

Sauk County Rural Landowner Workshop Session Information

Developing and Using the Right Lease for Your Land

Kelly Wilfert, Farm Law Outreach Specialist, Extension Farm Management

Leasing farmland can feel complicated, but it doesn't have to be. This session will walk through the essentials of farm leases: what they are, why they matter, and how to make them work for both landowners and farmers. We'll cover key lease terms, land management considerations, and practical strategies for building fair, flexible agreements. Whether you're new to leasing or looking to strengthen existing arrangements, you'll leave with tools and confidence to support the long-term health of your land and relationships with farm operators.

Forest Management Plans

Paul Kloppenburg, Forester, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Learn about the many benefits of having a Forest Management Plan for your property. We will go through reviewing your Forest Management Plan. If you currently don't have a Forest Management Plan, we will discuss the steps how to have one developed for your property.

Getting Started with Rotational Grazing

Patrick Bula, Conservation Specialist, Sauk County Land Resources & Environment Department

Learn why rotational grazing might just be the perfect fit for your land. We'll discuss how this practice can support livestock enterprises that keep your working lands productive and profitable while improving soil health and protecting our natural resources.

The Basics of Wildlife Habitat Management

Nancy Frost, Wildlife Biologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Is there a wildlife species you would like to see on your property? This presentation will go over how to manage your property for wildlife. We will look at how to evaluate what you have on your property, look at the needs of wildlife, and how you can create habitat for wildlife species.

How to Identify and Control Invasive Species

Jasmine Wyant, Invasive Species Program Coordinator, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association

Invasive species experts will discuss the impacts of invasive species on land, in wetlands, and in waters on our landscapes. They will also discuss how to identify some of these invasive species and learn about removing them from the land and water that you may care for. They will also give examples of the species that are common or even new concerns in the Sauk County area.

Improving Soil Health on Your Land

Jon Field, District Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Are the fields and soils on my farm being managed in a healthy, sustainable and regenerative way? This session will explore the basic principles of soil health and teach you the practices that can improve fertility, productivity and resilience of your soils.

An Introduction to Succession Planning

Floreal Crubaugh, Midwest Farmland Associate, American Farmland Trust

Is there a plan for your farm's future? Join American Farmland Trust to build your planning toolkit. Whether you plan to transfer to the next generation, sell or lease to a new farmer, or permanently protect your farmland with an agricultural conservation easement, take the right steps to ensure your farm has a future.

Native Prairie Management 101

Jenn Schneiderman, Conservation Technician, Sauk County Land Resources & Environment Department

Learn about the basics of prairie planting and management on your land. Conservation professionals will walk you through the process of site selection, preparation, planting, and management of native habitat in Wisconsin ecosystems.

Knowing the Value of Soil Sampling Your Land

Anastasia Kurth, Regional Crops & Soils Educator, Extension Sauk County

Soil is agriculture's most valuable resource, and it can tell a story. Learn about what information different soil tests can provide, sampling suggestions, and the value of obtaining this information.

Sauk County's Farmland Preservation Program

Brian Sadler, Conservation Specialist, Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) preserves agricultural land and promotes soil and water conservation. Owners of farmland who participate in the program receive an income tax credit incentive. In this session you'll learn more about the program, where it is available in Sauk County and what are the requirements for receiving the tax credit.

Understanding the Managed Forest Law Program

Jake Elder, Forester, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Managed Forest Law: A landowner incentive program that encourages sustainable forestry on private woodlands. In exchange for following sound forest management, the landowner pays reduced property taxes. This presentation will cover the basics of the MFL program and answer any questions prospective landowners or current MFL landowners have about the program.

Wisconsin's Deer Management Assistance Program

Matt Esser, Private Lands Deer and Habitat Biologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) is a collaborative initiative between the Wisconsin DNR, landowners and hunters aimed at enhancing wildlife habitat and managing deer herd populations. This session will provide information about the DMAP program including eligibility, benefits, and resources available to members.

Resource Panel

Melissa Schlupp, Deputy Director, Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department

Jon Field, District Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jason Behrends, County Executive Director, USDA – Farm Service Agency

Jake Elder, Forester, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

If you are looking for recommendations or financial support to implement conservation practices on your land, then this session is just for you. Hear from conservation professionals on programs that provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners.

Zoning 101 & Sauk County's Planned Rural Development Program

Brian Simmert, Planning & Zoning Manager, Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department

This session will take you beyond your property line to explore the roots of zoning, how it is applied in Sauk County, and how zoning is used as a tool to balance development and land protection. We'll then give a brief nod to New England and talk about Sauk County's Planned Rural Development Program as it relates to rural residential development, land preservation, and transfer of development rights.