



CONSERVATION CHRONICLE

Newsletter of the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department

To conserve natural, cultural, and community resources by promoting, planning, and implementing efficient and effective programs.

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Baraboo River Watershed Project Selected for Funding

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced in January that the Baraboo River Watershed Project was selected for funding as one of 100 projects nationwide as part of the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

RCPP's historic focus on public-private partnership enables private companies, local communities, and other non-government partners a way to invest in efforts to keep our land resilient and water clean, and promote tremendous economic growth in agriculture, construction, tourism and outdoor recreation, and other industries.

The Baraboo River Watershed is approximately 420,000 acres in size and includes portions of Richland, Vernon, Monroe, Juneau, Sauk, and Columbia counties. USDA-NRCS along with

partners will collaborate to provide technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to help implement conservation practices that improve soil health, water quality, restore wildlife habitat, and will also improve agricultural productivity. Common conservation practices include streambank stabilization, cover crops, nutrient management, and grassed waterways. The project will run five years and will provide over \$2 million in public-private conservation investments to the Baraboo River Watershed.



A time period for producers to sign up for financial assistance is expected to be announced early this spring. For more information, please call the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ) Department at 355-3245.

Sauk County Earth Day

Mark your calendars for this free, indoor family event on Sunday, April 26, from 11:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. The Sauk County Earth Day will be held at UW-Baraboo/Sauk County, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo. There will be over 50 displays for youth and adults, mini-workshops, an art show, a kids' creation corner, door prizes, live music, food available to purchase, and more! For more details, call 355-4839 or check out saukcountyearthday.org.

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Sign Up Now for Conservation Programs

Most conservation programs are open for signup anytime throughout the year, and winter is a great time to sign up! With the crops off the field, staff can see the land and better assess what is needed. Staff can also help you determine which program best meets your needs. Applications are scored as they are received, and funding is applied to the highest ranking projects until funding runs out. Here are some of the available programs to consider:

Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Program provides technical and cost-share assistance from 50-80 percent of the cost to install conservation practices anywhere in Sauk County.

Targeted Resource Management (TRM) Program provides technical and cost-share assistance from 70-80 percent of the cost to install water quality projects - currently only in the Otter Creek Watershed.

Manure Storage Abandonment (MSA) Program pays 70 percent of the cost to properly close an abandoned manure pit for up to \$5,000 per structure. More information can be found on Page 5.

Well Abandonment Program pays 70 percent of the cost to properly abandon an old well up to \$1,000.

Nutrient Management Program assists landowners with the development of plans that address the proper application of fertilizers and animal waste to crop fields and pasture land. Eligible costs include soil sampling tests and plan development by a qualified consultant.

Please call the CPZ Department at 355-3245 to talk about conservation needs for your property.

Otter Creek Project Near the End

The CPZ Department has funding and technical assistance available to landowners in the Otter Creek Watershed to install erosion control and water quality practices. This is the final year of a three-year grant, and interested landowners should contact the CPZ Department soon.

The Otter Creek Watershed starts at the Baraboo Bluffs and flows south parallel to Highway 12 and empties in the Wisconsin River near Ferry Bluff State Natural Area, a few miles west of Sauk City. Otter Creek has severe erosion along portions of its 18 miles of stream. This stream is dominated by silt and sand banks that are highly erodible and have been causing extensive damage to adjacent farmland, fisheries, and the stream itself.

This project looks at nonpoint forms of erosion

and runoff issues that are important for the Otter Creek Watershed. The main focus for this project has been to grade back the existing eroding streambanks to a stable 5:1 slope and seed these banks down with grasses to protect them from erosion. The project at the same time adds habitat work to benefit fish and wildlife. These sloped banks create a grassed buffer between the cropland and the stream which reduces runoff and chemicals from reaching Otter Creek.



Otter Creek with grassed buffer

CPZ Department staff look forward to being able to assist landowners with writing contracts and developing plans for construction. If you

own land in the area near Otter Creek and are interested in how this grant may be of use to you, please call Brent Bergstrom at 355-4836.

New Agriculture Performance Standards Introduced in 2015

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) revised its agriculture performance standards (ATCP 50) in 2015 in order to align with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Runoff Management rule (NR 151). These standards are meant to protect our natural resources while maintaining productive agriculture by preventing soil erosion and reducing agricultural runoff to ground and surface water.

Currently, all farmers are required to meet these new standards with the exception of participants in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). FPP participants will need to start meeting these standards beginning in 2016. The good news is that most farmers are already meeting these standards and those who are not, have only a few items to address before they are in full compliance. The Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department has funding available to help farmers meet these standards. Below is a list of the new agriculture performance standards – those in **bold** are new.

STANDARDS THAT APPLY TO ALL FARMS:

- Meet tolerable soil loss (“T”) on cropped fields and **pastures**.
- Annually develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on cropped fields and pastures designed to keep nutrients and sediment from entering lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. Farmers may hire a certified crop advisor or prepare their own NMP if they have received proper training.
- **Use the phosphorous index (PI) standard to ensure that their NMP adequately controls phosphorous runoff over the accounting period.**
- **Avoid tilling within 5 feet of the edge of the bank of surface waters. This setback may be extended up to 20 feet to ensure bank integrity and prevent soil deposition.**

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR FARMS WITH LIVESTOCK:

- 1) Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure from entering lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater;
- 2) Limit access or otherwise manage livestock along lakes, streams, and wetlands to maintain vegetative cover and prevent erosion;
- 3) **Prevent significant discharges of process wastewater (milk house waste, feed leachate, etc.) into lakes, streams, wetlands, or groundwater.**

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR FARMS WHO HAVE, OR PLAN TO BUILD, MANURE STORAGE STRUCTURES:

- 1) Maintain structures to prevent overflow and maintain contents at or below the specified margin of safety;
- 2) Repair or upgrade any failing or leaking structures to prevent negative impacts to public health, aquatic life, and groundwater;
- 3) Close idle structures according to accepted standards;
- 4) Meet technical standards for newly constructed or significantly altered structures.

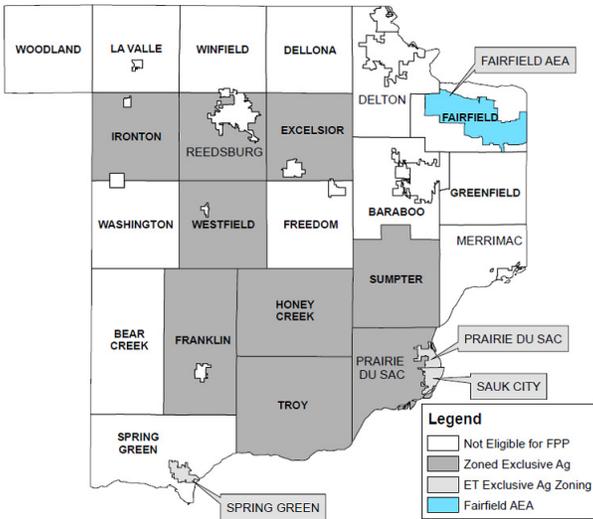
FARMERS WITH LAND IN A WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA (300 feet from streams, 1,000 feet from a lake, or in areas susceptible to groundwater contamination) MUST:

- 1) Avoid stacking manure in unconfined piles;
- 2) Divert clean water away from feedlots, manure storage areas, and barnyards located within this area.

Farmland Preservation Update

Sauk County currently has nine townships zoned Exclusive Agriculture (EA). In addition to EA zoning, there are three Extra Territorial (ET) zoned areas. Landowners in all of these areas may be eligible for a Farmland Preservation tax credit if they meet the state performance standards. An onsite farm performance review is required before the farm can be certified compliant.

If you own land located within one of these areas and would like more information on Farmland Preservation eligibility, please contact Brian Sadler or Melissa Keenan in the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department at 355-3245.



	Current Number of Participants	Acres in Compliance	Income Tax Credits Received
Excelsior	9	1,446.56	\$10,849.20
Franklin	73	10,109.57	\$75,821.78
Honey Creek*	31	5,556.12	\$41,670.90
Ironton	50	7,913.05	\$59,347.88
Prairie Du Sac	17	4,020.87	\$30,156.53
Prairie Du Sac ET	1	123.70	\$927.75
Reedsburg	29	4,152.99	\$31,147.43
Sauk City ET	3	642.05	\$4,815.38
Spring Green ET	1	250.09	\$1,875.68
Sumpter	25	5,108.05	\$38,310.38
Troy*	33	5,572.59	\$41,794.43
Westfield	50	8,323.74	\$62,428.05
Fairfield AEA	6	3,204.48	\$16,022.40
Existing Agreements	82	13,148.66	Income based
Totals	410	69,572.52	\$415,167.75

*99 additional landowners currently working towards compliance

Microloan Cap Grows to \$50,000

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers that the FSA borrowing limit for microloans increased from \$35,000 to \$50,000 effective November 7. Microloans offer borrowers simplified lending with less paperwork. The microloan change allows beginning, small, and mid-sized farmers to access an additional \$15,000 in loans using a simplified application process with up to seven years to repay. Microloans are part of USDA's continued commitment to small and midsized farming operations.

To complement the microloan program, additional changes to FSA eligibility requirements will enhance beginning farmers access to land, a key barrier to entry level producers. FSA policies related to farm experience have changed so that other types of skills may be considered to meet the direct farming experience required for farm ownership loan eligibility. Operation or management of non-farm businesses, leadership positions while serving in the military, or advanced education in an agricultural field will now count towards the experience applicants need to show when applying for farm ownership loans. Important note: Microloans cannot be used to purchase real estate.

For more information, please contact FSA at 355-4420 ext. 2.

Manure Management Ordinance Nearly 25 years old

In 1990 Sauk County approved a Manure Storage Ordinance. This ordinance was written to ensure that all manure storage structures would be designed to protect the water quality in Sauk County. All structures designed to contain manure in Sauk County, no matter if they are designed to store manure for 1 day or 365 days, need to follow accepted standards and specifications. Anyone planning to install a manure pit in Sauk County is required to get a permit from the Sauk County CPZ Department. Before the structure can be designed, staff will need to evaluate soils to determine the distance to groundwater or bedrock. Staff will need to evaluate the engineered plans before they will issue a permit. Landowners are required to follow a manure spreading plan designed to spread manure in a safe and agronomic way.

In July of 2009 the Sauk County Board updated the Manure Management Ordinance to accomplish two new goals: 1) to improve resource protection; 2) to increase the eligibility of farmers for cost-share assistance. The revisions added a requirement for a permit to abandon a storage unit if it has not been used for 24 months or has ceased operation. It also added a requirement for a permit to transfer ownership of a storage unit. As part of this permit, the facility is inspected to assure it is in good operating condition. Both of these measures are critical to protecting the groundwater supply in the county. The updated ordinance outlined four prohibitions including:

- 1) no overflow of manure storage structures;
- 2) no unconfined stacking of manure adjacent to streams, lakes, or drainage channels;
- 3) no direct runoff to water;
- 4) no unlimited livestock access to water where concentrations prevent an adequate sod cover.

The ordinance also assigned responsibility for the preliminary investigations regarding runoff pollution and erosion concerns to the CPZ Department staff. This provides local assistance to landowners to resolve issues at a local level and can also qualify people for cost-share funds.

It is important that landowners who are thinking of installing, abandoning, or selling a property with a manure storage structure to contact the CPZ Department at 355-3245. Proper closure of abandoned storage units is critical to groundwater protection. To address this issue the CPZ Committee has set aside funds for cost sharing the abandonment of manure storage facilities. The county cost sharing will be limited to 70 percent of the actual cost and to a maximum amount of \$5,000 per facility. Remember permits are required to construct, abandon, or transfer ownership of a manure storage facility anywhere in Sauk County.



Assistance is Only a Phone Call Away!

Ag Plastics Recycling: Recycle your silage bags, bunker covers, net wrap, bale wrap, plastic feed bags, and hoop film for FREE! Bring them in supersacks or loose to the Sauk County REEDSBURG Highway Shop (537 K Street, Reedsburg) from 10 a.m.-noon on Wednesday, March 25. For more information, contact Penny Pohle at 355-4839 or Katie Pfeiffer at 355-3257.

Soil Health Assessment: Is your soil healthy enough to withstand a four-inch rain event? Staff from the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department are available to complete free soil health assessments on farms this summer. Staff will determine how well your soil can absorb water using compaction and infiltration tests. A slake test will also be completed to determine your soil's vulnerability to runoff and erosion. Healthy soils not only resist erosion during heavy rain events but are also more productive. Please contact Serge Koenig at 355-4837 if you would like a soil health assessment completed on your farm.

Installation of Conservation Practices: If you apply tillage to your land and do not have hay in your crop rotation or contour buffer strips between row crops, you may be exceeding tolerable soil loss. Staff from the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department are available to lay out contour strips or contour buffer strips. They can also calculate the soil loss on your fields and find a suitable crop rotation and acceptable tillage practices. Please contact Serge Koenig at 355-4837 if you would like to install contour strips or contour buffer strips on your farm.

Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) Class: The Nutrient Management Farmer Education class is offered every year in the winter for farmers who want to become certified to write their own plan. Sauk County received a grant to help offset the soil sampling costs and provide incentive payments to the farmer writing the plan. A class may be offered this summer if there is enough interest, otherwise classes will be offered again in December. Contact Melissa Keenan or Brian Sadler at 355-3245 if you are interested in taking the NMFE class.

Nutrient Management Plan Writing Assistance: You still have time to write your 2015 nutrient management plan. If you have taken the NMFE class in the past, staff from the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department can assist you with updating your nutrient management plan. Call Melissa Keenan or Brian Sadler at 355-3245 to set up an appointment.

Manure Spreader Calibration: If you spread manure and do not know your rate, staff from the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning office can calibrate your spreader so you know what you are spreading. Please contact Melissa Keenan or Brian Sadler at 355-3245 to schedule a manure spreader calibration.

Soil Sampling: Spring is a great time to take soil samples on your farm. Soil samples will help you identify where lime applications should occur and is the basis for your nutrient management plan. Soil augers and soil sample bags are available at the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning office. If you are planning on taking the NMFE class this winter, soil samples can be taken this spring. Contact Melissa Keenan at 355-4838 if you need to reserve an auger or bags.

IS SOIL COMPACTION LOWERING YOUR CROP YIELDS?

This question cannot be answered completely until some field investigation takes place. Compaction can go unnoticed unless one looks for the symptoms, but it can have a damaging effect on plant growth. Compaction increases water runoff by reducing infiltration which can lead to ponding in fields and diminish root penetration. These compacted soils tend to have lower yields and harden more quickly upon drying than well-aggregated soils.

Soils become more compact, or dense, when aggregates or individual particles of soil are forced closer together. Soil compaction has various causes and different visible effects. Compaction can occur either at or near the surface (surface compaction, which includes surface crusting as well as plow layer compaction) or lower down in the soil (subsoil compaction).

Surface crusting and plow layer compaction are especially common with intensively tilled soils. Excessive tillage breaks down soil aggregates and organic matter decomposes in the process – contributing to more compaction in the future. Although the final seedbed may be ideal at the time of planting, rainfall shortly after planting may cause surface sealing and further settling because few sturdy aggregates are present to prevent the soil from dispersing.

Subsoil compaction (dense soil below the normally tilled surface layer) is usually referred to as a plow pan, although it is commonly caused by more than just plowing. Subsoil is easily compacted because it is usually wetter, denser, higher in clay content, lower in organic matter, and less aggregated than topsoil. Also, subsoil is not loosened by regular tillage and cannot easily be amended with additions of organic materials. Compaction in the subsoil is more difficult to manage. As field machinery increase in size and weight, our soils are increasingly vulnerable to more compaction. Compaction of soils by heavy equipment and tillage tools is especially damaging when soils are wet.

There are a number of ways to avoid developing compaction in our soils, the most important of which is keeping equipment off wet soils. Reduced tillage and larger organic matter additions make the surface less susceptible to the breakdown of soil aggregates and to crust formation.

Improving the design of field equipment may help reduce compaction problems by better distributing vehicle loads. The use of multiple axles reduces the load carried by the tires. Using large, wide tires with low inflation pressures also helps reduce potential soil compaction by distributing the equipment load over a larger soil surface area.

Once compaction occurs, using equipment such as subsoilers to break up compacted subsoil may be necessary.

Cover crops enhance the drying of clay soil. Without cover crops, evaporation losses are low after the surface dries. With cover crops, water is removed from deeper in the

soil, because of root uptake and transpiration from plant leaves, resulting in better tillage and traffic conditions. Some cover crops also specialize in alleviating subsoil compaction.

One of the most promising practices for reducing soil compaction is the use of controlled traffic lanes in which all field operations are limited to the same lanes, thereby preventing compaction in all other areas. Compaction also can be reduced significantly by maximizing traffic of farm trucks along the field boundaries and using planned access roads, rather than allowing them to randomly travel over the field.

The Sauk County CPZ Department has penetrometers to help landowners assess compaction in their fields. We can walk the fields with you and perform some other quick soil health analysis tests. Contact Serge Koenig, Melissa Keenan, or Brian Sadler at 355-3245 for a soils walk-over.

Credits: “Building Soils for Better Crops” by Fred Magdoff and Harold Vanes



Time to Plan for Summer!

It might not seem like it is the perfect time now, in the dead of winter, but the Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department and the City of Baraboo are accepting orders until May 15 for the Earth Machine™ Backyard Compost Bin and SYSTEMN Rain Barrel.

Homeowners can use the Earth Machine™ to compost fruit and vegetable scraps, crushed eggshells, teabags, coffee grounds and filters. Add layers of mulched leaves, dried grass, garden plants, old potting soil, and soft plant stems to your compost bin. Not only will you reduce the waste you send to the landfill, but compost is a great soil additive, reducing the need for fertilizer and watering. The bins retail for \$75, but are being offered for only \$40! A scrap pail for collecting your compostable kitchen waste is available to purchase for \$10. To help speed up the composting process, compost turners are also being offered for \$20.

The SYSTEMN Rain Barrel can be ordered at the low price of \$55 (a \$110 value). The rain barrel will store 55 gallons of rainwater from your roof that you can use to give thirsty gardens, flowers, and trees a drink. The mosquito mesh keeps out bugs and leaves.

For more information or to see these products, please call Penny Pohle at 355-4839.



Did you know that:

- **Composting is easy!**
- **Composting can save money on fertilizer.**
- **Composting is better for the environment than burning leaves and yard materials.**
- **Almost 25 percent of American household waste is composed of food scraps or yard waste. This means that 59 million tons of the materials in our landfills could have been composted instead.**
- **Composting saves landfill space, saves resources, and returns valuable material to productive use.**
- **Rain barrels help slow down rain runoff so it can drain naturally into the ground.**
- **Collected rainwater is better for plants because it is not chlorinated. It is mildly acidic, which helps plant take up important minerals from the soil.**
- **Stored water in the rain barrel can provide water during dry weather.**
- **When you water your lawn and garden with water from a rain barrel, you aren't paying for city water or running your well pump.**
- **Rain barrels direct water from the foundation of the home and may reduce the potential for basement flooding.**
- **Rain barrels help prevent stormwater pollution into lakes and waterways.**
- **For every inch of rain falling on 1,000 square feet, you can expect to collect about 600 gallons of water.**

Read Your Newsletter Online!

Would you prefer to receive an electronic copy of future newsletters instead of being mailed one? Please e-mail us at conservation@co.sauk.wi.us if you would. When they are available, we will notify those interested in viewing the newsletter with an e-mail. You will be able to read them online on the county website at www.co.sauk.wi.us This will help us reduce postage costs as well as the amount of paper generated! If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this newsletter, please let us know!

Bear Creek Habitat Improvement Project

Bear Creek is located in the southwest corner of Sauk County and flows into the southeast corner of Richland County where it joins the Wisconsin River, just west of Lone Rock. The restoration work is located in Sauk County along State Highway 130 above Highway N and below the first driveway south of Croal Hollow Road.

The Bear Creek stream restoration project is coming in to its fifth year. The project began in the fall of 2010, and construction began in 2011. There is currently over 3.75 miles of restored trout stream and will be near 4.25 miles by the end of 2015. This stretch is nearly all under DNR easements with two walk-in public access points along Highway 130, as well as access off the bridge on Highway N. There are a couple of short sections of private ownership that participated with the project to get all of this section of stream restored. Fence walk throughs have been built to allow people to traverse in and out of pastured sections of the stream.

The project has removed certain trees, graded banks, strategically placed rock, added woody habitat and structure, and seeded down the disturbed banks. This project created a change that will hold fish all summer long, providing opportunities for people to fish and enjoy.

A portion of this project includes monitoring to see what has been accomplished by all the restoration work done on Bear Creek. The research so far shows that fish numbers from sites tested in 2010-2011 (before any restoration work occurred) were an average of 817 trout per mile. The post data from 2012-2013 (after work was installed) has gone up to an average of 1,156 trout per mile. The size of the trout captured during fish shocking has shown that the size structure is getting bigger every year at the same time. Most fish captured in the

early data showed that the trout were less than 6 inches in size. The later data has shown the trout are now dominated by fish in the 6-9 inch range, and there are more fish in the 9-12 inch size. That means that the fish are surviving from year to year and getting larger. If this stream continues to improve, in a few more years this stream will have some really large trout for people to enjoy fishing. Only time and more data will let us know how much potential Bear Creek has and how much it will continue to improve.



Tom Gawle, from Trout Unlimited, is checking monitor No. 4 in Bear Creek

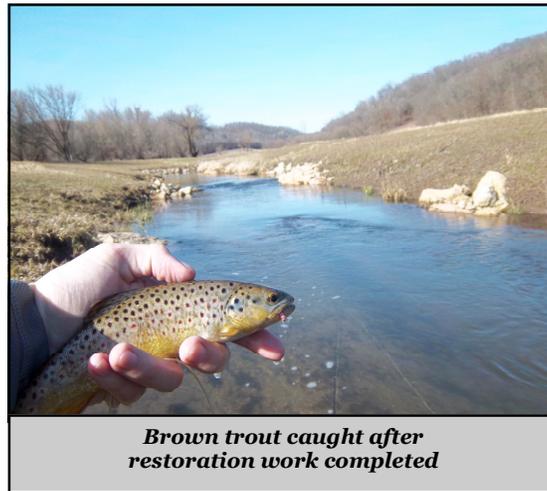
This is an important resource to all of the residents in Sauk County and many businesses that may be affected by people who come to fish and need to buy fishing gear, stay

overnight, or eat in local restaurants. A survey completed by Trout Unlimited in 2008 showed that the average trout angler fishing in the Driftless Area spends over \$200 per outing, and they annually fish nearly 16 times a year. A 2011 Wisconsin DNR report documents that it sells

nearly 140,000 inland trout stamps every year. While only a few of those people will fish Bear Creek in a year, you can see that restoring trout streams can provide an economic boost in an area.

Along with the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department, other partners include the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Natural Resources, United States

Fish and Wildlife Service, Holtz Lime and Gravel Company, and especially all of the landowners who made this project possible. If you are looking for a good opportunity to try trout fishing, check out Bear Creek in Sauk County! For more information about this project, contact Brent Bergstrom at 355-4836.



Brown trout caught after restoration work completed

Where is This?



If you recognize where this is located, send us your answer along with your name, address, and phone number by April 17 to the following address: Sauk County CPZ, 505 Broadway, Suite 248, Baraboo, WI 53913. One winner will be drawn from the correct answers and will receive a Farm & Fleet gift certificate.

Congratulations to Judy Giese for correctly identifying the “Prairie du Sac Hydroelectric Dam” located about one mile north of Prairie du Sac on the Wisconsin River.

Building a structure the size of the Prairie du Sac dam in the early 1900s was no easy task, but ground was broken for the project in 1911.

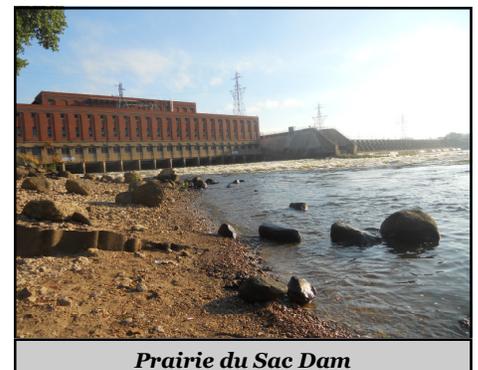
To transport materials to the site, the railroad was extended and a construction camp was built on the west bank of the Wisconsin River for the large number of required workers.

Building the dam brought numerous challenges. Flooding in 1911 and 1912, and an ice break up in 1913 damaged the construction site. Despite these setbacks, the power plant began producing renewable energy in 1914.

Wisconsin Power and Light Company, then known as Eastern Wisconsin Electric Company, purchased the Prairie du Sac Dam in 1917 and has owned and operated the hydroelectric facility ever since. While the 31-megawatt power plant is small by today’s standards, when it was built it was one of the largest sources of electricity in the Midwest. The dam is the largest of 25 dams on the Wisconsin River with 41 gates that span a quarter-mile.

While the dam has been a consistently reliable source of electricity for a century, an equally important contribution is that its construction formed Lake Wisconsin. This 10,000 acre lake is a very popular tourist attraction that offers 52 miles of shoreline. The beginnings of Lake Wisconsin and the Prairie du Sac Dam will be forever linked with both marking important milestones together.

Credits: Alliant Energy Corporation



Prairie du Sac Dam

Grazing Broker Services Available

The Southwest Grassland and Stream Conservation Area and the Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development Council are offering a project to develop leasing relationships between landowners and producers in southwest Wisconsin and the Driftless Area for the promotion of perennial grass cover. The broker offers the following services:

- Identify grasslands suitable for grazing
- Develop grazing plans based on goals
- Develop relationships between landowners and producers
- Provide information on cost sharing
- Provide template lease contracts and facilitate agreements



For more information visit www.swbadger.org or contact Laura Paine at laura.paine@swbadger.org or 732-1202.

Lunch and Learns for Dairy Producers

UW-Extension is hosting a series of Lunch and Learns for Dairy Producers. The first is Wednesday, March 4, from noon to 2 p.m. The topic is reproductive management. Producers will learn about activity monitoring systems at the Rock Springs Library and then look at the CowScout System on Brian Bender's farm.

The second Lunch and Learn is Wednesday, March 11, from noon to 2 p.m. The topic is calf management. Producers will learn about calf care at the Prairie du Sac Town Hall and then look at the automatic calf feeding system at Bare Family Farms.

To register for these programs, please call 355-3251.



National Wildlife Week—March 16-22

Earth Day-April 22



Groundwater Week-March 8-14

Arbor Day-April 24

Transitioning to No-Till Farming Workshop

The Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department will host a "Transitioning to No-Till Farming Workshop" on Wednesday, March 18, from 1-3 p.m. in Room 123 at the Reedsburg MATC campus. This workshop will focus on the benefits of transitioning from a traditional tillage system to a no-till system. Topics will include improving soil health through no-till farming and "incorporating" manure in to a no-till system. A farmer panel will finish out the workshop giving participants the opportunity to ask existing no-till farmers their perspectives and the challenges they faced while transitioning to no-till farming. For more information about transitioning to no-till farming or the workshop, please contact Melissa Keenan or Serge Koenig at 355-3245.

Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department
 505 Broadway - West Square Building
 Baraboo, WI 53913
 (608) 355-3245
 www.co.sauk.wi.us
 conservation@co.sauk.wi.us

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CPZ..... (608) 355-3245
 CPZ Fax..... (608) 355-3292
 NRCS..... (608) 355-4420
 FSA..... (608) 355-4420
 UWEX..... (608) 355-3250
 DNR Foresters..... (608) 355-4475
 (608) 355-4476
 APHIS (WDS)..... (800) 433-0663

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HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEAN SWEEP
 Former Sauk County Landfill, E8795B Evergreen Lane, Baraboo
 (Between Baraboo and Reedsburg off of Hwy. 33 near the junction of Hwy. 23)
Saturday, June 6, 2015 8:30 a.m.-Noon

For more information:
 (608) 355-4839
 ppohle@co.sauk.wi.us
 www.co.sauk.wi.us

Free disposal for homeowners:

- Pesticides including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, wood preservatives
- Home products: oven cleaners, spot removers, drain cleaners
- Light bulbs/fluorescent tubes
- Waste motor oil, oil filters
- Batteries (watch, calculator, etc.)
- Latex, lead-based, and oil-based paint
- Other: solvents, animal health products, teat wash, degreasers, wood finishes, paint additives, hydraulic fluid, pool chemicals, strippers, photographic chemicals



Tires will be accepted for fees between \$1-\$25.



What is not accepted:

- Pharmaceuticals, IVs, needles
- Explosives, detonators, blasting caps
- Radioactive materials including smoke alarms
- Infectious and biological waste
- Compressed gas cylinders
- Recyclables, yard and household waste
- Asbestos
- Demolition materials

Agricultural and VSQGs by appointment ONLY

Resource Solutions will accept the following items from households at Clean Sweep:

No charge-CPUs, laptops, keyboards, computer cords, computer mice, circuit boards, UPS, power strips, calculators, copiers, scanners, printers, printer cables, telephones, cell phones, fax machines, VCR/DVD players, stereo equipment, remote controls, flat screen computer monitors (LCD), rechargeable batteries from laptops, power tools, lead acid car batteries, lawn mowers (oil drained/tires removed), scrap metal

\$15 - Microwaves
\$20 - CRT monitors, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, dorm size refrigerators, TVs up to 29"
\$25 - Stoves, washers, dryers, water heaters, furnaces
\$35 - Large Freon appliances
\$40 - TVs - 30"-49"
\$60 - TVs - 50" and up, projection, wooden console

Please contact Resource Solutions at (608) 244-5451 for more information. Payment must be made either in CASH or by CHECK payable to Resource Solutions.