

Columbia County Success from the Field

Wetland Management Landowner Workshop

Background

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Wisconsin Wetlands Association partnered to hold a free wetland management workshop for landowners. The workshop focused on the benefits of the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE). The evening started at Cascade Mountain, where experts met with landowners to discuss management challenges and techniques faced by local landowners. Next, participants spent time in the field, moving across the road to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Baraboo River Waterfowl Production Area (WPA), a successfully completed WRP easement.

Highlights

The workshop built landowner partners with each participant providing a short introduction where each shared the location of their property and what they hoped to take away from the workshop. A brief history of NRCS' role with WRP/WRE was given, as well as the history of the Baraboo River WPA site and the extensive restoration process needed to return it to its natural state. Invasive species that one might find in a wetland area were then addressed, as well as different approaches for their control. Finally, the group headed out into the field to get their shoes wet, learn more, ask questions and share their own approaches to wetland management. Hearing the stories and advice that WRP owners offered reaffirmed the importance of these areas for people and the local wildlife.

Future Plans

Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, Tally Hamilton, plans to meet with some of the landowners who attended the workshop, on their easements to look at how they can improve management and apply what they learned at the workshop. For more information about the programs NRCS has to offer wetland owners, please visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov.



Landowners met with Tracy Hames and Katie Beilfuss of WWA, Greg Kidd of NRCS, Bruce Luebke of USFWS and Craig Annen of Integrated Restoration LLC, to learn more about wetland management and control of invasive plant species.

