

Shawano County Success from the Field

Shawano County Youth Conservation Field Day

Background

In partnership with NRCS, the Navarino Nature Center was the location of a Shawano County Youth Conservation Field Day. The Nature Center is a member supported, 501c3 non-profit, working in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on the 15,000 acre Navarino Wildlife Area located 15 miles south of Shawano. On a daily basis, nature center staff and volunteers work to help area students and residents learn more about nature thru environmental education and outdoor skill programs.

Program Successes

On September 19th, 2019, the 5th graders of local Shawano County schools participated in the field day covering topics of wetlands and soils, fisheries, wildlife, alternative energy, forestry, agriculture and boater/ATV safety.

The Shawano County Youth Conservation Field Day, in its 7th year, is planned jointly between Shawano County LCD, Navarino Nature Center, UW-Extension, WDNR, and NRCS.

The goals of the program are to introduce students to natural resource careers, help students understand different conservation practices and develop an appreciation for the outdoors.

As students moved between seven stations, NRCS and county staff talked about the importance of wetlands and understanding soils. The discussion included how soils are formed and how to differentiate soil types. For the wetlands topic, students learned what makes land considered a wetland, what organisms live in wetlands and why wetlands are an important part of the landscape.

Sherrie Zenk-Reed, Acting District Conservationist for Shawano County, explained, "The field day is a way of helping young students learn about the environment around them; NRCS is always excited to participate and educate youth."

Future Plans

The Navarino Nature Center continues to have events and field days for youth and adults. Activities range from youth conservation field days, evenings with the Sandhill Cranes, to fall family fun day open houses. For more info on the Nature Center visit www.navarino.org.



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In the wetlands and soil session, different types of soil are compared. Sherrie Zenk-Reed, NRCS, holds a cup of soil while explaining the difference in soil types.



In the agriculture session, discussions include the basics of how grain and forage crops are produced to feed livestock, which, in turn produce meat and milk.

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