



Iowa County Land Conservation Department 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Land Conservation Committee Members

Bob Bunker—Chair John
Meyers—Vice Chair Dan
Nankee—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 Land Conservationist/Engineer Tech
Len Olson, LCD Land Conservation Planner
Debra Finkelmeyer, LCD Department Assistant
Andy Walsh, NRCS District Conservationist
Joe Schmelz, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Tony Strenz, NRCS Technician
Lexie Straka, NRCS Ag Engineer
Lily Rickey, NRCS Data Update
Erin Holmes, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

Financial Benefits to Iowa County Landowners Through Conservation Programs in 2012

Cons. Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP – State)	\$ 43,672.60
Conservation Reserve Program (FSA/CRP/CREP) -	\$ 2,845,070.00
Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) -	\$ 1,099,914.00
NRCS Cost Sharing (EQIP, WRP, CSP)	\$ 907,942.00
Land & Water Cost Share Program (DATCP/LWRM/SEG) -	\$ 85,242.00
Wildlife Damage Program (DNR/WDP) -	\$ 34,962.26
Commodity Loans (FSA/CCC) -	\$ 964,231.00
Direct and County Cyclical Program (FSA/DCP) -	\$ 4,287,456.00
Farm Ownership/Operating Loans (FSA/FOL) -	\$ 4,501,988.00
Milk Income Loss Contracts MILC -	\$ 90,423.00
TOTAL	\$14,860,900.86

2012 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	\$ 90,900.00
LWRM & NMP Cost Sharing to Landowners	\$ 85,242.00
CREP Cost Sharing & Incentive to Landowners	\$ 28,224.00

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)	
APHIS Wildlife Damage Administration/Claims	\$ 34,962.26
TOTAL GRANTS TO LCD	\$ 239,328.26

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 Feasibility Effort
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

2012 NRCS and LCD Accomplishments

1,592	Farm Visits/Landowner Appointments
982	Landowner Files Updated/Conservation Assistance
4,000 ac	New Conservation Plans Written/Revised
4	WLI Educational Events
688	WLI/FPP Participants Assisted
16	Wildlife Damage Participants Assisted
251	WLI/FPP Spot Checks
32 visits	PL-566 Watershed Dams Inspected and Maintained
12	Dam Break Analysis and Assistance
70,000	Trees Planted with assistance of DNR Forestry
771,505 ac	New CRP/CREP Contracts
2 Projects	Heavy Use Areas
8 Sites	Roof Runoff
1 Project	Animal Waste Storage Site Feasibility
85	NMP Checklists
17 Projects	Ground Water Well Abandonment
4,150 ft	Rock Rip Rap/Stream Bank Protection
5 Projects	Rock Stream Crossings
12 ac	Grassed Waterways
100 ft	Lined Waterways
4 Projects	Waste Storage Facility
3,300 ac	Forest Trails
1.3 ac	Tree Plantings
1,743 ac.	Cover Crop
525 ac	Contour Strips
3 Projects	Watering Facility
400 ft	Underground Outlet
11,900 ft	Stream Habitat Work
2 Projects	Toewall
7 Projects	Spring Development
45 ac.	Prescribed Grazing
3,800 ft	Pipeline
700 ft	Subsurface Drain
1 Project	Surface Inlet
3	Wetland Scrape
900 ft	Access Road
9	Brush Management
13 ac	Prairie Plantings
148 students	Youth Conservation Field Day (4 schools)
22	NMP UW-Ext Participants

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.

2012 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

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
Implementing a Land & Water Resources Mgt Plan
DATCP/FSA CREP Program Delivery
Storm Water Study Committee
Blackhawk Lake Study
Conservation Partners "Green Sheet" Newsletter
Wisconsin Buffer Initiative
Birch Lake Study
Smith-Conley & Pleasant Valley Project
Grazing Broker Effort

Land Conservation Committee 2012 Award Winners

Richard Amble, Brigham Township
Conservation Farmer of the Year

Luther Smith, Ridgeway Township
Water Quality Leadership

Wayne Schuelke, Brigham Township
Wildlife Habitat Development (Private)

The Prairie Enthusiasts
Empire-Sauk Chapter

Dave & Bonnie Downs, Clyde Township
Tree Farmer of the Year