

CONSERVATION PAYS...

LET'S CONNECT



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ABOUT US

The Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department offers technical assistance to design and implement conservation practices to all county landowners free of charge. Financial assistance may be available through various federal, state and other county programs.

IN YOUR CROPFIELDS



HOW DOES CONSERVATION PAY?

Soil loss is expensive! Each ton of soil lost contains 2lbs Nitrogen, 9lbs Phosphorus, and 31lbs Potassium with a value of ~\$13.31/ton*. Any amount of soil loss is money down the drain.

By transitioning from continuous conventional tillage to continuous no-till, a farmer can save just over \$17** per acre per year in fuel costs.

Cover crops can help your bottom line by suppressing weeds, and therefore reducing herbicide costs.

Cover crops may generate nitrogen credits, reducing the amount of commercial fertilizer purchased.

Eliminating tillage and keeping living roots in the soil will help build soil structure, increase water infiltration and improve nutrient cycling.

Nutrient management increases farm profitability by better utilization of on-farm nutrients and purchased fertilizer.

CROPLAND CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Cover Crops: Legumes, grasses and small grains grown as ground cover for erosion control and soil health improvement.

Contour Strips: A planned system of growing alternating strips of forage and tilled crops, usually on the contour, to reduce soil erosion.

Contour Farming: Conducting farming operations on the contour (across the slope) to reduce soil erosion.

Grade Stabilization Structure: Reduces the slope and erosion levels of channels to prevent gully formation.

Grass Waterway: A vegetated channel that prevents soil erosion and gully formation by controlling excess runoff through concentration of water flow.

Nutrient Management: Strategically applying fertilizers and other nutrient sources to crops to optimize yield and minimize environmental impact

Residue Management: Limiting soil disturbance to manage the amount & distribution of crop and plant residue on the soil surface year around.

Sediment Basin: Reduces the transportation of pollutants to surface water & wetlands.

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Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest.

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-Aldo Leopold



*<https://www.farmanddairy.com/columns/the-true-cost-of-soil-erosion>

**<https://www.farmers.gov/blog/save-money-on-fuel-with-no-till-farming>