

# Iowa County Land Conservation Department 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

## Land Conservation Committee Members

- Bob Bunker—Chairman
- Dan Nankee— Vice Chairman
- Carol Anderson— Secretary
- Ron Benish—County Supervisor
- Greg Parman—County Supervisor
- Roger Dax— FSA Member
- Dave Ladd—Member at Large

## Conservation Office Staff

- James McCaulley, LCD County Conservationist
- Rob Hemling, LCD Engineer Tech/Soil Conservationist
- Len Olson, LCD Land Conservation Planner
- Shannon Marr, LCD Department Assistant
- Andy Walsh, NRCS District Conservationist
- Marie Raboin, NRCS Soil Conservationist
- Lexie Straka, NRCS Ag Engineer
- Erin Holmes, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

## Financial Benefits to Iowa County Landowners Through Agricultural and Conservation Programs in 2014

Cons. Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP – State)	\$ 8,039.88*
Conservation Reserve Program (FSA/CRP/CREP)	\$ 3,087,497.00*
Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)	\$ 1,128,721.00
NRCS Cost Sharing (EQIP, WRP, CSP)	\$ 238,528.00
Land & Water Cost Share Program (DATCP/LWRM/SEG) -	\$ 174,513.00
Wildlife Damage Program (DNR/WDP) -	\$ 38,103.00
Commodity Loans (FSA/CCC) -	\$ 244,188.00*
Direct and County Cyclical Program (FSA/DCP) -	\$ 3,994,826.00*
Farm Ownership/Operating Loans (FSA/FOL) -	\$ 4,623,041.00*
Milk Income Loss Contracts MILC -	\$ 1,286,691.00*
Disaster (FSA) -	\$ 21,804.00*

\* Estimated

**TOTAL BENEFITS \$ 14,845,951.88**

## 2014 Grants to Iowa County Land Conservation Department for Administration, Cost-Sharing and Projects

### Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP)

BASG Staff and Support	\$ 98,213.00
LWRM & NMP Cost Sharing to Landowners	\$ 158,513.00
CREP Cost Sharing & Incentive to Landowners	\$ 8,039.88

### Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

APHIS Wildlife Damage Administration/Claims

\$ 38,103.00

**TOTAL GRANTS TO LCD \$ 302,868.88**

## 2014 LCD Accomplishments (NRCS Data not Available)

- 1502 Farm Visits/Landowner Assistance
- 802 Landowner Files Updated/Conservation Assistance
- 3500 Ac New Conservation Plans Written/Revised
- 229 FPP Certificates of Compliance Issued
- 3 WLI Educational Events
- 697 WLI/FPP Participants Assisted
- 156 WLI/FPP Spot Checks
- 35,807 Ac Nutrient Management
- 133 New NMP Checklists
- 25 NMP UW-Ext Training Participants
- 15 Wildlife Damage Participants Assisted
- 12 PL-566 Watershed Dams Inspected and Maintained
- 2 Dam Break Analysis and Assistance
- 120,000 Trees Planted w/Assistance of DNR Forestry
- 70/1500 Ac New CRP/CREP Contracts
- 686 Ft Roof Runoff
- 10 Ground Water Well Abandonment
- 2467 Ft Grassed Waterways
- 1 Waste Storage Facility
- 1 Waste Transfer
- 100 Ac Contour Strips
- 10/135 Ac Prescribed Grazing
- 1 Fencing
- 1 Critical Area Planting
- 1 Ac Mulching
- 168 Youth Conservation Field Day (4 Schools)

## Land Conservation Department Activities

### Programs

- Iowa County Working Lands Initiative (WLI/FPP)
- Iowa County Watershed Dam Maintenance
- Elementary and Outdoor Classroom Education @ County Farm
- USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- WDATCP Nonpoint Water Quality—NR151
- WDNR Stewardship Incentive
- Wildlife Damage Program (WDP)
- USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Iowa County Tree Planting
- DATCP/LWRM County Cost Share

### Memberships

- SW Badger Resource, Conservation & Development (RC&D)
- Rural Development (RD)
- PL-566 Watershed Coalition
- WI Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA)
- National Association of Land Conservation Districts (NACD)

### Other Activities

- Nutrient Management Workshops with UW-Extension
- Working Lands Initiative—Education Workshops
- Blackhawk Lake Liaison and Operations Agreement
- Implementing a Land & Water Resources Mgt Plan
- DATCP/FSA CREP Program Delivery
- Wisconsin Buffer Initiative
- Birch Lake Operations Agreement
- Smith-Conley & Pleasant Valley Project
- Grazing Broker Effort
- Farmland Preservation Program Compliance Assistance

## Iowa County Land Conservation Department Mission Statement

*Provide administrative information and technical assistance to Iowa County landowners in the stewardship of their soil and water resources, through the cooperation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and under the direction of the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee.*

## 2014 Land Conservation Committee Priorities

In 2007 a public hearing was held and a Land and Water Resource Management Plan was developed.

The following priorities were established:

1. Soil Erosion
2. Ground Water
3. Animal Waste Management
4. Nutrient Management
5. Forestry
6. Riparian Corridors
7. Agriculture Productivity
8. Rural Land Use Issues/Conflicts
9. Agriculture Sustainability
10. Loss of Ag Lands

## Cooperating Agencies

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- USDA Rural Development Services (RD)
- University of Wisconsin—Extension (UW-EX)
- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP)
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- Iowa County Planning and Development Office (ICPD)
- Blackhawk Lake Commission
- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS)
- Iowa County Land Information Office (ICLIO)
- Southwest Technical College—Voc.-Ag. (SWTC)
- All Iowa County School Systems
- Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)
- Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (MRPHA)
- Southwest Wisconsin Grassland & Stream Conservation Area
- Iowa County Groundwater Study Committee
- Village of Barneveld
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Sustainable Iowa County
- Driftless Area Conservancy
- Dane Co. Pleasant Valley Project
- Highland, Barneveld, & Mineral Point Elementary Schools

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

All Compliance Standards must be met by **December 31st, 2015** to continue to participate in the Farmland Preservation Program.  
A Certificate of Compliance is needed to claim future tax credits!

## Land Conservation Committee 2014 Award Winners

*Conservation Farmer of the Year*  
Nankey Farms, Highland Township

*Water Quality Leadership*  
Mike Ryan Family Farm, Waldwick Township

*Wildlife Habitat Development (Private)*  
Doug and Janet Huebner, Waldwick Township

*Wildlife Habitat (Club)*  
The Prairie Enthusiasts

*Tree Farmer of the Year*  
Tom Foster

## LCD STAFF



**Jim McCaulley-County Conservationist**

As the County Conservationist, I'm responsible for the administration of the Iowa County Land Conservation Department (LCD), which includes the statutory responsibility assigned to each County under State Statutes Chapter 92 and the legislative direction set by Iowa County, too. Working under the direction of the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee (LCC), the mission is to assist our County landowners in the protection of our soil and water resources. Staff and program management along with interagency cooperation, funding administration, program management and customer service is the primary focus of this position. My background in farming and a life long love of Iowa County has helped me guide my service to you.

E-mail: jim.mccaulley@wi.nacdnet.net



**Rob Hemling-Engineer Technician/Soil Conservationist**

As the Iowa County Land Conservationist/Engineer Technician, my responsibilities include contour layout, waterway layout, soil loss determination, conservation plan development and status reviews. I also provide conservation planning assistance to landowners who are in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program/Working Lands Initiative. I assist landowners with technical guidance and engineering designs for projects that are cost-shared using LWRM grant money and are administered by the county. I look forward to working with Iowa County residents.

E-mail: rob.hemling@wi.nacdnet.net



**Len Olson-Conservation Planner**

As the Conservation Planner/Land Conservationist, my primary duties are working with land users in the Working Land Initiative (WLI)/Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), NR151, and USDA programs. I carry out spot-check and monitor compliance for the WLI/FPP and NR151. I also assist in education of the requirements of conservation planning and nutrient management. I am a lifelong Iowa County resident and have worked with soil and water conservation programs on the County and State level for over 26 years. I look forward to serving Iowa County land owners and operators.

E-mail: leonard.olson@wi.nacdnet.net



**Shannon Marr-Department Assistant**

I am the Department Assistant for the LCD. My primary duties include assisting the County Conservationist, Land Conservationist, and Engineer Technician with administrative tasks. Some primary tasks that I assist with are contracts for cost-sharing projects, CREP contracts, maintaining a database list of the FPP/WLI participants, updating landowner GIS maps for conservation practices, file maintenance and answering and directing phone calls. Sometimes you might even see me out in the field assisting the County Conservationist, Land Conservationist, or Engineer Technician with projects.

E-mail: shannon.marr@wi.nacdnet.net

### LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Iowa County Land Conservation Committee (LCC) is the governing body of the LCD under the establishment of State Statutes Chapter 92 in 1972. The LCC sets the direction for the LCD in the delivery of conservation programs in the protection of our precious soil and water resources in Iowa County. The composition of the LCC is diverse group with a wide base of landowner interests represented in policy setting and program delivery. This diversity is accomplished with appointment of 5 member County Supervisors, an at Large Member and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) conduit member. The LCC members take their roles seriously and hope today's actions will preserve productive soil and keep water clean for future generations. Thank you to them for their service to Iowa County.

### Land Conservation Committee Members

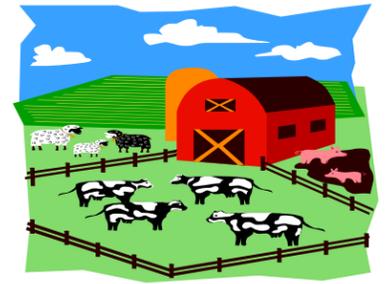
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 Carol Anderson—Secretary  
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Check out our web site to find more valuable information that the Iowa County LCD offers!  
[www.iowacounty.org/departments/land conservation](http://www.iowacounty.org/departments/land%20conservation)

## Iowa County Land Conservation Department



138 S IOWA ST SUITE 3  
 DODGEVILLE, WI 53533  
 PHONE: (608) 935-2791 ext. 3



## 2014 Land Conservation Department (LCD) Profile

### LCD SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

#### Nutrient Management Program (NMP)

The nutrient management program is available to landowners who want to manage the amount of nutrients that are being spread on fields in order to conserve the soil quality. A nutrient management plan (NMP) is necessary for landowners who mechanically apply manure or fertilizer to fields and pastures while receiving the FPP/WLI tax credit. A nutrient management plan can be developed by a certified crop advisor (CCA) or by taking classes through Iowa County UW-Extension to develop your own. Cost-share funds may be available to assist with the development of a nutrient management plan.

#### Farmland Preservation Program/Working Lands Initiative (FPP/WLI)

The WLI/FPP program is designed for eligible farmers in Wisconsin to receive an income tax credit in exchange for keeping land in agricultural use and by complying with state soil and water conservation practices.

#### Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) Cost Share Program

The Iowa County LCD has been successful in obtaining a DATCP Land and Water Resource Management Grant (LWRM). The money will be used to cost share conservation practices with rural landowners to help improve the water and soil of Iowa County. The goal of the LWRM grant is to reduce sediment and phosphorous entering our streams. This program offers landowners a 70% cost share opportunity.

#### Technical Services

Technical services are offered to landowners who sign up for cost-share projects or who may be interested in implementing contour strips, contour buffer strips and contour lines on crop fields. Tech services may be provided for other non-cost share practices to landowners who want to protect soil and water resources.

#### PL-566-Dam Maintenance

Iowa County owns 12, PL-566 dam structures in the County and the LCD is in charge of making sure that the dams are functioning properly and provide maintenance when necessary.

#### Conservation Planning

Farmers who are interested in having a conservation plan for their farm may seek assistance from the Land Conservation Department. A conservation plan outlines the use and best management practices of the natural resources on land. A plan will include land use maps, soils information, inventory of resources, engineering notes, and other supporting documents. The LCD would like to have all productive lands to farm to "T" in Iowa County, which means soil loss tolerance is the maximum amount of soil loss in tons per acres per year that can be tolerated and still permit a high level of crop productivity to be sustained economically and indefinitely.

#### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is a voluntary program that allows landowners to enroll agricultural land into conservation practices along waterways or to return continually flooded fields to wetland while leaving the adjacent land in agricultural production. If you sign up for CRP with FSA, you will be eligible to sign up for an additional state incentive payment with CREP.

#### Blackhawk Lake & Birch Lake Operations Agreements

The Iowa County Land Conservation Committee (LCC) and the LCD are the primary liaisons between Iowa County and the Cobb-Highland Commission (Blackhawk Lake Park) and the Village of Barneveld (Birch Lake Park).

#### SW Badger Grazing Broker Project

The Iowa County Land Conservation Department hosts the regional SW Badger Grazing Broker Project. SW Badger RC&D is a regional non-profit in SW Wisconsin focusing on land stewardship education and technical assistance. The program brings together non-farming landowners and established livestock producers to develop leasing relationships and promote the economic and environmental benefits of managed grazing. The Grazing Broker develops grazing plans and provides technical assistance to establish well-managed pasture systems.

### WE ARE MOVING!!!!

As of May 15th, 2015 we will be located at:  
**1124 Professional Drive**  
**Dodgeville, WI 53533**

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