



# CONSERVATION CHRONICLE

Newsletter of the Land Resources and Environment Department

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

Volume 31

Number 2

September 2019

## Sauk Soil & Water Improvement Group (SSWIG)

There is a new group that is working to promote soil health and conservation practices among farmers and landowners here in Sauk County. The Sauk Soil & Water Improvement Group or SSWIG is focused on improving the soil health and water quality of the area by minimizing runoff, increasing infiltration, and increasing the number of acres that incorporate comprehensive practices that will help to mitigate flooding events. They are currently working primarily in the Otter Creek, Honey Creek, and Narrows Creek - Baraboo River Watersheds.

If you are interested in learning more about SSWIG, then be sure to join them at their event, Farmers Helping Farmers with Conservation, on September 19. For more information on the event please see page 5.

SSWIG aims to increase knowledge among individuals including farmers, landowners and residents within the watersheds on the importance of soil health through on-farm field days, workshops, events, and on-farm research. Along with improving the soil health and water quality in the area, SSWIG is working to create a network and a community for farmers to share ideas and knowledge and support one another.

The committee is comprised of local farmers, Roger Bindl, Ron Bula, Darren Yanke, Ron Schoepp and Mel Zech. SSWIG is also working with the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department (LRE) and Extension Sauk County to organize events and record data from on-farm research trials.

You might have heard of SSWIG if you were at the Sauk County Fair this past July. They teamed up with



Pair "planted" in a field that was in a diverse cover crop mix, grazed, then no-till planted to corn.

Sauk County LRE and Extension Sauk County to bring the "Soiled Your Undies" Challenge to Sauk County.

Members from SSWIG along with White Mound County Park buried some cotton undies in their fields, pastures, prairies, lawns, and woods to raise

awareness on soil health. For the challenge participants "planted" the undies at different sites with different farming practices or land use. After about a month the undies were "harvested" to see what was left over. Healthy soils are full of life and this challenge is one way to demonstrate healthy living soils. The organisms in the soil will actually break down the cotton (organic material) while it is in the soil. The less material left on the undies, the better!

Along with raising awareness on the importance of soil health by planting underwear, SSWIG has applied for a DATCP grant to help fund conservation practices such as cover crops and rotational grazing in the Honey Creek, Otter Creek, and Narrows-Baraboo River Watersheds for 2020.



Pair that was "planted" in an average lawn.

### CONTENTS

Conservation Program Sign Up.....	page 2
New Name for Department .....	page 2
Sauk County Poster Contest .....	page 3
DNR Forest Grant Program .....	page 4
Read Your Newsletter Online.....	page 4
USDA FSA News .....	page 5
Conserve Sauk Film Festival .....	page 5
SSWIG Field Day .....	page 5
Rainfall Simulator Tour .....	page 6
Conservation Assistance .....	page 6
Fall Clean Sweep.....	page 7
CREP .....	page 8

## *Sign Up Now for Conservation Programs*

**M**ost conservation programs are open for signup anytime throughout the year and there is no time like the present! Staff can 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:

- **Technical and Financial Assistance** is available to landowners to install conservation practices to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, and conserve the natural resources of Sauk County. If approved, landowners can receive up to 70% cost-sharing to install conservation practices including stream crossings, streambank stabilization, and grassed waterways.
- **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.
- **Baraboo River Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** is a special pool of funding for the Baraboo River Watershed in Sauk and Juneau Counties. Technical and financial assistance is available to install conservation practices that prevent soil erosion and reduce agricultural runoff to ground and surface waters. Eligible practices include rotational grazing infrastructure, cover crops, and streambank stabilization.

Please call the LRE Department at (608) 355-3245 to discuss the conservation needs for your property.

## *New Name for Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department*

**A**t the County Board meeting on Tuesday, May 21, the County Board of Supervisors discussed and acted upon an item that merged the Parks Department into the existing Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department. Accompanying the merger was an approval by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors to change the name of the department to encompass all of the service areas provided through the department. The Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department is now the Land Resources and Environment Department (LRE). The Land Resource and Environment Department encompasses three (3) service areas, to include Land Conservation, Planning and Zoning, and Parks and Recreation. We understand that it will take some time to get used to the new name, however, the types of service and level of service provided by the Department as well as how we provide such services will remain unchanged.

Land Conservation and Planning/Zoning will continue in their office at the West Square Building in Baraboo. The Parks service area will continue at their main office at White Mound Park. All other staff contact information will remain the same. If you are unsure of whom to speak to, service area managers can assist in directing your questions or concerns to the appropriate individual. Service area managers include:

Melissa Schlupp, Conservation Manager  
(608) 355-4838      melissa.schlupp@saukcountywi.gov

Brian Simmert, Planning and Zoning Manager  
(608) 355-4834      brian.simmert@saukcountywi.gov

Matt Stieve, Parks and Recreation Manager  
(608) 355-4800      matt.stieve@saukcountywi.gov

As always, if you have additional questions or need further clarification on this merger, please contact Lisa Wilson at (608) 355-4830 or lisa.wilson@saukcountywi.gov.





## Sauk County 2019 NACD Conservation Awareness Poster Contest

began at the county level, with the first place poster from each grade division moving on to regional, state and national competition. Students received prizes and awards at each level their posters competed and won. Sauk County awarded a special prize for the classroom with the most student participation. This year our winners received a gift certificate to Just Imagine, wildflower seeds, and some ice cream coupons generously donated by Culvers.

Posters submitted by the students address the annual stewardship theme that is released by NACD each year. The theme for this year was, "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper". Twenty two posters by students in grades K-6. The judges were impressed with the level of creativity and the thought that each student put into their posters!

The winning posters the 2019 Sauk County NACD Conservation Poster Contest for grades K-1 went to Grayson Stenberg, 1st Place; Kallie Sadler, 2nd Place; and Lucia Jesse, 3rd Place. The first place winner, Grayson Stenberg, went on to receive second place at the Southern Area Regional Competition.

Awards for Grades 2-3 went to Kora Clothier, 1st Place; Maggie Parchem, 2nd Place; and Brodie Ruff, 3rd Place. Kora Clothier's poster also moved on to a second place finish at the Southern Area Regional Competition.



Grayson Stenberg and Dad, Justin Stenberg, receiving award for his K-1 Grade Level 1<sup>st</sup> place winning poster.



Lucia Jesse (left) and Kora Clothier (right) with their winning posters.

Award winners for Grades 4-6 went to Dylan Davies, 1st Place; Journey Sanner, 2nd Place; and Isabella Nolan, 3rd Place. Dylan Davies' poster received a second place award at the Southern Area Regional Competition.

Congratulations to all of the students for their hard work and creativity! To see the 2019 winning posters for Sauk County, visit our [website](#).

We will be hosting this poster contest for the 2019-2020 school year here in Sauk County. The 2020 NACD theme is "Where would we BEE without Pollinators?" Information and registration forms for the 2020 NACD Conservation Poster Contest are available on our

[website](#). If you have any questions please contact Justine Bula, Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Education Coordinator, at 608-355-4842 or [justine.bula@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:justine.bula@saukcountywi.gov)

# Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program



The [Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program](#) (WFLGP) was created to encourage private forest landowners to manage their lands in a manner that benefits the forest resources and the people of the state. WFLGP assists private landowners with protecting and enhancing their forested lands. The program allows qualified landowners to be reimbursed up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of eligible practices.

## Eligibility:

Private landowners in Wisconsin are eligible for WFLGP funding if they own at least 10 contiguous acres of non-industrial private forest but not more than 500 acres within Wisconsin. Applicants must have a forest stewardship plan in place on their land or be applying to have one prepared through the WFLGP program. **Landowners granted WFLGP funding can only be cost shared for noncommercial practices.**

**Eligible practices include:** Management Plan development, Tree Planting, Tree Pruning, Invasive Species control work, Timber Stand Improvement work.

## Application Process:

Applications can be submitted to the DNR at any time. WFLGP grants are awarded on four separate dates per state fiscal year. The bulk of the dollars are distributed on the August 1<sup>st</sup> award date. Application are awarded on a first-come/first-serve by priority basis. It is ideal to send a complete application well ahead of time. **Landowners will receive an award letter from the WFLGP Coordinator indicating that eligible grant work may begin. Costs incurred prior to receiving an award letter are not eligible for WFLGP cost-sharing.**

More information available at <http://dnr.wi.gov> (keyword WFLGP).

**Please contact DNR Forester-Sauk County Paul Kloppenburg for more information on cost-share opportunities on your property:**

Paul L. Kloppenburg  
124 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 31  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
Cell Phone: (608) 604-4846  
Email: [Paul.Kloppenburg@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Paul.Kloppenburg@wisconsin.gov)

## Read Your Newsletter Online!

**W**ould you prefer to read the Conservation Chronicle online? Please e-mail us at [conservation@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:conservation@saukcountywi.gov) if you would like to receive an email notifying you when the newsletter is available for viewing at [www.co.sauk.wi.us](http://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!

## We're on Facebook



Follow us on Facebook and stay up-to-date on events, deadlines, articles, videos, and more!



Search @sauk.cpz then "like"

The following deadlines or program signups are approaching at the Sauk County FSA office in Baraboo:

- November 15, 2019 - Acreage reporting deadline for 2020 crops including fall-seeded crops
- December 2, 2019 - COC election ballots for LAA #3 must be returned or postmarked
- December 6, 2019 - 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP)

Coming soon should be the 2019 and 2020 Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARCPLC) program.

For more information, please contact the Sauk County FSA Office at (608) 355-4420 ext. 2.



## Conserve Sauk Film Festival

The Conserve Sauk Film Festival will be taking place on November 9, 2019 from 3:00 - 9:00 PM at the UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County Campus. It is a free event and open to the public! Organizers of the festival are hoping that this event will educate and inspire the public about conservation related issues affecting Sauk County and its residents.

The festival is comprised of two parts, the independent and amateur film contest and significant feature films that will be shown as well due to their importance to the area and relevance towards county residents.

The films that have been entered into the contest are being reviewed by the Conserve Sauk Film Fest judges and a final line up will be released once all judging has been completed. Feature films that will be shown at Conserve Sauk Film Festival will include, Decoding the Driftless, Farmer's Footprint, Green Fire, Journey of the Whooping Crane, and The Biggest Little Farm. Tickets for this event are free and will be available at the ticket booth on November 9. For more information about Conserve Sauk Film Festival, visit the [website](#).

Conserve Sauk Film Festival is supported in part by a grant from the Sauk County UW Extension, Arts, & Culture Committee and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

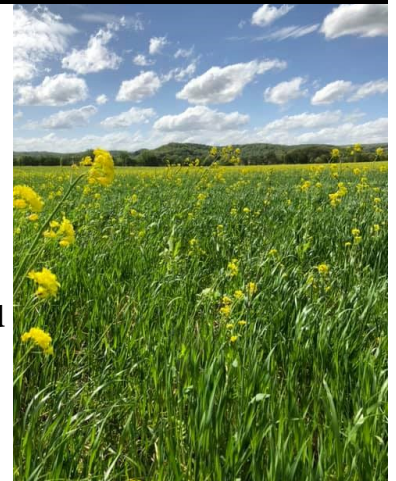


## Farmers Helping Farmers with Conservation

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 19th 12:30—3:30

**WHERE:** Echo-Y Farms, S7909 Skyview Rd, Loganville

**WHAT:** Join SSWIG for a field day at Echo-Y Farms. There will be a soil pit and a rainfall simulator demonstration. There will be a lunch provided by SSWIG to all attendees. Stop by the event to learn more about SSWIG or if you are interested in joining.





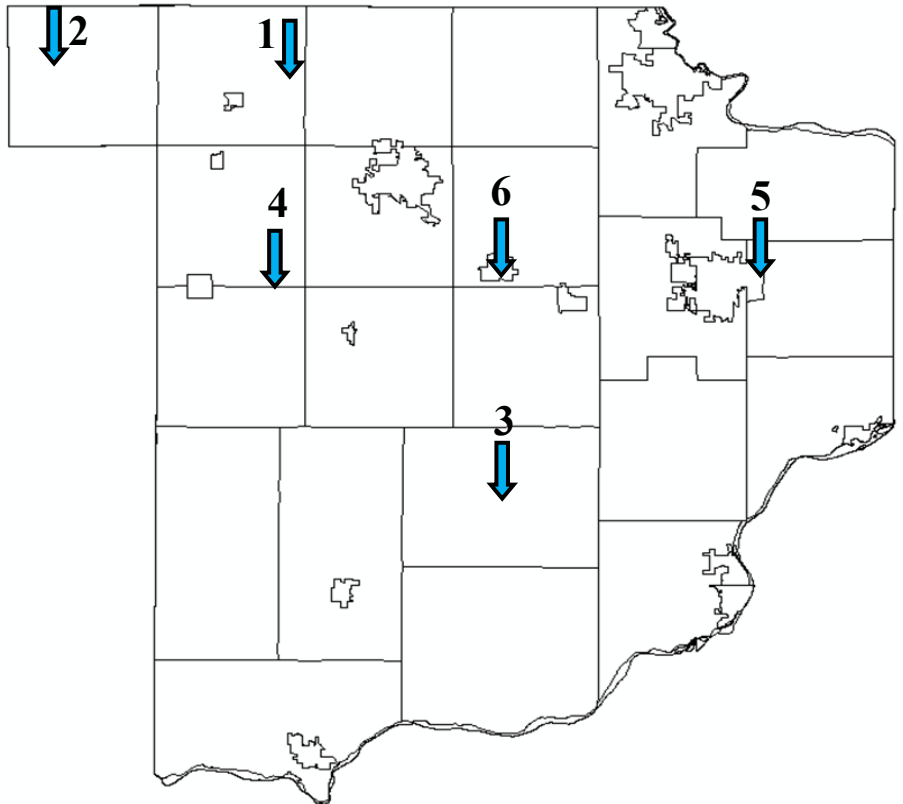


## *Sauk County Rainfall Simulator Tour September 17 - September 20*

The Rainfall Simulator is going on tour across Sauk County this September! Stop by any of the events and watch a quick demonstration that is geared to help you save money on your farm and set your land up for long term stability. This is a free event put on by the Sauk County Land Resources & Environment Department. No registration is required to attend. Join us at any event to see why soil health matters.

- 1.) September 17, 9:00 AM - Wegner Farms, S1280 Wegner Rd, La Valle
- 2.) September 17, 1:00 PM - Hickory Ridge, E669 County Rd Q, Wonewoc
- 3.) September 18, 9:00 AM - Enge Farms, E8397B County Rd C, North Freedom
- 4.) September 18, 1:00 PM - Joe Meyer & Sons, E4355 Cty Rd S, Reedsburg
- 5.) September 20, 9:00 AM - Cedar View, E12425 State Rd 33, Baraboo
- 6.) September 20, 1:00 PM - Holtz Farms, 301 Holtz St, Rock Springs

Severe weather may limit the demonstrations but staff will be there for discussion rain or shine. If you have questions, please contact Brian Sadler at 608-355-4841.



## *Assistance is Only a Phone Call Away!*

Contact the LRE office at (608) 355-3245 if you are interested in any of the services listed:

- **Soil Health Assessment:** LRE staff are available to complete free soil health assessments on farms. 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.
- **Soil Sampling:** 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 LRE office.
- **Nutrient Management Plan Writing Assistance:** Our staff can help you write or update your nutrient management plan. If you have taken the NMFE class in the past, LRE staff can assist you with updating your nutrient management plan.
- **Manure Spreader Calibration:** If you spread manure and don't know your rate, staff from the LRE office can calibrate your spreader so you know what you're spreading.

# Sauk County Clean Sweep

Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 8:30 – Noon  
Old Sauk County Landfill:  
E8795 Evergreen Lane, Baraboo

Dispose of household hazardous waste safely

Items accepted for **no charge** include: pesticides, cleaners, paint, batteries, light bulbs, motor oil, and a wide variety of electronics.

For more information call 608-355-3245 or email [conservation@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:conservation@saukcountywi.gov)

## Fees for Tires

Car and light truck tires	\$5
Car and light truck tires w/rims	\$7
Ag and semi tires	\$13
Ag and semi tires w/rims	\$25
<13" tires	\$1
<13" w/ rims	\$3

**Payment for tires can be made in CASH or CHECK payable to Sauk County Treasurer.**

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
- Mattresses

Small businesses **MUST pre-register for Paint & Chemicals with Veolia at least 1 week prior** please contact Chris Bahlow at (715) 298-2623.

Agricultural producers should contact Sauk County directly at (608) 355-4842.

No late registration will be accepted.

**Resource Solutions** will accept the following items at Clean Sweep:

**No charge:** CPUs, Computer Printers, Speakers, Scanners, Fax Machines, Vacuum Cleaners, Phones, Laptops, Record Players, Tape Players, CD Players iPods, VCRs, DVD Players, Beta Tape Players, Electrical Saws, Drills, Calculators, Paper Shredders, Coffee Machines, Heaters, Game Systems, Sewing Machines, Electronic Toys, Most Household Electronics

\$10 - Hard Drive Removal and Destruction

\$15 – Microwaves & Large Copy Machines

\$20 - Small AC Units, mini fridges, dehumidifiers

\$25 - Stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, treadmills, lawn mowers (oil/gas drained, tires removed), hot water heaters

\$35 - Refrigerators & Large Freezers

\$20 - All monitors, CRT & flat screen

\$20 - CRT/Flat Screen TVs 29" and under

\$40 - CRT/Flat Screen TVs - 30"-49"

\$60 - CRT/Flat Screen TVs - 50" and up, projection, wooden console

**Payment for electronics can be made in CASH, CREDIT, or by CHECK payable to Resource Solutions at event.**


***Contact Resource Solutions at (608) 244-5451 regarding electronic items not included on the list above.***

Sauk County LRE  
505 Broadway - West Square Building  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
www.co.sauk.wi.us  
conservation@saukcountywi.gov

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
Permit No. 105

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LRE..... (608) 355-3245  
NRCS..... (608) 355-4420, ext. 3  
FSA..... (608) 355-4420, ext. 2  
DNR Foresters ..... (608) 235-5685  
APHIS (WDS) ..... (608) 837-2727  
1-866-487-3297

Printed on Recycled Paper 

## ***Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)***

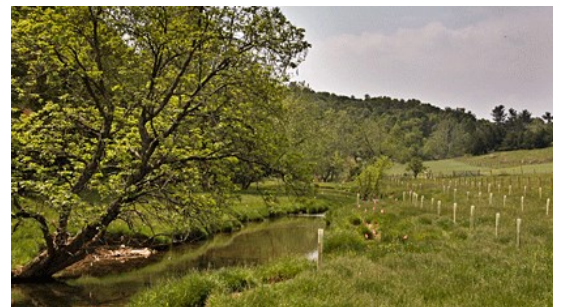
CREP pays landowners to install filter strips along waterways or to return continually flooded fields to wetlands while leaving the remainder of the adjacent land in agricultural production. Thousands of Wisconsin landowners have enrolled land in one of two enrollment options: 15-Year Agreement or Perpetual Easement. Currently, there are about 32 Easements and 117 Agreements enrolling 2,500+ acres into CREP in Sauk County.

### What land is eligible for CREP?

Eligible land must be located in one of about 50 designated CREP counties, have a history of crop or pasture land, and be located within 150 feet of a ditch, stream, lake, or wetland. The typical CREP site consists of buffers ranging from 30 to 150 feet wide along a stream.

### What are the eligible conservation practices?

There are many different conservation practice options through the CREP program. The practice installed on a property depends on both site factors and desires of the landowner. Conservation practices include filter strips, riparian buffers, grassed waterways, wetland restorations, marginal pastureland habitat buffers, permanent introduced grasses, permanent native grasses, grass prairie ecosystem restorations, and established legumes and grass.



For more information, please contact Serge Koenig at 608-355-4837 or serge.koenig@saukcountywi.gov.