



Iowa County Land Conservation Department 2013 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 Engineer Tech/Soil Conservationist
 Len Olson, LCD Land Conservation Planner
 Debra Finkelmeyer, LCD Department Assistant
 Andy Walsh, NRCS District Conservationist
 Marie Raboin, NRCS Soil Conservationist
 Tony Strenz, NRCS Technician
 Lexie Straka, NRCS Ag Engineer
 Erin Holmes, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

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.

2013 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

Financial Benefits to Iowa County Landowners Through Conservation Programs in 2013

Cons. Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP – State)	\$ 8,039.88
Conservation Reserve Program (FSA/CRP/CREP) -	\$ 3,087,497.00
Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) -	\$ 1,109,075.00
NRCS Cost Sharing (EQIP, WRP, CSP)	\$ 614,947.00
Land & Water Cost Share Program (DATCP/LWRM/SEG) -	\$ 91,741.00
Wildlife Damage Program (DNR/WDP) -	\$ 41,742.00
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	\$ 21,804.00

TOTAL BENEFITS \$ 15,123,591.88

2013 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	\$ 104,192.00
LWRM & NMP Cost Sharing to Landowners	\$ 96,741.00
CREP Cost Sharing & Incentive to Landowners	\$ 8,039.88

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

APHIS Wildlife Damage Administration/Claims	\$ 41,742.00
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TOTAL GRANTS TO LCD \$ 250,714.88

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

2013 NRCS and LCD Accomplishments

168	Farm Visits/Landowner Appointments
958	Landowner Files Updated/Conservation Assistance
5,000 Ac.	New Conservation Plans Written/Revised
17	FPP Certificates of Compliance Cert. Issued
4	WLI Educational Events
638	WLI/FPP Participants Assisted
17	Wildlife Damage Participants Assisted
153	WLI/FPP Spot Checks
32 Visits	PL-566 Watershed Dams Inspected and Maintained
12	Dam Break Analysis and Assistance
90,000	Trees Planted with assistance of DNR Forestry
77/1,505	New CRP/CREP Contracts
0.41 Ac.	Heavy Use Areas
140 Ft.	Roof Runoff
1 Project	Animal Mortality
88	New NMP Checklists
10 Projects	Ground Water Well Abandonment
6,243 Ft.	Grassed Waterways
1 Project	Waste Storage Facility
300 Ac.	Contour Strips
18 Projects	Watering Facility
93.6 Ac.	Prescribed Grazing
9,487 Ft.	Pipeline
550 Ft.	Access Road
11,573 Ft.	Fencing
3 Projects	Grade Stabilization Structures
2 Ac.	Obstruction Tree Removal
2,413 Ft.	Windbreak Established
150 Ac.	Waste Transfer
4,555.5 Ac.	Nutrient Management
1.6 Ac.	Critical Area Planting
1.6 Ac.	Mulching
168 Students	Youth Conservation Field Day (4 schools)
30	NMP UW-Ext Participants

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All Compliance Standards must be met by December 31st, 2015 to continue to participate in the Farmland Preservation Program.

Land Conservation Committee 2013 Award Winners

Laura Daniels Family, Eden Township
Conservation Farmer of the Year

Daniel & Linda Marquardt, Wyoming Township
Water Quality Leadership

Stith Gower, Linden Township
Wildlife Habitat Development (Private)

Mineral Point Schools (Friends of the M.P. Savannah Project)
Wildlife Habitat (Club)

Rock Ridge Community
Tree Farmer of the Year

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



Debra Finkelmeyer-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, maintaining a database list of the FPP/WLI participants, updating landowner GIS maps for conservation practices, file maintenance, web site development and management, and answer and direct 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: debra.finkelmeyer@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.

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- Roger Dax—FSA Member
- Dave Ladd—Member at Large

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



2013 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 Land Conservation Department 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 maybe 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 lands 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 by signing a CREP contract with the County.

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).

Grant Money to Iowa County to offset LCD Labor & Program Costs

Department of Ag Trade, & Consumer Protection (DATCP)
\$208,366.00

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
\$34,962.00

Total Benefit to Iowa County
\$2,147,421.00 or \$119,301.00/yr. in the past 18 years.

LCD PROGRAM ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO IOWA COUNTY LANDOWNERS/FARMERS

Farmland Preservation Program/Working Lands Initiative (FPP/WLI) - Planning & Zoning also involved with program
* Tax credits to County landowners: Approximately **\$6,000,000.00 or 1,647,058.00/yr.** in past 34 years.

Land & Water Resource Management & Targeted Runoff Management Cost Sharing (LWRM/TRM)
* Cost share money to farmers/landowners: Approximately **\$1,414,846.00 or \$101,060.00/yr.** in the past 14 years.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
* Incentive payments to landowners: Approximately **\$1,131,650 or \$113,165/yr.** in the past 11 years.

Wildlife Damage Program (WDP)
* Claim money paid to County Farmers: Approximately **\$527,667.00 or \$29,315.00/yr.** in the past 18 years.