



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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No-Till Farming & Cover Crops = Healthy Soils & Sustainable Farming

To till or not to till...

Tillage is a common farming practice that occurs throughout the landscape. Unfortunately, tillage can result in unfavorable conditions such as soil compaction, loss of organic matter, degradation of soil aggregates, damaging soil temperatures, death of microbes and other organisms, and of course, soil erosion. It may be hard to believe, but by tilling fields that are more prone to wetness in the spring, the tillage is actually destroying the soil structure thus preventing infiltration. Tillage on wet fields has been an ongoing practice to help to “dry out” the soil in preparation for spring planting; however, it seems tillage is doing more harm than good.



No-till farming is also a common conservation practice that has been implemented for many years. Approximately 23 percent of Sauk County farmers are currently utilizing no-till farming practices on their farms. The benefits associated with no-till farming are numerous - in addition to reducing fuel costs and time associated with tillage, no-till farming can reduce soil erosion, increase organic matter, and improve water retention and infiltration in our soils. No-till farming can also result in increased yields due to higher water infiltration and storage capacity and help control soil erosion. Not disturbing the soil keeps the structure intact that allows for adequate water infiltration while keeping the soil in place during rain events.

Cover crops - an unsung hero

Cover crops, on the other hand, are a new and emerging conservation practice that many farmers

in Sauk County have recently started utilizing on their farms. The benefits of cover crops are impressive - cover crops reduce soil erosion, add nitrogen through fixation (leguminous cover crops), combat weeds, cycle excess nutrients not utilized by the previous crop, and break disease cycles. Additionally, cover crops improve soil quality through increased porosity (reduced compaction), soil organic matter, water holding capacity, beneficial microbes, and micro/macro-invertebrates. Depending on what type of cover crop you plant, you may see just a few or maybe all of these benefits. Keeping a living root in the soil after harvest allows photosynthesis to continue and ultimately transforms sunlight energy into additional carbon in the soil. The carbon builds organic

matter which feeds microbes who break down the organic matter, making nutrients available to crops.

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Infiltration is the issue...

It's been said that we have a runoff problem in this country; however, what we really have is an infiltration problem. Utilizing only no-till or cover crops alone will not fix our infiltration problem; however, using both practices will tackle this problem, along with the majority of our resource concerns. By allowing better infiltration, we reduce runoff (both soil and nutrient) and increase storage capacity yielding healthier soils and higher yields.

Moisture Management

- 2% OM* will hold 32,000 gallons of water or ~ 1.1 inch
- 5% OM* will hold 80,000 gallons of water or ~2.9 inches
- 8% OM* will hold 128,000 gallons of water or ~4.7 inches

*Organic Matter

The soil is naked, hungry, thirsty, and running a fever...

We need to start treating soil as a living organism. In a conventional tillage operation, our soils are struggling - they are *naked* for eight months and only covered during the growing season. Our soils are *hungry* - fields that are conventionally tilled are typically lower in organic matter, which is the main component feeding the carbon-microbe system, resulting in less nutrients being available to the crop. Since there is little organic matter and it's bare for eight months, the soil is *thirsty* and not able properly store water. Additionally, tillage destroys soil structure, forcing rain to run off the land rather than infiltrate. The soil is *running a fever* - since the soil is naked, it is exposed to direct sunlight allowing the soil temperature to increase to lethal levels for those microbes resulting in a sterile environment incapable of nutrient cycling, carbon fixation, etc.

No-till and manure - can it be done?

No-till farmers with livestock may be concerned with surface, non-incorporated manure application for several reasons: availability of nutrients to the crop, increased weed competition, and nutrients being tied up at the soil surface. Environmentally, a major concern is surface water contamination when surface-applied, non-incorporated manure leaves the field in runoff. One way to make manure and no-till farming work is to inject the manure. Injection results in little soil disturbance, less runoff, and has the same nitrogen availability for crop use as immediate incorporation. If injection is not an option, another solution is to surface apply the manure to a living crop such as an alfalfa field or a cover crop. Manure applied uniformly into living crops can reduce odor and greenhouse gas emissions, trap ammonia-N, reduce runoff, and reduce leaching. For those using solid manure, another option may be composting. Composting can reduce odor without significantly reducing the total amount of nitrogen. It produces a fine-textured compost that can be spread thinly over a larger time window and is easy to plant into.

Setting an example

The Sauk County Farm has been practicing no-till farming on most of the crop fields for many years. This fall, cover crops were planted to demonstrate the benefits associated with installing cover crops. A three way mix of radish, crimson clover, and oats were planted where wheat was harvested. Winter rye and spring barley will be planted on fields where soybeans and corn silage will be harvested. See information on Page 3 about the upcoming cover crop field days.

Assistance available

Staff from the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department are available to assist you with improving the soil health on your farm. Contact Melissa, Brian Sadler, or Serge at 355-3245 for more information.

Steps to building soil health:

1. Minimize soil disturbance
2. Cover the soil at all times
3. Always have live roots growing in the soil
4. Use diverse plants, rotations, and (where possible) animals

No-Till/Cover Crops Field Days

Because of the overwhelming interest in no-till farming and cover crops, we are offering three field days to demonstrate these conservation practices.

When: Wednesday, October 8, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Where: Ed Liegel Farm, Valley View Road & Short Cut Road, Loganville

Directions: Take State Rd 23 north from Plain 5 miles. Take a right onto Short Cut Road and travel east 1/4 mile. The demonstration will start at the pavilion.

Additional Information: Lunch will be provided. Participants must RSVP by October 1 to NRCS at 355-4420 Ext. 3.

When: Wednesday, October 22, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Where: Randy Puttkamer Farm, S5828 Lehman Road, Baraboo

Directions: Take US Hwy 12 south from Baraboo 1 mile. Take a right on Gasser Rd and travel west 1 mile. The field demonstration will be on the right at the corner of Lehman Rd and Gasser Rd.

When: Wednesday, October 22, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Where: Sauk County Farm, Hwy 154 & Cty Hwy CH, Reedsburg

Directions: Take Hwy 154 west from Baraboo 15 miles to the old Sauk County Health Care Center. Follow signs from the old parking lot to the demonstration fields.

Bid Opportunities Approaching

Sauk County will be seeking bids for the rental of cropland, pasture, barn, and metal storage shed. The leases are three years in length starting March 1, 2015 and ending February 28, 2018. Additional information and bid packets will be available at the Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department starting October 1, 2014 and on-line at <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/rfps?status%5B%5D=open>.

No-Till Drill Sources

Part of building soil health is to minimize soil disturbance. Tilling the soil is similar to opening up the air control to a wood stove. It accelerates the break down (oxidation of organic matter to carbon dioxide gas) of organic matter and destroys soil structure which leads to more runoff. Using a no-till drill to start pastures, hay fields, and cover crops has proven to be an effective method of establishment. If purchasing your own no-till drill or borrowing a neighbor's drill is not an option, consider renting one. Here are a few nearby locations where a no-till drill can be rented:

McFarlanes' Implement
780 Carolina Street
Sauk City, WI 53583
(608) 643-3321

John Eness
Eness Ag Express
570 E South St
Viroqua, WI 54665
(608) 637-3018

Dale Lichte
E6221 Elder Ridge Rd
Loganville, WI 53943
(608) 393-8407

Consumer's Coop
300 S Main St
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-6171

Fall and Winter Fertilizer Application Restrictions

After the crops are harvested this fall, many fields will receive manure applications and some may receive commercial fertilizer applications. Throughout the winter, manure applications will be occurring on fields also. There are risks associated with manure and commercial fertilizer applications occurring now until crops are planted again in the spring. When making applications during this time period, it is important to keep the nutrient management standard and specifications in mind to minimize environmental impacts and maximize efficiency of the nutrients applied.

Fall Application Restrictions

Fall is when risk for groundwater leaching is highest. Applications to certain soil types are believed to be hazardous because of the strong possibility that they are direct conduits to groundwater.

Commercial Fertilizer Restrictions

- Fall application of commercial nitrogen to these soils is prohibited, except for establishment of fall-seeded crops (limit to 30 # N/ac):
 - Highly permeable (sandy), allowing water to flow downward very quickly
 - Have less than 20 inches to bedrock
 - Have less than 12 inches to the water table

Manure Spreading Restrictions

- Apply manure when soil temperatures are less than 50° F (limit to 120 # N/ac)
- If manure is fall-applied and soil temperatures are higher than 50° F:
 - use a nitrification inhibitor with liquid manure (limit to 120# N/ac)
 - apply after September 15 (limit to 90 #N/ac)
 - apply to perennial or fall-seeded crops (limit to 120# N/ac)
- On irrigated fields:
 - split N applications, applying the majority of N after crop establishment, or
 - use a nitrification inhibitor with ammonium forms of N

Winter Application Restrictions

Late winter and early spring are time periods when risk for runoff is highest. Winter conditions are defined as having either frozen and/or snow covered soil. Winter applications of nutrients are prohibited on steep slopes (see box below) due to high risk of erosion and nutrient losses. Applications on areas near surface water are also prohibited due to the higher likelihood of nutrients applied to these areas entering and polluting the water body.

Manure is a valuable resource and it's important to manage it wisely and efficiently while avoiding sensitive areas. Staff from the Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department are available to assist you with finding suitable areas to spread manure. Contact Melissa or Brian Sadler for additional information on spreading application guidelines at 355-3245. Nutrient management restriction maps can be created on the Wisconsin Manure Management Advisory System website: www.manureadvisorysystem.wi.gov. The Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast that predicts runoff risk across Wisconsin is also available at this website.

Winter Spreading Restrictions

- Prohibited on slopes >12%
- Prohibited on slopes > 9% (unless contour plowed then applications can occur up to 12% slope)
- Prohibited in Soil Water Quality Management Areas (SWQMA)
 - SWQMA = within 300 ft of perennial rivers & streams or 1000 ft of lakes and ponds

Well Abandonment

Do you have an unused well on your property? Groundwater wells that are unused or improperly abandoned pose a significant threat to safety and groundwater quality. Wells that have a casing pipe that does not extend high enough above the ground surface, have structural defects, or are not properly sealed with impermeable material can allow contaminants to enter the well which leads to groundwater pollution and reduced drinking water quality. Unused wells can act as a direct conduit for pollutants and contaminants to bypass the natural filtration process of the soil. Once a well has been contaminated, it has the potential to contaminate drinking water if the well connects multiple aquifers.



Chapter NR 812 of Wisconsin state law requires that a licensed well driller or pump installer be hired to permanently abandon a well. The Wisconsin DNR has grants available to low income families for properly abandoning their unused wells. Cost share is also available through Sauk County which covers up to 70 percent of eligible costs of abandonment with no income requirements. There is a limited amount of funds and applicants will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For information on WDNR grant eligibility, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/WellAbandonment.html> or contact Jeff Soellner at (608) 267-7152. Individuals interested in applying for cost share

through Sauk County, please contact Brian Sadler at bsadler@co.sauk.wi.us or 355-4841.

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!

Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Now Available in Excelsior Township

Excelisior Township recently rezoned from RC-35 to Exclusive Agriculture. This change makes landowners within Excelsior Township eligible to participate in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) and claim an annual tax credit of \$7.50/acre. All land that is located within a Farmland Preservation area is eligible for the tax credit, not just cropland acres.

Participants must have \$6,000 in gross farm revenue in the past year or \$18,000 in the past three years. Income from rental of farm acres does not count toward gross farm revenue; however, the owner may claim the tax credits based on gross farm revenue produced by the renter. Other payments received, such as

payments for enrolling in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and other state and federal programs, can be used to meet the gross farm revenue requirements. Farmers claiming FPP tax credits must also meet the agriculture performance standards.

Participation in the Farmland Preservation Program is a great way to earn tax credits for implementing conservation practices on your farm and to support the preservation of farmland throughout Sauk County. To learn more about farmland preservation tax credits, eligibility requirements, or to sign up for the program, contact Melissa or Brian Sadler at 355-3245.

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 Highway Shop (620 STH 136, West Baraboo) from 10 a.m.-noon on the following Wednesdays: September 24 and October 29. For more information, contact Penny Pohle at 355-4839 or Katie Pfeiffer at 355-3257.

Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) Class: The NMFE class is available 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. New this year – the first 20 participants who submit a completed plan will **receive a free laptop computer!** Space is limited and participants must RSVP. Please call Melissa Keenan or Brian Sadler at 355-3245 to reserve your seat.

December 3 & 10, 10:00-3:00 - Reedsburg MATC campus
January 7 & 21, 10:00-3:00 - Plain MATC campus

NMFE Refresher Class: Two refresher classes are being offered to farmers who have taken the NMFE class and want to update their nutrient management plan. Space is limited. Please call Melissa Keenan or Brian Sadler at 355-3245 to reserve your seat.

January 28, 10:00-3:00 - Reedsburg MATC campus
February 18, 10:00-3:00 - Plain MATC campus

Soil sampling: Fall is the ideal time to take soil samples. Soil samples 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 CPZ Department. If you plan on taking the NMFE class this winter, soil samples should be taken this fall. Contact Melissa Keenan at 355-4838 to reserve an auger or soil sample bags.

Installation of conservation practices: It's time to start thinking about installing contour strips next spring! 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. Please contact Serge Koenig at 355-4837 if you would like to install contour strips next spring.

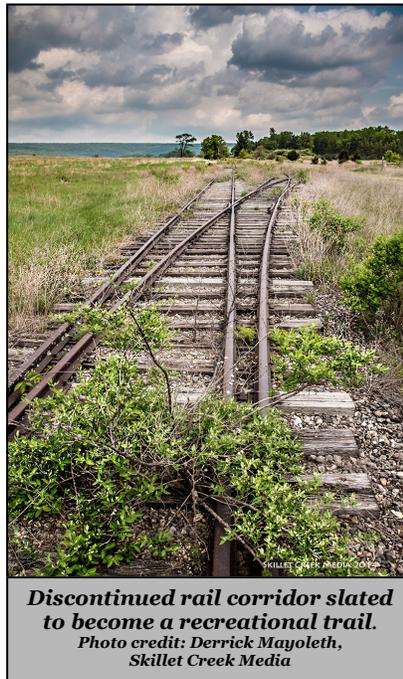
Manure Spreader Calibration: Do you know how much you are spreading? If you spread manure and do not know your rate, staff from the CPZ Department can calibrate your spreader so you know the amount you spread. Contact Melissa Keenan or Brian Sadler at 355-3245 to schedule a manure spreader calibration.

Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grants: Cost share through the Soil and Water Resource Management grant program is available to landowners who want to install conservation practices on their land that improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, and provide wildlife habitat. Practices include, but are not limited to, streambank protection, stream crossing, grassed waterway, manure storage facility, heavy use area protection (barnyard construction), roof runoff structure, wetland restoration, managed grazing, and well decommissioning. Contact Brent Bergstrom at 355-4836 for more information on the SWRM grant program.

2015 Tree Sale: A variety of low-priced native tree and shrub seedlings will be available to order in early November for pick-up on May 1 at the Sauk County Fairgrounds. If you would like an order form, please call Gail at 355-3245. Larger quantities of seedlings can be ordered through the DNR. Contact the foresters (Rick at 355-4475 or Paul at 355-4476) for assistance with DNR seedling orders and other forestry guidance.

Planning Underway for Proposed Great Sauk Trail

On July 23, 2014, Great Sauk Trail (GST) Commission members began the master planning process for a proposed multi-use trail along the discontinued Wisconsin and Southern Railroad (WSOR) rail corridor connecting Sauk Prairie to Devil's Lake State Park. The eight-mile trail will follow the existing rail corridor through the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant, part of which is now the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Construction of this trail segment will provide local public recreation opportunities and possibilities for future connections between existing state and local trails.



The planning process currently underway will determine the trail's route (including potential loops, access points and trail head locations), uses, construction specifications (including trail surface, parking areas, and trail heads) and estimated cost. The final plan will also address the GST's overall theme or identity, access to area businesses and amenities, public participation, and long-term funding and maintenance issues.

The trail master plan will be created through a partnership between Sauk County, local units of government, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Sauk County is leading the planning process. Once the plan is drafted, it will go to the Department of Natural Resources' governing body, the Natural Resources Board, for review as a potential new state trail.

The larger planning horizon for the proposed Great Sauk Trail may include the construction of successive segments with the end goal of providing a trail connection between the City of Middleton and the 400 State Trail in Reedsburg. Like the Sauk Prairie segment, each segment would highlight local history, geology, and points of interest.

The Great Sauk Trail Commission will host a public participation event on Wednesday, September 24,

from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the River Arts Center (RAC) located at 105 9th Street in Prairie du Sac, WI. The purpose of the event is to share information on the trail planning process and gather input from the public on their desired future for the proposed Great Sauk Trail.

Anticipated outcomes for this event include:

1. The public has a better understanding of the trail, the planning process, and current issues.
2. The public has the opportunity to share ideas and feedback on their desired future for the trail.
3. The GST Commission has the input necessary to help guide their decision making.

For more information on this event, contact Jenny Erickson at the Sauk County UW-Extension Office at 355-3250 or Jennifer.erickson@ces.uwex.edu. For more information on the planning process, contact Brian Simmert at the Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department at 355-4834 or BSimmert@co.sauk.wi.us.

Up-to-date information on the trail's progress is also available on the Department of Natural Resources website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/greatsauktrail/>

Public Event Agenda River Arts Center Wednesday, September 24, 2014

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 6:00 p.m. | Welcome and gathering (meet with GST Commission members and view maps) |
| 6:15 p.m. | Presentation in the RAC Theater |
| 7:00 p.m. | Visit public input stations in RAC Gallery |
| 8:00 p.m. | Adjourn |

The Cropland Transect Survey

Since 1999, Sauk County has been conducting the cropland transect survey as a tool for collecting data on farming practices, crops grown, and as a sheet and rill soil loss measurement for purposes of analyzing program delivery and determining farming trends. Sauk County uses the Transect Survey and Software Program to measure soil erosion and cropping practices as part of a statewide effort to measure Wisconsin's statutory goal of "T by 2000." "Tolerable soil loss" or "T" means the maximum rate of erosion, in tons per acre per year, allowable for particular soils and site conditions that will maintain soil productivity.

2014 Average County Soil Loss Acreage		
Soil loss	Acres	Percent
Less Than or equal T	151,872.4	81.7
1-2 T	18,949.7	10.2
2-3 T	7,140.5	3.8
Greater than 3 T	7,964.4	4.3
Totals	185,927	100

The Cropland Transect Survey method was originally developed by Purdue University to collect conservation tillage and crop residue information. It was later expanded to obtain county and watershed data on tillage, crop residue, and soil loss. Survey results have shown that the transect method can produce a high level of reliability combined with a relatively short data collection process. When conducted properly, this cropland survey can provide 90 percent or more confidence in the accuracy of the results.

Data Summary

- In 2014, data was collected from 677 points representing an estimated 186,000 cropland acres in Sauk County.
- The countywide average soil loss was 2.8 tons/acre/year, slightly up from 2.6 tons/acre/year in 2013. However, this was still less than 2009 (3.0 ton/acre/year), 2008 (3.0 tons/acre/year), and 2007 (3.4 tons/acre/year).

Watershed	Transect Points	Percent	Average Soil Loss
Bear Creek	69	10.2	2.7 tons/ac
Crossman Creek and Little Baraboo River	127	18.8	2.7 tons/ac
Dell Creek	27	4	2.4 tons/ac
Honey Creek	197	29.1	3.4 tons/ac
Lake Wisconsin	24	3.5	2.9 tons/ac
Lower Baraboo River	45	6.6	2.1 tons/ac
Narrows Creek and Baraboo River	188	27.8	2.3 tons/ac
Totals	677	100	2.8 tons/ac

- Approximately 7,100 (3.8%) acres of cropland in the county are eroding at rates of 2 to 3 times tolerable soil loss levels, this means 6 to 15 tons of soil loss/acre/year.
- The majority of cropland (81.7%) continues to meet state agricultural performance standards by meeting "T".
- Less than 1% of our cropland is using conventional clean tillage such as moldboard plowing.
- The percentage of fields utilizing a mulch till system leaving at least 30% residue was up 7% from 2013. Leaving residue on the fields helps reduce soil erosion and increase organic matter in the soil.

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2014 Total County Acres by Crop Type		
Crop	Acres	Percent
Corn	76,622.8	41.2
Soybeans	33,505.3	18
Small grains	13,182.4	7.1
Hay	54,377.5	29.2
Other (specialty)	274.6	0.1
CRP	2,471.7	1.3
Fallow	5,492.7	3
Totals	185,927	100

2014 Total County Cropland Acres by Tillage System		
Tillage	Acres	Percent
Conventional (clean till)	549.3	0.3
Mulch till < 30% residue	51,081.9	27.5
Mulch till > 30% residue	31,582.9	17
No-till < 30% residue	1,098.5	0.6
No-till > 30% residue	42,842.9	23
None (hay fields, fallow, etc.)	58,771.6	31.6
Totals	185,927	100

Water Quality Monitoring

How clean is your lake or stream? To accurately answer this question, we need to do some water quality monitoring. Sauk County CPZ Department staff have been doing this for the past 14 years. We have been out getting the pulse of our streams by measuring the oxygen levels, temperatures, aquatic invertebrates (insects living in the water), suspended solids, phosphorus, nitrates, and more. Sauk County has six temperature loggers and four dissolved oxygen meters (sondes) to be deployed at various streams. The temperature loggers measure stream temperatures during the entire summer season. The sondes measure oxygen available in the water for aquatic life.

Algae blooms have been in the news lately in Lake Erie. Similar events are occurring in our waterways here in Sauk County. Excessive weeds and algae blooms cause a multitude of problems in lake and riverine environments. They are caused by nutrients running off the landscape from point and non-point sources which feed the algae. These blooms diminish recreational opportunities for boaters and fishermen while reducing oxygen levels in the water for fish and other aquatic life.

Recently, Sauk County has been taking more of an active role in the management of our lake resources. Sauk County conservation staff have been providing education to residents regarding shoreline buffers, setting up lake water monitoring programs, sifting through water quality data, and helping guide management through the various lake protection districts. Recently, we have had involvement with Lake Wisconsin, Lake Redstone, and Lake Virginia.



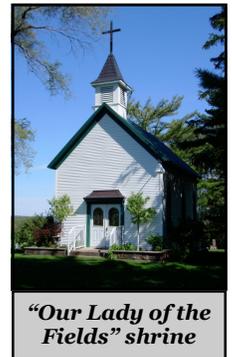
Where is This?



If you recognize where this is located, send us your answer along with your name, address, and phone number by November 7 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 Tommy Fargen for correctly identifying the “Our Lady of the Fields” shrine located on Chapel Road off of Hwy. G about 4.5 miles southwest of Hillpoint. Per Tommy, “It has a very

interesting history and is well worth visiting. A poem on the wall tells a little history of the buildings.”



“Our Lady of the Fields” shrine

Farm and Rural Business Owner’s Courses

Whether milking 1000 cows or growing fresh market vegetables on a quarter acre plot to everything in between, a farm business is a complex set of enterprises that all need to be managed effectively to be successful and sustainable. Farm and Rural Business Management courses will be offer soon through Madison Area Technical College (MATC).



Understanding the Farm and Rural Business. This course is intended for individuals that are new to farming. A farm business is a complex set of enterprises that all need to be managed effectively to be successful and sustainable. This course will have a variety of guest speakers from both the public and private sectors who are always available to assist you with your farm business, from crop and nutrient management planning to veterinary services to developing feed rations and much more. In addition, students will learn the value of sound business planning to the success of their farm business and begin the journey of developing a business plan. Finally, students will start to develop a business plan for their farm business.

Developing a Farm and Rural Business Plan. This course expands on business plans for farming and rural operations. Students will be introduced to the balance sheet, accrual income statement, and the statement of cash flow. Students will develop records for their farm with a free online software program.

Using the Farm Business Plan. This course will build on prior courses by demonstrating how the student’s business plan can be used for understanding, improving, and growing the farm business.

To find out more about Farm and Rural Management courses, contact Randy Zogbaum, Madison College’s agriculture instructor and program manager, at (608) 524-7865, rlzogbaum@madisoncollege.edu or visit <http://madisoncollege.edu/farm-business-management>.

Educational Resources Available

UW-Extension provides educational resources to farmers in Sauk County. For current information on upcoming courses and programs, please check the website: <http://sauk.uwex.edu/> If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Katie Pfeiffer, Agriculture Agent, at katie.pfeiffer@ces.uwex.edu or (608) 355-3257.



Sign Up for EQIP

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would like to remind everyone that the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a continuous signup and the application cutoff for 2015 funds is October 3, 2014. EQIP is the primary program available to provide financial assistance through farmland conservation practices.

More than 90 conservation practices are available, depending upon the type of operation and resource concerns. EQIP offers flat-rate payments for each particular practice, so farmers know up front what the payment will be.

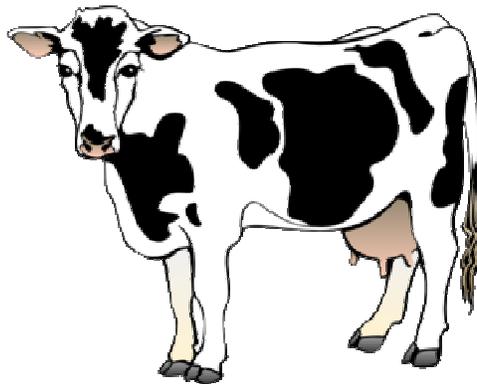
All eligible applications received by the cutoff date (October 3, 2014) will be evaluated and ranked for funding. Farmers can sign up at the NRCS office in USDA Service Centers statewide.

For more information, see www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov under Programs or contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center in Baraboo at 355-4420.

Dairy Farm Risk Management Program and Web Tool to Manage Economic Challenges

On September 2, 2014, farmers were able to start enrolling in the new dairy Margin Protection Program. The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating farmers when the margin – the difference between the price of milk and feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also launched a new Web tool to help producers determine the level of coverage under the Margin Protection Program that will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. The online resource, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool, allows dairy farmers to quickly and easily combine unique operation data and other key variables to calculate their coverage needs based on price projections. Producers can also review historical data or estimate future coverage based on data projections. The secure site can be accessed via computer, smartphone, tablet or any other platform, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



The Margin Protection Program is an important tool that allows dairy producers to build a safety net that fits the needs of their operation. The Margin Protection Program, which replaces the Milk Income Loss Contract Program, gives participating dairy producers the flexibility to select coverage levels best suited for their operation. Enrollment for 2014 and 2015

ends on November 28, 2014. Participating farmers must remain in the program through 2018 and pay a minimum \$100 administrative fee each year. Producers have the option of selecting a different coverage level during open enrollment each year.

Dairy operations enrolling in the new program must comply with conservation compliance provisions and cannot participate in the Livestock Gross Margin Dairy Insurance Program. Farmers already participating in the Livestock Gross Margin Program may register for the Margin Protection Program, but the new margin program will only begin once their Livestock Gross Margin coverage has ended.

For more information contact the Farm Service Agency at 355-4420, extension #2.

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

Nonprofit Org
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 Baraboo, WI 53913
 Permit No. 105

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, October 4, 2014 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

\$ 5 - Microwaves, stoves, washers, dryers, water heaters, furnaces

\$10 - Freon-containing appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers

\$20 - TVs - up to 29", CRT monitors

\$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.