to surface waters. The Baraboo River has been identified as the second greatest contributor of total phosphorus loading to the Wisconsin River, which is a large tributary of the Upper Mississippi River.

- Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,073,000 (Critical Conservation Area-Mississippi River Basin)
- Lead Partner: Sauk County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department
- Number of Initial Partners: 3
- Participating States: Wisconsin (Lead State)





2) Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild & Rare Phase 2– The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation and its partners will target areas in the Driftless Area where land restoration and land protection will have the most positive impact on water quality by implementing permanent conservation practices that reduce pollution and sediment runoff into streams. RCPP funding will provide a new comprehensive, targeted regional approach to restoring cold-water streams and their riparian areas for the benefit of the many at-risk species. The project will assist landowners to reduce pollution and sediment runoff through the adoption of key conservation practices. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program funding will purchase agricultural conservation easements to install permanent conservation practices such as riparian buffers and filter strips.

- Proposed NRCS Investment: \$9,203,000 (National)
- Lead Partner: Trout Unlimited
- Number of Initial Partners: 46
- Participating States: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin (Lead State)

3) Little Plover River Watershed– This project will be the first in Wisconsin to apply groundwater modeling to help deliver conservation practices to the locations in the Central Sands region of Wisconsin which will most effectively address resource needs. The partners will use EQIP to install on-farm practices. Match funding will implement larger scale restoration and municipal and agricultural infrastructure improvements. Project outcomes will be improved instream flows and water quality, increased groundwater recharge, soil conservation, and improved fish and wildlife habitat.

- Proposed NRCS Investment: \$295,000 (State)
- Lead Partner: Village of Plover
- Number of Initial Partners: 5
- Participating States: Wisconsin (Lead State)



CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

(Continued)

4) Tall Pines Conservancy Farmland Protection Program—This project, led by Tall Pines Conservancy (TPC), will use Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Agricultural Land Easements funding to acquire farmland easements at three different project sites in the watershed. Environmental Quality Incentives Program land practices will mitigate natural resource concerns at each project location. Additionally, Nutrient Management Plans will be developed as needed to identify resource concerns at the project locations. The long-term project goals are to decrease soil reduction; improve habitat quality; and reduce loading of sediments, nutrients, and pollutants into tributaries and lakes in the Oconomowoc River watershed. This will be accomplished by implementation of practices that conserve soil and slow overland flow in agriculture, forestry, and urban areas.

- NRCS Investment: \$524,000 (State)
- Lead Partner: Tall Pines Conservancy
- Number of Initial Partners: 6
- Participating States: Wisconsin (Lead State)

This brings the Wisconsin active RCPP project total to twelve, with 136 contracts obligated in FY18 on 21,976 acres for a total of \$1.48 million.





Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. CSP provides assistance to landowners who practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years.

FY2018 CSP Funding Highlights

- Established 623 new contracts and 143 renewal contracts.
- Provided \$4.4 million in financial assistance for new and renewal contracts.
- Enrolled 280,156 acres for new and renewal contracts.

FY2014–FY2018 CSP Funding Highlights

- Enrolled 1,310,553 total acres as of 10/2018.
- Established 3,429 active contracts as of 10/2018.



Through CSP, participants take additional steps to improve resource conditions including soil quality, water quality, water quantity, air quality and habitat quality, as well as energy. NRCS coordinates its implementation of CSP with the other premier Farm Bill working lands program, EQIP. CSP and EQIP work in a complementary manner to address conservation issues associated with agricultural operations. CSP provides financial and technical assistance to help land stewards install additional conservation practices. Eligible lands include private or tribal cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forest lands and other land in agricultural use.



LANDSCAPE INITIATIVES

NRCS uses Landscape Conservation Initiatives to accelerate the benefits of voluntary conservation programs, such as cleaner water and air, healthier soil and enhanced wildlife habitat. Conservation programs help agricultural producers improve the environment while maintaining a vibrant agricultural sector.

NRCS recognizes that natural resource concerns transcend farm, county and state boundaries. The most effective way to increase protection of natural resources is to target conservation to the most vulnerable or valuable areas and to apply a systematic, rather than a practice-by-practice approach to conservation. By approaching large-scale resource concerns on a landscape level, this science-based approach puts conservation in the right places.

NRCS is targeting conservation assistance to critical resources through a number of landscape scale initiatives. In Wisconsin, the initiatives are allowing NRCS and partners to focus staff and financial assistance on targeted resource concern issues in selected priority watersheds.

Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative

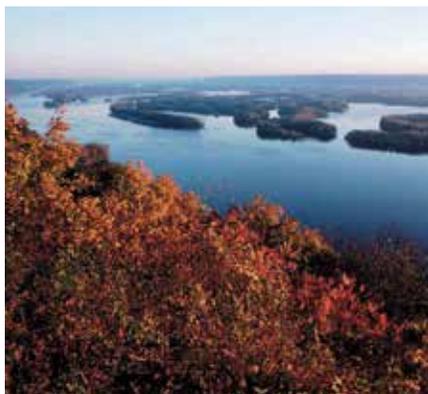
One out of every three bites of food in the U.S. depends on honey bees and other pollinators. Honey bees pollinate \$15 billion worth of crops each year, including more than 130 fruits and vegetables.

NRCS helps farmers and landowners implement conservation to provide safe and diverse food sources for pollinators. These conservation practices provide forage for honey bees while enhancing habitat for other pollinators and wildlife. They also improve the quality of water, air and soil. NRCS-WI obligated \$1,250,537 in 96 contracts covering 2,779 acres.



Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative

NRCS and partners are helping producers in selected watersheds in the Mississippi River Basin voluntarily implement conservation practices that avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff; improve wildlife habitat; and maintain agricultural productivity. Two projects were prioritized including the Rush River in Pierce County and the Kickapoo River in Monroe, Vernon, Richland and Crawford Counties. In FY2018, NRCS–WI obligated \$2,479,897 in 69 EQIP contracts covering 3,103 acres.



National Water Quality Initiative

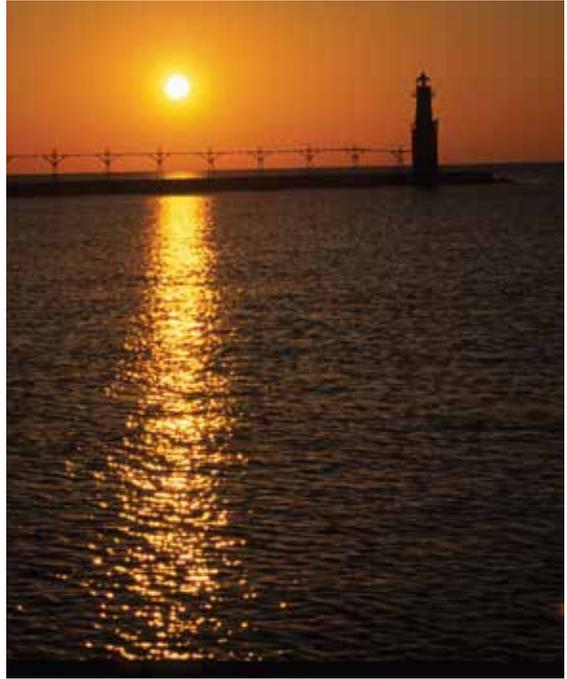
The National Water Quality Initiative is committed to improving impaired waterways throughout the nation. Four watersheds were prioritized including Big Green Lake in Green Lake County, Spring Creek in Green County, Bear Lake-Little Wolf River in Waupaca County and Wilson Creek in Dunn and St. Croix Counties. NRCS manages the initiative by making funds available to farmers and forest landowners in the selected watersheds to accomplish needed conservation practices to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff on agricultural lands. In FY2018, NRCS–WI obligated \$1,536,564 in 30 EQIP contracts covering 3,540 acres.



LANDSCAPE INITIATIVES

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

NRCS and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, in partnership with Peninsula Pride Farms, established the Door-Kewaunee Demonstration Farm Network. These farms are installing leading edge conservation practices that reduce phosphorus runoff. The demonstration farms showcase the practices by conducting field days and tours for farmers. This effort builds off the success of the existing Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network, a partnership effort between NRCS, Brown and Outagamie Counties and UW–Extension.



NRCS and Ozaukee County entered into a partnership to establish the Ozaukee County Demonstration Farm Network. These private farms are installing leading edge conservation practices that reduce sediment and phosphorus runoff. The demonstration farms will showcase the conservation efforts by conducting field days and tours for farmers interested in implementing similar practices on their operations. This effort builds off the successes of the existing Lower Fox and Door-Kewaunee Demonstration Farm Networks in northeast Wisconsin.

For the first time, GLRI-EQIP funds were available in FY18 through unique Invasive Species and Wildlife Habitat programs in the entire Great Lakes basin of Wisconsin. This is in addition to the GLRI-EQIP Nearshore Health program in the Door-Kewaunee Rivers, Lower Fox, Manitowoc-Sheboygan and Milwaukee River Watersheds. A total of \$8.22 million were obligated in 133 contracts with landowners and ag producers on 20,869 acres to reduce sediment and nutrient losses and improve habitat and plant diversity in Wisconsin's Great Lakes basin.



EASEMENT PROGRAMS



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands, wetlands and their related benefits.

FY2018 ACEP Funding Highlights

- Wetland Reserve Easements: Obligated over \$1.5 million in eight agreements covering 258 acres.
- Agricultural Land Easements: Obligated \$378,000 in three easements covering 344 acres.



Wetland Reserve Easements—Provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a Wetland Reserve Easement. For acreage owned by an Indian tribe, there is an additional enrollment option of a 30-year contract.

Agricultural Land Easements—NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. In the case of working farms, the program helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The program also protects grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving grassland, including rangeland, pastureland and shrubland.



SUCCESS STORY HIGHLIGHTS



Perseverance Pays Off

Harpers Diversify to Keep Farm Thriving

Hannah Harper grew up helping her father, Neil Papendorf, farm 160 acres on their property in Tigerton, Wisconsin. Her father ran the dairy for 30 years and in 2008, Hannah and her husband, Brian, purchased the farm. That same year, milk prices crashed and the Harpers were faced with new challenges in trying to keep their small dairy productive and profitable. Hannah explains, “It taught us how to be savvy; we realized really quickly, we had to diversify our farm to keep it going and maintain success.” Hannah followed in her father’s footsteps working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to diversify their dairy by adding managed rotational grazing.

The dairy farm is located in the Pigeon River Watershed, and is directly next to headwater of the Pigeon’s north branch, which includes many springs. The Harpers had a unique opportunity to install conservation practices to help the watershed. Hannah’s father worked with NRCS in 2001 to complete a nutrient management plan and install a barnyard system, including a sediment basin, filter strips, underground outlet, and roof runoff management. “My father did projects with NRCS because the farm is so close to the river and we knew we could make a difference. The main exit for the cows to head out to pasture is right next to the springs on our property,” explained Hannah.

Hannah watched her father complete successful projects with NRCS, so she and Brian wanted to continue those conservation efforts. In 2010, the Harpers enrolled in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to complete a comprehensive nutrient management plan, install a larger manure storage, underground outlet and manure transfer. “When we decided on the manure storage, we focused on writing



a good nutrient management plan,” explained Hannah. “A spring runs right beside the dairy barn and is the headwaters to the north branch of the Pigeon River Watershed; that’s what we aimed to protect by installing the manure storage. Hannah and Brian are in a vulnerable area and knew they had an opportunity to protect it and improve water quality downstream,” said Waupaca County District Conservationist, Lisa Neuenfeldt. “Hannah attended a Waupaca County sponsored education class and wrote her own nutrient management plan.” Hannah explains further, “Understanding where nutrients are in pin-pointing gallons per acre, I made a flow rate graph with speeds to run the tractor to spread at the right rate.” Once the Harpers had a good foundation set for the dairy, they were ready to diversify their operation.

In 2013, the Harpers decided to diversify their farm and start Harpers Countryside Cuts, a custom meat processing business. Brian grew up on a hobby farm and processing plant; he also completed a federal apprenticeship to learn how to cut meat. “After the market crash, one of the ways we diversified was by starting our own processing facility; we have two full time staff, Leroy and Anne, that help in the meat shop,” said Hannah. The Harpers sell many cuts of meat and also process sheep, hogs and beef. “Our goal is to raise, market and sell grass fed Angus, as well as Piedmontese,” explained Brian. The Harpers currently care for 40 milk cows, 40 sheep, 25 young stock/Holstein calves, and 35 beef cattle.

The Harpers also decided to diversify their conventionally cropped corn–hay rotation. In 2014, they enrolled in EQIP and implemented cover crops on almost 30 acres. In 2015 and 2016, the Harpers used EQIP for forage and biomass planting, fencing, livestock pipeline, heavy use area protection, watering facilities, and prescribed grazing. The grazing system included a forage planting of the Grassworks Blend, which includes meadow fescue, festulolium, perennial rye, red clover and white clover. “The mix came in really well as we worked to increase our herd,” said





Brian. “Hannah and Brian planted the Grassworks Grazing blend and also added clover as part of the EQIP Honey Bee Initiative,” explained Lisa. “All our acres are now set up in rotational grazing,” said Hannah. They also partner with a local landowner to have 122 bee hives on their property. The bees are thriving on the property due to the pollinator specific clover plantings on the grazing acres. “We started with just a dairy herd and breed in some beef. I have a passion for Piedmontese beef, so it’s something we have really enjoyed doing,” said Brian. The Harpers have attended many pasture walks and work to meet people interested in managed grazing to build a network. “We purchased a flock of sheep and also recently purchased a herd of Angus beef from a couple in our grazing network. They have an incredible angus herd and write grazing management plans, so they are a huge resource,” said Hannah.

“We did a forage analysis last year between two fields, a second year established alfalfa stand compared to a first year grass interseeding with the Grassworks blend. We have the same feed quality and higher digestibility with the Grassworks seeding. That convinced me we can keep interseeding the Grassworks blend,” said Brian. The Harper’s dairy cows need higher protein and quality feed for energy and milk production. The grazing plan they follow is also good feed for grass finishing beef. “The cows just came in last night 2 hours early with full bags for milking; the high quality feed is working and our animals are thriving,” explained Hannah. The Harpers also installed woven wire fencing for the sheep flock, a headlock system for the heifers, and are working on adding water lines in some of the new paddocks. Now that the whole farm is in pasture, cover crops are no longer needed.





The Harper's acres consist of a sandy, gravel-based soil. "It's dry, and every year we were waiting for rain when we cropped the fields," said Hannah. The couple went to a field day and saw an NRCS soil health presentation by Ray Archuleta, Soil Health Specialist, including soil test demonstrations. "NRCS showed us the benefits of rotational grazing and what we could do for soil health," said Brian. "The practices NRCS has helped us install, give us a plan for our overall farm and it gives us a hope to stay here for the future and continue to be productive," said Hannah.

Hannah and Brian's daughter, Cheyanna (age 8), brought home a book about the dust bowl from school. "That's why I have Cheyanna and Adaya (age 5) home for this special story today; conservation is so important and that was a tremendous incident. Our kids need to know and understand how to conserve; it's about land stewardship and the animals too. For us to be able to put this land into managed grazing, we are really passionate about it and our kids see the value. The history of what happened then, the effect it had, and how far we've come as a nation is monumental," said Hannah. "I didn't think about the importance of dirt before, now I love the soil. I get excited when I see new species on the property, the little things you didn't notice before building up the land; I am working towards that every day."

"The local NRCS office is great to work with. Waupaca County farmers are very fortunate to have great NRCS and partnering staff," said Hannah. The Harpers agree, working with NRCS took some of the risk away from making a change. "NRCS is here to help farmers transition and try something new; that's very important because most farmers are nervous to try new things sometimes and NRCS gives us more of an opportunity to succeed," explained Hannah. Lisa comments further, "Whenever we have a contract with Brian and Hannah they get things done ahead of schedule, done right, and professionally. It's been a pleasure and we look forward to working with them in the future, providing assistance to help reach their farm goals."

SUCCESS STORY HIGHLIGHTS



A Bountiful Thanksgiving Harvest

Organic Cranberry Producer Brings Fruit to the Family Table

Deep in the heart of cranberry country, John Stauner and his wife, Nora, own and operate James Lake Farms, an organic cranberry marsh in Oneida County, Wisconsin. The Stauner's harvest contributes to the state being the nation's leading producer of cranberries, producing more than 60 percent of the country's crop. John grew up in Marshfield knowing there were cranberry farms in northern Wisconsin, but he didn't know much else about them. "I started off thinking cranberries grew in water," explained John. Contrary to popular belief, cranberries do not grow in water, but on low running vines in sandy bogs and marshes, which are flooded with water to aid in harvesting. Cranberries contain a pocket of air and berries float to the surface to be picked up by harvesting equipment.

With a degree in natural resources and water chemistry, John wanted to learn more about the local fruit. "I took a job working for a consulting lab partnering with cranberry marshes to do integrated pest management, soil and tissue analysis work," said John. His employer group established Northland Cranberries. John became Vice President of Operations and gained knowledge of the industry through his 20-year career with the company. John adds, "Northland was the largest grower in the world at one point." In 2000, an oversupply of cranberries resulted in the company being sold into pieces. "In 2006, my wife and I had an opportunity to buy a very small piece of that puzzle, and thus started James Lake Farms and this cranberry marsh," said John.

The James Lake Farms marsh has 65 acres of cranberries and 1,540 acres of support land on the property. Truly a family business, John and Nora's son, Ben Riker, a National Guard Veteran, came home after deployment in 2010, and decided to join the family business, taking on a manager role. John and Nora employ 6 full time staff



and 30 seasonal employees during harvest to effectively run their business.

John had experience growing organically and he had much interest in transitioning his own property. “We wrote a business plan and decided on our value-added product, organic fresh fruit; we knew transitioning to organic was right for us,” said John. Stauner adds, “We knew organics would help us make this small operation economically viable and I also like the challenge of growing organically.” The Stauners were so enthusiastic about transitioning to organic, they started the transition the year before they finalized purchasing the property and were certified in 2007. “Ten years later, we are continuing to grow something that is good for people and the environment in which we are growing it. That is the most satisfying aspect of what we do,” added John.

Once the farm was certified organic, the next hurdle was upgrading the original irrigation lines to the marsh. “Infrastructure wise, we have done a lot to the property since we purchased it,” said John. “This marsh was the first in Wisconsin to have a solid set irrigation system in the 1950s; the same irrigation system was here when we purchased the marsh in 2006; it was in serious need of rehabilitation,” said John. The Stauners learned, through the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association (WSCGA), about the one-on-one personalized advice and investments to operations and local communities the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides.

John worked with Michael Stinebrink, then an NRCS Resource Conservationist, stationed in the WSCGA’s office, in Wisconsin Rapids, as part of a cooperative agreement between NRCS and WSCGA. In 2007, Stinebrink completed an assessment of the irrigation system and developed an irrigation water management plan, which included recommended irrigation runtimes to meet crop water needs. Pest management and nutrient management were also implemented, with financial assistance provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the





WSCGA–NRCS cooperative agreement. “All cranberry growers are implementing some form of nutrient, pest and irrigation water management,” said Stinebrink. “Our role is to apply the best science, in accordance with NRCS technical standards, to influence that management to achieve natural resource objectives, such as water quality and water conservation.”

John returned to NRCS to complete upgrades to the irrigation system, using technical and financial assistance through EQIP. From 2008–2011, modern, high-efficiency sprinkler systems, with 3 lateral lines and sprinkler spacing of 44-by-40 ft were installed to replace the original, 2-line irrigation systems, with sprinkler spacing of approximately 66-by-60 ft. Additionally, more than 6,800 feet of buried, high-density polyethylene, irrigation pipeline was installed to replace the original, leaky and undersized, above-ground, aluminum mainline. “The combination of these conservation practices, coupled with the irrigation water management plan, allows for improved plant health. Irrigation applied to meet crop moisture needs and for frost protection is more evenly distributed across the beds, while also reducing water and energy consumption,” said Stinebrink, now the NRCS District Conservationist in Rhinelander. “Everything we’ve made has gone back into the marsh to improve it and make it better; the cost sharing through EQIP helped immensely,” said John. “The upgraded systems, with the help of NRCS, save us a lot of water usage. It also enables us to get more uniformity on the cranberry bed when we do irrigate.”

Transitioning to organic has allowed the farm to step outside the mainstream supply and demand curve by offering a value-added product. “There is definitely a great market for organic cranberries; organics has helped us make our business viable,” said John. Farming organically is not without its challenges. “Our biggest challenge is weed control. We use mechanical clipping almost weekly to reduce the competition for the growing cranberry vines,” explained John. The Stauners also rely on new technology, such as mating disruption, and some old techniques, such as flooding for insect control in the spring, to keep their marsh thriving. Trying new technologies on a smaller scale has enabled John to gain experience and find out what works, transitioning proven technologies to standard practices. “We use tested natural products like blood meal, composted manures, fish emulsions and naturally mined minerals for fertility. We rely on the biology of our healthy soil to break down these natural fertilizers. There’s a science and art to cranberry farming as well,” added John. To the Stauners, conservation means working with Mother Nature. They view growing their crop as managing an ecosystem, working with it for production.



The Stauners grow a product that people appreciate and find value in. They also value their land that provides the bountiful harvest each year. John explains, “We’re growing something people really appreciate and we also see the value in the land. We’ve had nesting loons on the lake since 2009. It’s very satisfying to see so much more biodiversity on the property. We now see a plethora of species and insects.” John also sees diversity in pollinators and species, including three different species of native bumble bees, other beneficial pollinators, spiders, snails, and a variety of animals. The Stauners rely on native pollinators and also use a combination of rented honey bees and purchased commercial bumble bee hives to help with pollination. “We have a pretty good natural native pollinator base; this is one of the main benefits of farming organically; we conserve the pollinators intentionally; we don’t use the harsh chemistry that combats them; you do not want pollination to be a limiting factor in production,” explains John.



James Lake Farms packages under their own brand and many other organic brand labels sold in the Midwest. When cranberries are harvested, they come off the field wet and dirty. Berries are sorted and the chaff, leaves and stems are removed. They are also cleaned, dried and stored in bins for packaging. “When we do a pick and pack operation, we normally have fresh berries on the truck in 24–48 hours to be delivered,” said John.

John and Nora also participated in the NRCS forestry program, through EQIP, enrolling over 600 acres of wooded support land. “We worked with an NRCS Technical Service Provider to write a Forestry Management Plan for our support land acres. Most had never been assessed or harvested,” explained John. The plan allowed for restoration and cutting. John adds, “We have very good white birch genetics, nice and straight; we did some shelter wood cutting and wanted to get regeneration of white birch going.” The plan allowed for leaving a mature tree every 50 feet to seed and regenerate into a new white birch stand.

The Stauner’s plan is to keep investing in the marsh and continue to make improvements in the vines, equipment, facilities and irrigation to add value and save resources. John recently purchased a 124-acre cranberry marsh on the other side of town. He is currently transitioning that property to organic production, to be certified in 2018. John explains, “We’re transitioning the newly acquired marsh to organic and we have an irrigation system there also needing help. In the near future, we will be contacting our local NRCS office again, to work together. We’re also planning a new packing facility.”

John plans to continue his thriving business and hopes for future generations of cranberry growers in the Stauner family. “I didn’t grow up in cranberries and am a first generation grower. We have three grandchildren all growing up here on the property, learning about cranberries; that’s a very satisfying feeling and very rewarding. John explains, “We love to grow cranberries, and having the family here and giving them that lifestyle, that’s what I’m most proud of.” The Stauners will continue to grow organic cranberries for families to enjoy during the holidays and year-round.

SUCCESS STORY HIGHLIGHTS



Managing Woodlands With a Conservation Land Ethic

Renowned Cabin Builder Protects 3,000 Forested Acres

Walking up to the Hovel log cabin in the woods, Joe helps his wife, Mary, wash various vegetables they just picked from their land. The Hovels are Vilas County, Wisconsin, landowners who started out decades ago working with the land to utilize and benefit the sustainable natural resource. When in school, Joe knew he wanted to use his hands and get into the building trade. Joe and Mary married young and moved right to the country, buying 25 acres, to get started on their dream. “I’ve been self-employed my whole career, since 1970,” explained Hovel.

Joe obtained a sawmill from a friend and started building out of wood, anything and everything area farmers and landowners needed. “Things really turned around in 1973; I had a bunch of pine logs cut and I owed the landowner stumpage. I couldn’t sell the stuff due to the recession, so I contacted a farmer I knew who did sawmilling,” said Joe. “I was a young, eager, 20 something and asked if he still had the old sawmill.” The farmer took Joe to see the sawmill. It was out in the open with trees growing through it from unused. “I asked him if he thought it would run and he said yes, with some work,” explained Joe. “The farmer said I could haul it out of there and when I started making money with it, he wanted \$1,000 dollars for it.” The next day, Hovel hauled the sawmill 35 miles back to his land and started repairs. “I got the thing home by using an old tractor from my grandpa; I set up the sawmill and utilized a USDA Forest Service publication to get it running within a week,” said Joe. “It was so much fun; that’s all I wanted to do; it was so interesting and rewarding, sawing logs, making lumber, building with my hands.” Joe needed to find his “value-added” to the lumber. He decided to build calf feeders and hay racks that were better than others on the market. Joe’s business took off. “I had fun making the products bigger, better and stronger; I was able to make one a day and then the same farmers kept asking for



more and more different things; I once made 50 picnic tables for a campground one summer,” explained Hovel.

Joe’s business continued to grow. He decided to build his very first log cabin. “This guy kept driving by as I was building the cabin, so I finally waved him down; he asked what I was building and what I was going to do with it. I told him I was building a cabin and was going to sell it. The guy said he wanted to buy it,” said Joe. Hovel had sold his first cabin before it was even finished. After the first successful cabin build, neighbors lined up to get their own built. “We built around 12 a year and worked year-round,” added Joe. As of fall 2017, Hovel has built over 250 cabins and full time homes all over central and northern Wisconsin. As his business continued to thrive, he and Mary acquired more land.

Hovel slowly built community relationships and acquired land from friends who offered it to him due to his conservation mindset and ability to nurture the land. Today, the Hovels own or manage around 3,000 acres of forestland in Wisconsin and Michigan. “I’ve developed a pretty strong land ethic in my line of work. Conservation to me is the wise use and maintenance of our land for the future; using it wisely and leaving it so the next generation can use it wisely also,” said Hovel. “You can see some of the effects of forest fragmentation and unwise use. I have made it my personal goal to help as much land as I can by active management and implementing conservation practices,” explained Joe. “When I first saw some of these properties, I knew we needed to help protect them.”

In 1979, Joe planted some trees with the help of the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This was the first time Hovel learned about the cost-share and technical assistance available through conservation programs. Hovel’s home property, 396 acres in northern Vilas County, encompasses mixed habitat of maple, oak, pine, aspen, birch and spruce. “Mary and I feel responsible for the protection of water quality on our lake, the Wisconsin River and Pilgrim River in Michigan,” said Joe. As the Hovels acquired more land, they realized the importance of managing and conserving it. “We manage the land and promote land conservation for multiple benefits, including, economic (growing timber), social (recreation, hunting, fishing), environmental (clean water and clean air), and intrinsic (inspiring beauty),” explains Joe.

In managing the large plots of land, that’s when the U.S. Department of Agriculture came in. “I am so passionate about doing land management right and so is NRCS,” said Joe. With mutual goals, taking part in conservation programs can be the difference between someone being able to afford active management or having to sell their property,” added Joe. In 2014, Joe worked with the NRCS Rhinelander Service Center to write a Forest Management Plan. “Forest management plans are really an affirmation of what





your goals are as a landowner,” explained Joe. “After a Forest Management Plan was written, we worked with Joe through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to implement forest stand improvements and tree and shrub site preparation. He also utilized the Regional Conservation Partnership Program for tree and shrub site preparation and establishment,” said Celie Borndal, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Rhinelander Service Center. “Any technical and financial assistance can be a huge incentive to accomplish forest management goals,” said Joe.

“When we were faced with a major tree planting project in 2015, I knew I needed some help to do it right, so I once again, called my local NRCS office in Rhinelander,” said Hovel. “This is conservation funding, if I take it to roll it into further conservation efforts, that’s what it’s for and I am so thankful for the assistance,” said Joe. In 2015, through the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program Joe completed some conifer and young hardwood stand crop tree release; creation and retention of snags, den trees and coarse wood debris for wildlife habitat; hinge cutting for wildlife; multi-story cropping; sustainable management of non-timber forest plants and pruning of low density pine trees to improve tree quality and wildlife habitat. “The difference the NRCS programs make are from a landowner doing nothing at all or something ok, to doing something that is exceptionally great for conservation,” said Hovel. “NRCS is here to really help landowners meet their forest conservation goals while also do things right the first time, for their private lands,” added Borndal. Hovel also worked with NRCS in 2016, through the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program to complete forest stand improvements for wildlife habitat and soil quality. He also continues his work with multi-story cropping and sustainable management of non-timber forest plants on many of his acres.

“The overwhelming, hands down, most important thing to me is to protect this land and these properties with a goal of the land being economically viable and socially attractive for future generations,” said Hovel. Land management and conservation are of the utmost importance to the Hovels and they will continue to work tirelessly to meet their natural resource goals with the help of NRCS.



SUCCESS STORY HIGHLIGHTS



Native Grasses, Forbs and Oak Savannas Aplenty

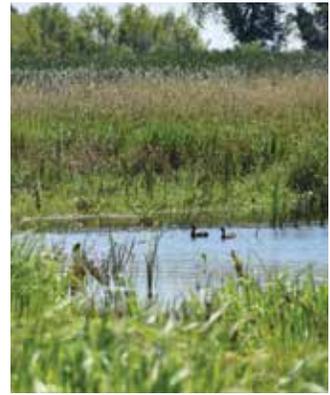
Wildlife Habitat Flourishes Through SAFE Program Partnership

David and Jessica Gales own property located in the Glacial Habitat Safe Acres for Wildlife Enhance (SAFE) area in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. The Gales restored their 36 acres into upland nesting cover on five fields, and added a shallow water area to complement the adjacent wetland acreage, just north of the west branch of the Fond du Lac River. This restoration was in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), Ducks Unlimited, Wings over Wisconsin, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "All the local partners pulled together to make this project possible and provide assistance for planning, seed, planting, and more. We couldn't have done this project without NRCS and FSA's key partnership along with all the partner's cooperation," said Erv Lesczynski, Rock River Watershed Planner.

The Glacial Habitat Restoration SAFE Area offers FSA's Conservation Reserve Program Practices and NRCS technical planning assistance to provide enhanced habitat for bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrow, Henslow's sparrows, and ring-necked pheasant. The goal is to establish a mosaic of grasslands and wetlands in a predominately agricultural landscape, resulting in more favorable habitat conditions for self-sustaining populations of waterfowl, pheasants and grassland songbirds. "We were looking for potential sites that would do well with native grasslands and savannas and also allow shallow scrapes in the Fond du Lac area to add wildlife habitat. The Gales property was a great place for the SAFE program to work effectively. NRCS specifically worked to design and locate the 1/3 acre scrape, overseeing construction in the winter," said Brian Kind, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician. "We were worried about soil erosion with the rented, conventionally farmed fields; we feel like we're giving back to the land by turning it into a more native habitat," said Jessica.

"We heard about the SAFE program through a conservation partner, the Wild Turkey Federation," said David. "Setting the timelines is very important for SAFE. We planned





a year in advance with the Gales and involved them every step of the way,” said Erv. With SAFE, project contracts can begin anytime of the year. The Gales started their contract in October 2015, enrolling 20 acres for 15 years, and did their first planting the following spring. Jake Vande Berg, Fond du Lac County Executive Director with the Farm Service Agency added, “Advanced planning works well for enrolling acres into the Conservation Reserve Program. The great partnership between FSA, NRCS, and other partners working on this project maximized the benefits and timing of contract enrollment.”

Each of the five fields the Gales planted have a different species mix depending on the soil type and amount of moisture. “We knew the cropped field was previously in soybeans and that crop provides great residue to plant into,” added Erv. Four fields have various mixes of upland plantings, including native grasses and forbs. “A custom, multi-species mix was used, including 5 native grasses and 3 main flowering forbs, black eyed susan, yellow cone flower and bergamot,” said Cory Drummond, Fond du Lac County NRCS District Conservationist. “There is also some yellow cone flower and the Gales are also encouraging milkweed establishment for pollinators.” The largest field was planted as an oak savanna with burr oak, white oak, black oak, hickory and swamp lights. “We planted over 460 trees in this planting, over 4 days of work; the oak savanna has many more forbs than the other fields,” said David. The Gales have gone the extra mile and completed various tree and shrub plantings on acres not enrolled in the program. With technical and planning assistance from NRCS, the Gales also installed a shallow water area as part of their SAFE contract.

“The savanna and grasslands really hold the wildlife and habitat in and provide food and shelter for them,” said Jessica. “We’ve seen hens and baby turkeys, various frogs, turtles, snakes, pheasants, deer, geese, ducks, pelicans; so many different species! We listen to the frogs all night.” “The farm now has large blocks of cover and they have a large amount of duck nesting going on,” said Erv. With new plantings, come new challenges and opportunities for management. “We are dealing with Canada thistle in some of the fields. It’s one of the biggest problems with native grassland and savanna plantings,” said Erv. “Compared to other plantings I’ve seen, the Gales property doesn’t have much at all because they are doing active weed management,” said Erv. The Gales are properly managing their SAFE habitat by actively doing weed management in problem spots. “We are also planning to get a pull behind mower to do more strategic





mowing in the smaller affected areas next year,” explained David. “This has really been a family effort the whole way through.”

David and Jessica grew up hunting and fishing and have two daughters who also love the outdoors, Betsy (10), and Millie (7). “Both the girls love hunting and fishing with mom and dad. It’s important our girls understand this healthy land isn’t always going to be here unless we take care of it,” said Jessica. The Gales have made efforts to show their daughters the importance of conservation by doing their part on the land they own to plant native habitat and native trees. “It gives them a real life understanding to not take healthy land, clean water and all our natural resources for granted,” said Jessica. “Living out in the country exposes them to many new things. Just seeing wildlife and understanding the cycle of life gives them good exposure to how the natural world works.” The Gales take conservation education one step further by having their kid’s friends out often, taking them around the flourishing property to show different plants, trees, forbs, beneficial insects and animals. Jessica adds, “It’s our chance to give back a little.”

The Gales were nominated and recently received the NWTf Local Stewardship Award and also won the Statewide Award. “It was really nice to have our hard work recognized for the conservation efforts we have made on our property,” said Jessica. The Gales have influenced neighbors and partners to follow suit in their wildlife habitat endeavors. This past summer they hosted a NRCS and FSA joint training session on working with USDA to accomplish restoration goals at their acreage. “The Gales have been very hospitable, allowing NRCS and FSA employees on their property and opening up their site as a training opportunity to see a successfully completed SAFE project. It was a nice experience to allow employees an opportunity to see conservation on the ground through this finished project and to learn specifics about the process,” said Cory.

NRCS, FSA, the Gales and all the partners realize the success of this SAFE project. “I like the look and natural feel of it; I love watching the wildlife in the shallow water habitat area; it looks like it’s always been that way. We see so many bees and butterflies now too; so, not just animal species, but beneficial insects also,” said Jessica. “We’ve held many meetings and tours with different groups; we’re always willing to learn new things and answer questions, we’re up front about how good the program is; everyone has been great in providing information,” said Jessica. “NRCS and FSA collaborating and working together in Fond du Lac enabled us to get this job done,” said Drummond. Vande Berg also agreed, “It took the cooperation of all partners for this project to be a success. Working together as One USDA for our landowners provides countless benefits to the land and the local community.” The USDA agencies look forward to many more years of partnership with the Gales on this SAFE project success.



SUCCESS STORY HIGHLIGHTS



Driftless Area Acres Sustainably Managed

Father-Son Team Partners with NRCS and Forestry TSP

Jay Carlson owns 157 rolling acres in Richland County's Driftless Area. His son, Mike, actively manages the property, which has 30 tillable acres and 127 forested acres. "We primarily wanted a place out in the Driftless Area because of interest we have in recreation and the outdoors. We wanted the opportunity to manage land for wildlife habitat," added Mike. "When we paused and thought about actively managing that many acres, it felt overwhelming at first." Jay and Mike started by building relationships with different natural resource professionals in the Richland County area, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. "Whether it's a wildlife biologist, forester or botanist, every time we've gone out in the woods with a natural resources professional, we've learned a lot and have also gained a sense of what our plan should be in terms of management here," said Mike.

After acquiring the property in 2013, they assessed the tillable and forested acres. The Carlsons noticed invasive species on the property, including garlic mustard. The property was formerly grazed and there were some improvements that could be made. "The property was pretty well managed previously, but we had an opportunity to make it even better," said Mike. The Carlsons first found out about the benefits of NRCS technical and financial assistance when they sought forestry advice and connected with John Nielsen, a NRCS Forestry Technical Service Provider (TSP), who also owns property in Richland County.

The first step towards management was developing a Forest Management Plan. "We heard about the cost sharing available through NRCS to help develop a plan," said Mike. John came out and toured the property with the Carlsons and they decided to apply for cost sharing through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), so John could write a plan for their property. "The Carlsons have been so proactive and



receptive to information and making good decisions that best meet their management needs for the property,” said Nielsen. “When John produced the plan, this was the first time I had a full sense of what the wooded portion of our property could be; coming up with a plan we could start on and seeing it through for 10, 20, 30 years down the road, it’s a great feeling when I’m out planting seedlings; the plan gives us a real sense of the bigger picture of what can be done,” added Jay. As a Forestry TSP, John looks at properties and plans for forestry benefits to include what acres will look like 100 years from now with conservation management applied.

John worked with the Carlsons to understand their management goals and ideas for the property. He worked to lay out options that would best meet those goals. “Their purpose of making the land better and their focus on combating invasives, having good access for management as well as recreation, protecting water and preventing erosion; these were all important issues they wanted to address,” said Nielsen. Listening to what their interests were and learning about the history of the property were important for Nielsen to develop an overarching management plan. “We identified some open areas where we thought we could get oak back,” said John. In spring 2017, the Carlsons planted 1,400 oak seedlings and 500 shrub seedlings for wildlife habitat with financial assistance from EQIP. They also plan to treat 15 acres of ironwood that established due to the previous grazing and to complete crop tree release in winter 2017 in the planted areas. “One of the project highlights for fall 2017 is a direct seeding project on 5 acres planting oaks. This project is a great, viable option to take some of the marginal crop land and put it into trees,” said Nielsen. John worked with the Carlsons to develop a plan for 16 stands on the property to include 130 acres in EQIP. “We also did a timber harvest on 8 mature acres of aspen in winter 2016; we wanted to establish and maintain some areas of young forest on their landscape,” said John.

“From a landscape perspective, we talked about songbird habitat because this is a critical area for interior migratory songbirds. Young forest is in short supply, so I wanted them to know the wildlife benefits,” added John. Nielsen also talked with the Carlsons about how the property would look after harvest. “It was a leap of faith, but after one growing season, the young forest looks great and is regenerating,” said Mike. “The Driftless Area is very responsive to management, so it’s a great area to practice forestry,” added John. Through EQIP, the Carlsons also did tree and shrub site preparation and establishment and brush management practices on their property. Nielsen practices what he preaches as a TSP on forestland he owns and also manages in Richland County. “Being able to go out to John’s land and see the practices he’s talked about implementing on the ground,





was very valuable in helping us make those good management decisions,” said Mike. Taking conservation efforts one step further, the Carlsons cost shared with the county and also installed erosion control practices on their property.

“When we talked with John, we put wildlife at the top of the list. Just seeing the patches of young forest bringing in wildlife is great. We’re excited to improve the health of some of our other stands and also improve the wildlife habitat; it’s nice to see the progress we can make in just a few years,” said Mike. “For me, being professionally in the conservation community working for Gathering Waters and land trusts around the state, talking about why these Farm Bill programs are so important, to get sawdust under my fingernails and work with these programs on the ground professionally and personally has been really valuable,” added Mike. The Carlsons implemented conservation on their property and see meaningful and tangible improvements in their forest within just four years. “One of their biggest focuses was a conservation legacy so we took that and ran with it; it’s rewarding for me to get a chance to share in their legacy; TSP’s get a chance to feel a part of doing good,” said John. “John brings forth a high level of professionalism as a forestry Technical Service Provider and he’s been a huge asset for the Carlsons to manage their forested acres,” added Carlton Peterson, Richland County NRCS District Conservationist. “Landowners having access to NRCS cost share programs takes away a huge barrier to developing a plan for management of their forests,” said John.

“We wouldn’t have known where to start without a Forest Management Plan,” said Mike. “These programs give landowners an opportunity to directly work with professionals to benefit private lands; it gave us the confidence to implement conservation practices and do a timber harvest,” said Mike. The plan gave the Carlsons a list of short, medium and long term goals to implement. “The most satisfying thing is to see a landowner that is really happy with the plan and partnership effort that we deliver as a TSP and NRCS,” said John. NRCS and John look forward to continuing their forestry efforts with the Carlsons for many years to come, as laid out in their Forest Management Plan.



SUCCESS STORY HIGHLIGHTS



Harmony Valley Farm's Passion for Produce

Growing Organic with a Purpose

Meet Richard DeWilde at Harmony Valley Farm in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Richard's passion for healthy soil and feeding healthy food to all people evolved into a wildly successful organic community supported agriculture (CSA) business, and grocery store, farmers market and food co-op supplier.

As winter is welcomed in southwest Wisconsin, enter Richard DeWilde's flurry of greenhouses where staff wash and sort various fresh organic root vegetables; the last of the late fall harvest is sorted for CSA boxes to feed over 1,500 families.

Richard has been growing organic vegetables for over 44 years and has been farming at Harmony Valley since 1984. He has always had an interest in farming organically, growing up with two grandfathers who grew organically. Richard transitioned the farm from a dairy to organic vegetable production and is dedicated to providing the highest quality produce to feed families across the Midwest. He raises 100 acres of vegetables and has cows and goats on pasture through NRCS prescribed grazing assistance. He farms regeneratively, using cover crops every year to build soil quality and as a means of capturing carbon through plants and storing it in his healthy soil. Over 40 years of using covers before and after vegetable cash crops has helped his organic crops be more resilient to erratic weather conditions.

Cover crops help filter and purify water to keep our water clean and enhance and encourage biodiversity of soil microorganisms that help us increase organic matter and hold nutrients in place so they are available for the next organic vegetable crop. Richard partnered with NRCS through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative to plant 175 acres of cover crops and also implemented streambank protection to protect local waterways.





Planting covers into standing vegetables allows for that diverse crop to sprout in the shade of a cash crop and be ready to take over as soon as the cash crop is harvested. Richard uses this method for asparagus, strawberries and rhubarb. Cover crops also help Richard prevent soil erosion, supply nutrients, suppress weeds and break pest cycles in his organic operation. The species of cover crop selected, along with its management, determine the benefits and returns.



Richard uses two main NRCS-approved cover crop mixes. One mix includes plants that winter kill. This variety includes Japanese millet, oats, field peas, crimson clover and a few other clover varieties. Benefits include covers that winter kill and will not grow again in the spring and early ground preparation due to cover crop residue easily working into the soil.

Richard's second mix consists of plants that go dormant during the winter and resume growing again in the spring. He uses this plant mix on fields that do not need to be planted in early spring, lets the cover crop grow and chops it just before it goes to seed. This variety includes cereal rye, rye grass, mammoth red clover and hairy vetch. The rye makes a good mulch they can cut and bale for future use.





Multi-species cover crop mixes increase plant diversity and bring diverse beneficial attributes to the mix to help improve the soil's physical and biological properties. Richard says the benefits outweigh any management challenges he may juggle. The year-round habitat also provides a place for songbirds, bats, bees and beneficial insects that become allies in pest control. Richard utilized the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to complete multiple pollinator plantings to help those beneficial insects thrive. Richard also installed wildlife-friendly fencing on his forested acres through CSP and used EQIP to write a Forest Management Plan and install access roads. Richard strives to implement conservation across all his diverse acres as an effective agricultural system.

"Richard is an organic farming pioneer in the area. In working with other farmers across the county, I've heard from many others who have benefited from the knowledge Richard has bestowed on them," said Sam Skemp, NRCS Vernon County District Conservationist. "Richard's land stewardship ethic is second to none. He continues to request NRCS assistance for addressing any resource issue, whether it's a gully that appeared after a heavy rain or wanting to try new cover crops," added Tom Kreuzer, Soil Conservation Technician with NRCS. Richard will continue to enjoy the challenge of growing over 150 vegetables organically and sharing his knowledge with others. He finds joy in feeding over 1,500 Midwest families the highest quality fresh produce possible.



PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Conservation Collaboration Through Agreements

Partnerships make our mission possible by leveraging existing funds to put more conservation on the ground. In FY2018, NRCS–WI collaborated with conservation partners to enter into 31 new agreements. These agreements leverage NRCS financial investments with partner contributions to accomplish conservation priorities and address natural resource concerns. In FY2018, NRCS–WI obligated \$5.8 million into agreements, with financial commitments from partners totaling \$1.3 million.

NRCS–WI thanks the following partners for their collaboration and financial commitment to make conservation work.

- Ducks Unlimited
- Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development
- Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development
- Grant County
- GrassWorks
- Juneau County Land & Water Resources Department
- Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development
- National Older Worker Career Center
- Oconto County Land Conservation Division
- Outagamie County Land Conservation Department
- Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department
- Pierce County Land Conservation Department
- Sand County Foundation
- Sauk County Conservation, Planning, & Zoning Department
- Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development
- Tall Pines Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- University of Wisconsin System
- U.S. Forest Service
- Village of Plover
- Waupaca County Land & Water Conservation Department
- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
- Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association
- Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council





Communicating Our Message

Outreach is an integral part of daily NRCS work. We work to ensure that programs and services are made accessible to all customers, while placing special emphasis on those who may be underserved. Outreach involves understanding customers and their needs, learning how best to communicate with various groups, earning the trust and acceptance of customers, as well as developing partnerships and working relationships. FY2018 highlights for participation in outreach, activities and events are below.

- Farm Technology Days, the largest Wisconsin annual farm show
- World Dairy Expo
- MOSES Organic Farming Conference
- Future Farmers of America Convention
- UW–Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference
- Wisconsin Farm Bureau Conference
- Wisconsin Farmers Union Convention
- Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Conference
- Wisconsin Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Conference
- Grassworks Grazing Conference
- Wisconsin Wetlands Association Conference
- Agri-Business Crop Management Conference
- Wisconsin Land and Water Conference
- Wisconsin Woodland Owners Conference
- Oneida Nation Food Sovereignty Summit
- Professional development workshops for all ages and the underserved on soil health and conservation
- General and underserved targeted career and county fair events



PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



NRCS Partnerships with Tribal Nations

The relationship between federally recognized tribes and the United States is one between sovereigns, i.e., between a government and a government. The trust doctrine is a source of federal responsibility to Indians requiring the federal government to support tribal self-government and economic prosperity and to protect tribal treaty rights, lands, assets and resources. These duties stem from the government's treaty guarantees to protect Indian tribes and respect their sovereignty.

The ability of the NRCS and other USDA agencies to meet their tribal trust responsibilities is greatly enhanced by the work of the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC). Throughout the year, the Council representatives of the eleven federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin meet with representatives of the USDA agencies to identify opportunities to work more closely together.

Tribal Participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Eight Tribes in Wisconsin had projects funded through the WTCAC Tribal fund pool. Roughly \$400,000 in projects were funded. Projects were focused on erosion control, wild rice restoration, prescribed grazing, forest stand improvement, and high tunnel systems.

The Oneida Nations had three GLRI contracts funded for a total of \$655,000. Projects focused on converting cropland to prescribed grazing, cover crops and adoption of no-till systems.

Tribal Participation in the Conservation Stewardship Program

Two Tribes were approved for CSP contracts. Three Tribes have existing contracts.

The Sokaogon Chippewa Community's partnered to protect and improve 4,700 acres of forestland and 300 acres of associated agricultural lands. Enhancements focused on increasing riparian buffers, pollinator habitat, and tree and shrub plantings.



The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians partnered to protect and improve 49,000 acres of forestland and 2,300 acres of associated agricultural lands. Enhancements focused on increasing forest diversity through prescribed burning and patch opening, and the establishment of Monarch butterfly habitat.

Development of New Conservation Solutions

Because of the work of the WTCAC Forestry Subcommittee, the Stockbridge Munsee Community has committed to carrying out two invasive species demonstration projects. The Tribe will be planting conifers to reforest an area currently dominated by reed canarygrass to restore the area to its original forested condition. The Stockbridge Munsee Community will also be carrying out an understory planting in a monotypic riparian black ash stand. Understory planting will maintain the area in a forested condition once the black ash succumb to emerald ash borer. Both practices have the potential to improve the thermal condition of cold-water fisheries by providing shade and instream woody debris to the stream. Data from these demonstrations will help refine Wisconsin NRCS EQIP scenarios and serve to encourage the implementation of these conservation solutions on Tribal and non-tribal lands.

Working Effectively with American Indians Course at Red Cliff

Forty-two NRCS staff, whose decisions have a bearing on Tribal Participation in NRCS programs completed the WEWAI course in April 2018.

The Red Cliff elected officials, natural resources staff, facilities staff, and Tribal elders worked closely with Wisconsin NRCS staff and National Employee Development Center (NEDC) cadre members over 12 months to develop a meaningful agenda which met the standards for the course. The course placed a strong emphasis on Anishinaabe culture and practical aspects of how NRCS and the eleven federally recognized tribes work together in Wisconsin.

Joint Training Highlight

In August 2018, the WTCAC Forestry Subcommittee organized and held field tour training about Forest Habitat Types at the Bad River Reservation. The training involved in field determination of forest habitat types, analysis of the validity and utility of the correlation between forest habitat types and soil map units, and joint discussions regarding the silvicultural and wildlife management implications of the forest habitat types. Forty-five staff members from the following organizations participated: tribal staff from nine tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Great Lake Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, U.S. Forest Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USDA-NRCS, and the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. It is anticipated that Tribes and Tribal partners will be very helpful in developing NRCS conservation planning tools based on Forest Habitat Types and resulting Ecological Site Descriptions.



RESOURCES



Ecological Science Highlights

In July 2018, NRCS Wisconsin welcomed a new State Resource Conservationist, Eric Hurlay. Under his new direction, the Resources staff was ready to meet Wisconsin's diverse resource needs. Whether it is dealing with the newest threatening resistance weed, demand for a new seeding mix to favor monarch butterflies, grazing training, forest management coordination, Technical Service Provider training or nutrient management challenges, the Resources staff will continue to stay in tune to what is happening across Wisconsin.

Below are some of the FY 2018 Ecological Sciences staff accomplishments.

- 8 presentations were given at events targeting NRCS customers with 435 attendees.
- Staff represented NRCS at 27 public meetings.
- 16 National Resources Inventory Land Sector data points were gathered.
- Presentations were given at 13 partner functions with a total of 435 attendees.
- Eight trainings were held for NRCS field office staff and partners with 237 attendees.
- Two Technical Service Provider (TSP) trainings were held with 45 attendees resulting in 9 new certified TSP's.
- New Conservation Stewardship Program guidance was developed for all land uses, creating a more customer friendly environment.
- 49 Conservation Activity Plans were reviewed.
- Four online Aglearn courses were developed in partnership with the University of Wisconsin—Madison Extension Service.

Updated materials for forestry, managed grazing, pollinators and other resource focus areas are available on our website at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/newsroom/factsheets/.



EARTH TEAM



Volunteers Make A Difference in Wisconsin

The NRCS volunteer workforce, Earth Team, makes a difference in every county in Wisconsin. NRCS works with private landowners to improve soil quality, conserve water, improve air quality and enhance wildlife habitat. Earth Team volunteers work side-by-side with conservation professionals and are an integral part of the conservation partnership.

Earth Team offers many opportunities for people who are interested in volunteering to improve the nation's natural resources. People who are 14 years old and older can volunteer. Volunteers can work part-time or full-time, work outdoors or inside a local NRCS service center office, individually or as a group.

In FY18, Wisconsin achieved 100% office participation in the program across the state! NRCS–Wisconsin had 54 active offices, with 887 volunteers and a total of 8,397 hours!

According to the Federal Interagency for Volunteerism, an hour of volunteer time in Wisconsin is valued at \$23.07 per hour. In one fiscal year, Wisconsin Earth Team Volunteers have donated \$193,719 to help our agency help the land. Volunteer efforts help improve land and wildlife habitat and contribute to cleaner water and air for everyone.

Find out more about Earth Team, how to volunteer and local contacts at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/people/volunteers/.



SOIL HEALTH



Highlights

Soil is a living and life-giving natural resource. As world population and food production demands rise, keeping our soil healthy and productive is of paramount importance. By farming using soil health principles and systems that include no-till, cover cropping and diverse rotations, more and more farmers are actually increasing their soil's organic matter and improving microbial activity. As a result, farmers are sequestering more carbon, increasing water infiltration, improving wildlife and pollinator habitat—all while harvesting better profits and often better yields.

NRCS–Wisconsin worked to increase understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions. Soil health was promoted all year to farmers, landowners and partners, workshops were held across the state, materials were distributed at conferences and career fairs, farm tours were held focusing on our soils and much more.

Television Public Service Announcements (PSAs) continue to be played to educate farmers, landowners and the general public about the importance of healthy soils. These soils are more productive and farmers optimize production, improving their bottom line.

Healthy soil is essential as global demands rise for food, fuel and fiber. Soils also play a crucial role in food security, hunger eradication, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and sustainable development. As America's agency for soil conservation, classification and studies, NRCS–Wisconsin is excited that 2018 again, brought attention to the importance of soil.





Cooperative Soil Survey Program

In FY 2018, the Web Soil Survey website logged over 2.4 million user visits, averaging 206,773 visits per month. Over 604,000 customized soil reports for individual portions of the country were developed through Web Soil Survey in 2018. Dane County Soil Survey was the twelfth most requested survey in the U.S. Wisconsin logged over 229,202 visits, averaging 19,100 visits per month.

There were over 1.6 million soil ratings, and over 377,000 soil reports generated. Customers downloaded SSURGO data for over 302,000 soil survey areas. At the end of FY 2018, the total number of visits to the website since its initial release in 2005 topped 24 million. Users can view summaries of soil types for any geographic location where NRCS soil data exists. Detailed information on the named soils is now seamlessly linked and formatted within the application. SoilWeb was developed in collaboration with the University of California-Davis Soil Resource Lab. The website is available at <http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/soilweb>. The various SoilWeb applications had about 201,000 visits in 2018. The SoilWeb smartphone application is currently averaging between 700 to 1,000 queries per day, or 15,000 to 20,000 unique visits per month by people searching for soils information using smartphone GPS coordinates throughout the country.

Below are new Wisconsin tools available on the official Web Soil Survey at <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

Soil Suitability for Wild Lupine and Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) —The KBB is a federally listed endangered species present in small patches across the North Central and North Eastern U.S. The KBB usually occupies open barrens, savannas, and prairies that contain wild lupine. This plant is widespread in Wisconsin's central and northwest sands. The pale green caterpillar of the KBB feeds exclusively on the leaves of wild lupine.

Find out more about soils and technical soil services by visiting our new Wisconsin soils website at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/soils/.



WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP

Leadership Team and District Conservationists



Leadership Team

Angela Biggs, State Conservationist

Eric Allness, Assistant State Conservationist, Partnerships

Tivoli Gough, State Public Affairs Specialist

Eric Hurley, State Resource Conservationist

Greg Kidd, Assistant State Conservationist, Easements

Tom Krapf, Assistant State Conservationist, Financial Programs

Mark Kulig, Assistant State Conservationist, Field Operations, Southwest Area

Ty Larson, Assistant State Conservationist, Field Operations, Northeast Area

Robert Lawson, Assistant State Conservationist, Management & Strategy

Jason Nemecek, State Soil Scientist

Josh Sherman, Assistant State Conservationist, Field Operations, Northwest Area

John White, Assistant State Conservationist, Field Operations, Southeast Area

Vacant, State Conservation Engineer



District Conservationists by Area

Northwest Area

Mark Biel, Ellsworth Service Center
Gary Haughn, Ashland Service Center
Melissa Knipfel, Medford Service Center
Tammy Lindsay, Chippewa Falls Service Center
Jane Reigel, Neillsville Service Center
Dennis Reimers, Alma and Durand Service Centers
Patrick Richter, Barron and Ladysmith Service Centers
John Sippl, Menomonie Service Center
Ron Spiering, Spooner Service Center
Ryan Swatek, Black River Falls and Whitehall Service Centers
Keith Zygowicz, Baldwin and Balsam Lake Service Centers
Vacant, Altoona Service Center

Northeast Area

Barry Bubolz, Shawano Service Center
Roy Diver, Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point Service Centers
Joe Johnson, Luxemburg Service Center
John Malvitz, Green Bay Service Center
Jeff Maroszek, Lena Service Center
Amy Neigum, Wausau Service Center
Lisa Neuenfeldt, Waupaca Service Center
Matt Rataczak, Manitowoc Service Center
Merrie Schamberger, Oshkosh Service Center
Joe Smedberg, Chilton Service Center
Michael Stinebrink, Rhinelander Service Center
Lynn Szulczewski, Appleton Service Center
Peggy Winter, Antigo Service Center



WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP

District Conservationists by Area (continued)

Southwest Area

Melissa Bartz, Darlington Service Center
Jon Field, Mauston Service Center
Karyl Fritsche, Prairie du Chien Service Center
Michelle Komiskey, Sparta and Onalaska Service Centers
Chris Miller, Baraboo Service Center
Carlton Peterson, Richland Center Service Center
Joe Schmelz, Lancaster Service Center
Sam Skemp, Viroqua Service Center
Jason Thomas, Monroe Service Center
Andy Walsh, Dodgeville Service Center

Southeast Area

Adam Dowling, Madison Service Center
Cory Drummond, Fond du Lac Service Center
David Gundlach, Janesville Service Center
Twyla Kite, Portage Service Center
Michael Patin, Sheboygan Falls and West Bend Service Centers
Brandi Richter, Elkhorn, Union Grove and Waukesha Service Centers
Kathy Turner, Jefferson and Juneau Service Centers
Caleb Zahn, Green Lake and Westfield Service Centers



WISCONSIN NRCS MAP

ASTC-O Josh Sherman

Area 1 Northwest Area

ASTC-O Ty Larson

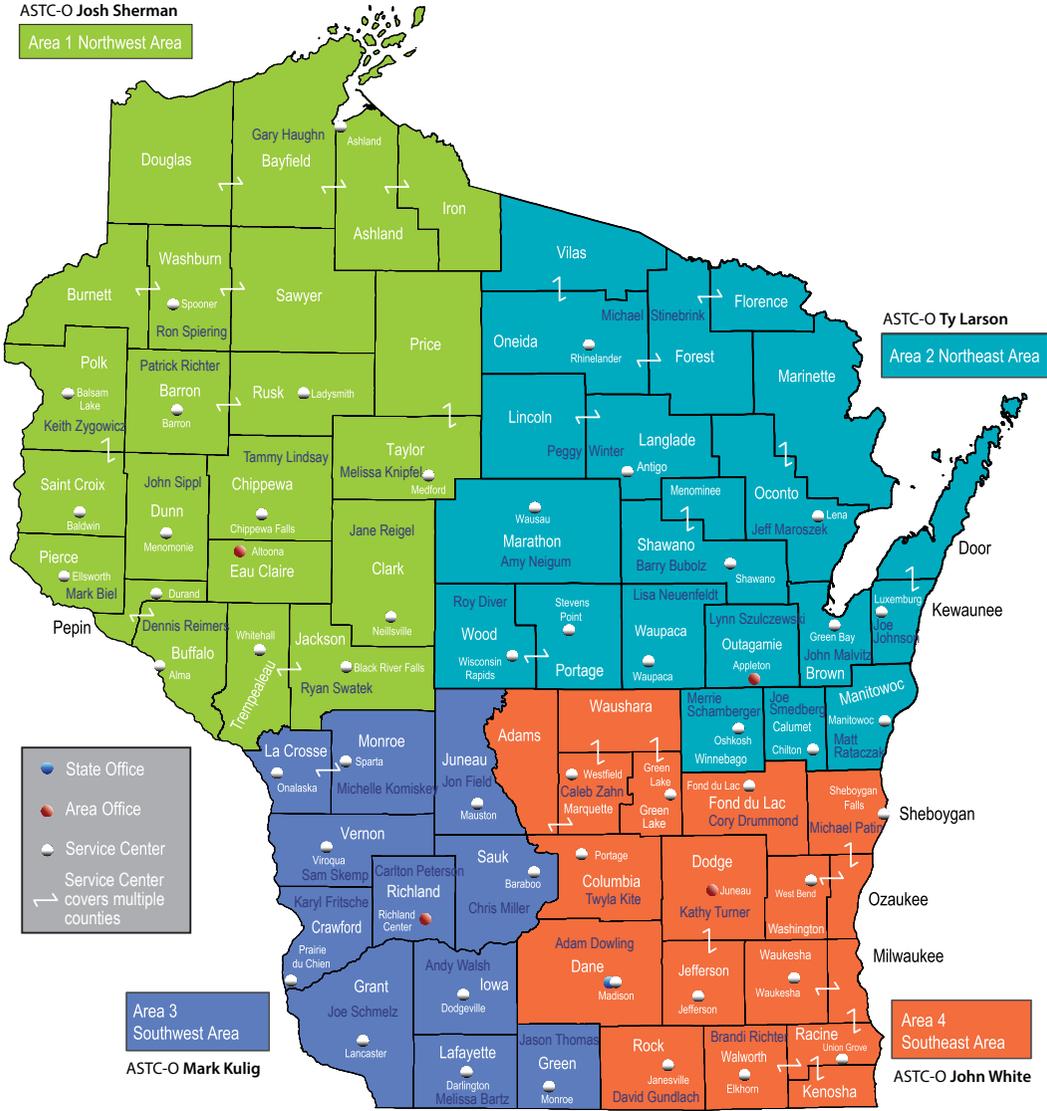
Area 2 Northeast Area

Area 3 Southwest Area

ASTC-O Mark Kulig

Area 4 Southeast Area

ASTC-O John White



Thank You

Wisconsin Agriculture Community





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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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