

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Wisconsin Report 2011

Helping People Help the Land

From the State Conservationist



Fiscal Year 2011 was a highly successful time for conservation in Wisconsin, despite the budgetary challenges that our state and nation faced throughout the year. We enrolled nearly 600 new stewards of the land, contracted with 1,000 farmers for conservation practices on working land, and restored over 1,900 acres of wetlands in Wisconsin. We were able to partner with the new state Purchase of Conservation Easements (PACE) program to enable entities to preserve seven farms in the state. We focused in on two initiatives – Great Lakes Restoration and Mississippi River Basin – concentrating on the most vulnerable acres to reduce nutrients to these spectacular water resources.

This year, NRCS said farewell to the Resource Conservation and Development Program, begun as part of the Soil Conservation Service in 1964. We are proud of the role that the agency played in creating and guiding RC&D through the years, and proud of the continued success of the Wisconsin RC&Ds as independent entities, continuing their missions to increase the economic capacity of rural America and protect its resources. We know the future years will hold many challenges to conservation. But the certainty that our lives, our children's health and well-being and the planet depend on continued stewardship of our natural resources gives us confidence that this will remain one of our nation's highest priorities.

Sincerely,

ot neavenworth

Patricia S. Leavenworth

"When the land does well for its owner and the owner does well by his land; when both end up better by reason of their partnership, then we have conservation."

Aldo Leopold, 1939

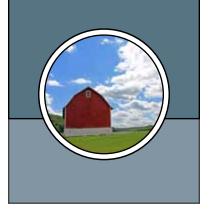






Adam Dowling (R), District Conservationist in Madison checks a waterway with Jeff Endres on his Dane County farm. Practices funded through the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiatives (MRBI).

Conservation Technical Assistance



Conservation Technical Assistance

For over 75 years the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has assisted Wisconsin landowners in conserving resources on private lands. This technical assistance is the primary mission of NRCS.

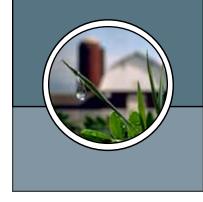
Resource stewardship is a vital part of conservation. NRCS helps landowners make wise land use decisions by implementing conservation practices that reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality and reduce the potential for flooding.

Every county in Wisconsin has a conservation team to assist in conservation planning. Oneon- one help through flexible, voluntary programs occurs everyday in local NRCS offices throughout Wisconsin. The Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA) is carried out by NRCS in cooperation with local county conservation professionals.

Highlights for 2011

- 3,919 conservation system plans applied to lands covering 446,494 acres
- Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality = 354,400 acres
- Land with conservation applied to improve water quality = 424,226 acres
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans written = 95 applied = 110
- Grazing land with conservation applied to improve the resource base = 17,857 acres
- Wetlands created, restored or enhanced = 2,355 acres
- Forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve vegetative condition = 34,300 acres
- Watershed or area-wide conservation plans developed = 13

Environmental Improvement Programs



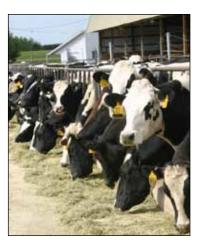
Environmental Quality Incentives Program

In Wisconsin, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continued in FY2011. EQIP promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as primary goals. This program provides assistance to farmers who face threats to the natural resource base on agricultural land. All private land in agricultural production is eligible including cropland, grazing and pasture land and non-industrial private forestland.

Animal waste management is a high priority in Wisconsin. EQIP helps producers voluntarily install conservation practices to meet state regulations. Incentive payments are offered to carry out these management practices. Priority is given to the practices that address local resource concerns and provide the most environmental benefit.

Highlights for 2011

- Cost share assistance = \$16 million
- 968 contracts
- 80 percent of EQIP funds went toward livestock related practices including animal waste management systems and grazing practices.



Organic Initiative

The Organic Initiative is a special Initiative offered through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for farmers who are organic or transitioning to organic. Developing a Conservation Activity Plan, or CAP, provides a road map for future conservation activities to enhance organic agriculture.



Highlights for 2011

118 contracts for Organic practices

Examples of practices available for funding under this initiative include:

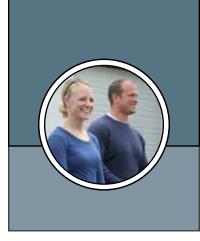
- Planting cover crops
- Crop rotations
- Installing grazing infrastructure (grazing plans, fencing, walkways, water lines)
- Establishing wildlife habitat
- Creating pollinator friendly habitat
- High tunnels (hoop houses)

High tunnels, or "Hoop Houses" extend the growing season and may help reduce the need for pesticides, keep vital nutrients in the soil, increase yields, and provide other benefits to growers. High tunnels provide steady incomes to farmers a significant advantage to owners of small farms, limited-resource farmers and organic producers.

Summary of Conservation Practices Applied in 2011 All Programs

| | Practices Applied | | Practices Applied |
|--|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| Access Control | 1,024 ac. | Residue and Tillage Management/No-Till | 48,939 ac. |
| Access Road | 38,901 ft. | Residue Management/Mulch Till | 2,207 ac. |
| Ag Energy Mgmt Plan Written | 15 | Residue Management No-Till/Strip Till | 3,788 ac. |
| Animal Trails and Walkways | 16,468 ft. | Residue Management, Seasonal | 3,366 ac. |
| Brush Management | 1,865 ac. | Restoration and Management of Rare and | |
| Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans | 110 | Declining Habitats | 922 ac. |
| Conservation Cover | 20,372 ac. | Riparian Forest Buffer | 42 ac. |
| Conservation Crop Rotation | 201,981 ac. | Roof Runoff Structure | 583 |
| Conservation Plan - Organic Transition | | Seasonal High Tunnel | 139,606 sq.ft. |
| Plans Written | 4 | Sediment Basin | 8 |
| Contour Buffer Strips | 2,229 ac. | Shallow Water Development and Mgmt | 70 ac. |
| Contour Farming | 25,581 ac. | Sinkhole Treatment | 1 |
| Cover Crop | 9,925 ac. | Solid/Liquid Separation Facility | 1 |
| Critical Area Planting | 121 ac. | Spring Development | 1 |
| Diversion | 18,842 ft. | Stream Crossing | 4,345 ft. |
| | 2,993 Animal | Stream Habitat Improvement and Mgmt | 305 ac. |
| Feed Management | Units | Streambank/Shoreline Protection | 46,008 ft. |
| Fence | 546,735 ft. | Stripcropping | 6,754 ac. |
| Field Border | 11 ac. | Subsurface Drain | 80,742 ft. |
| Filter Strip | 383 ac. | Terrace | 26,744 ft. |
| Firebreak | 216,340 ft. | Tree/Shrub Establishment | 2,374 ac. |
| Forage and Biomass Planting | 11,469 ac. | Tree/Shrub Pruning | 30 ac. |
| Forage Harvest Management Plan | 1,431 ac. | Tree/Shrub Site Preparation | 73 ac. |
| Forest Management Plan Written | 17 | Underground Outlet | 29,268 ft. |
| Forest Stand Improvement | 4,458 ac. | Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt | 13,156 ac. |
| Forest Trails and Landings | 4,651 ft. | Vegetated Treatment Area | 49 ac |
| Grade Stabilization Structures | 136 | Waste Facility Closure | 15 |
| Grassed Waterway | 6,868 ac. | Waste Storage Facility | 44 |
| Heavy Use Protection | 539 ac | Waste Transfer | 82 |
| Integrated Pest Management. | 23,800 ac. | Water and Sediment Control Basin | 6 |
| Irrigation System, Sprinkler | 170 ac. | Water Well | 10 |
| Irrigation Water Management | 1,728 ac. | Watering Facility | 96 |
| Lined Waterway | 2,465 ft. | Water Well Decommissioning | 37 |
| Mulching | 38 ac | Wetland Creation | 1 |
| Nutrient Management | 119,835 ac. | Wetland Enhancement | 183 ac. |
| Obstruction Removal | 1,710 ac. | Wetland Restoration | 2,171 ac. |
| Pipeline | 109,363 ft. | Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt | 3,859 ac. |
| Prescribed Burning | 3,112 ac. | Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment | 41,211 ft |
| Prescribed Grazing | 9,963 ac. | Windbreak Shelterbelt Renovation | 1,050 ft. |
| Residue and Tillage Management/Mulch-Till | 57,617 ac. | Woody Residue Treatment | 8 ac. |

Special Initiatives



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Conservation Beyond Boundaries

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is an initiative to improve water quality, wildlife habitat and help protect and restore priority watersheds in the region. NRCS is working with its conservation partners in an eight-state area to combat invasive species, protect watersheds and shorelines from non-point source pollution, and restore wetlands and other habitat areas.

In 2011, NRCS in Wisconsin is focused conservation program funds in the Lower Fox, Manitowoc-Sheboygan and the Milwaukee River watersheds which border the shores of Lake Michigan. Through financial and technical assistance, NRCS helps private landowners with conservation planning using variety of conservation practices, such as cover crops, conservation crop rotations, filter strips, prescribed grazing and wetlands restoration. NRCS Farm Bill conservation programs available to farmers and ranchers include Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

Dave and Heather Lettow's farm lies within the boundaries of the Milwaukee River watershed. They took over operation of the family dairy in 2007 and were interested in more improvements to protect the land and water. Dave learned of the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program which offered cost-share assistance to install conservation practices. EQIP would address some of the remaining resource concerns on the farm.

They decided to develop a prescribed grazing system that would allow the Lettows to pasture their cows rather than concentrating them in a barnyard, thus reducing costs in delivering feed and managing manure. This prescribed grazing system, also known as a rotational grazing system, encourages groundwater recharge, improves soil quality and prevents sediment and nutrient losses. By converting to this grazing system, they lower capital costs and reduce veterinary bills. With rising energy and input costs, grazing offers a good option for beginning or transitioning farming businesses.

"We've made a lot of changes and improvements to this farm since we took over four years ago," Dave said, "We never would have been able to do it without the assistance of the NRCS." Dave Lettow

In 2011, \$1.4 million in 42 contracts treating 6,614 acres in the state.

Conserving the Landscape

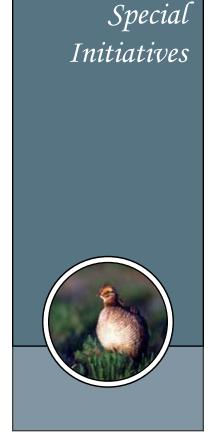


Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative

To improve the health of the Mississippi River Basin, including water quality and wildlife habitat, the Natural Resources Conservation Service developed the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). Through this new Initiative, NRCS and its partners will help producers in selected watersheds in the Basin install conservation practices and systems that reduce nutrient runoff, improve wildlife habitat; and maintain agricultural productivity.

The Initiative will build on the past efforts of producers, NRCS, partners, and other State and Federal agencies in the 12-state Initiative area. Nutrient loading contributes to both local water quality problems and the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. MRBI is implemented by NRCS through the following initiatives and programs:

- Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP)
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)



Partnerships play an important role



Pictured above from left to right: Brian Smetana - Walworth County Land Use & Resource Management Department, Greg Igl - NRCS District Conservationist, and Maggie Zoellner -Kettle Moraine Land Trust.

Through MRBI, NRCS entered into a cooperative partnership agreement with the Kettle Moraine Land Trust to provide financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers located within the Delavan Lake and Jackson Creek watersheds in Walworth County.

Cooperative efforts between NRCS, Kettle Moraine Land Trust, and Walworth County Land Use & Resource Management Department continued this year through MRBI; with the goal of improving water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient loads within streams located in these watersheds.

In 2011, \$440,000 in 11 contracts treated 1,868 acres in Wisconsin. The practices include Nutrient Management, Residue Management (No-Till), Cover Crop and Grassed Waterways.

Environmental Improvement Programs



Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is designed to help maintain present conservation activities and make new conservation improvements, such as improved erosion control, better water quality practices, wildlife habitat management, or energy efficiency improvements.

CSP provides payments to producers who already practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years.

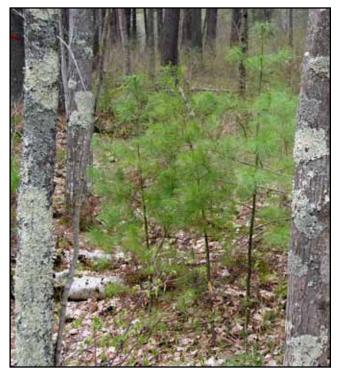
In CSP, applications are evaluated and ranked on priority natural resource concerns for Wisconsin, or a specific area of the State. All agricultural operations and non-industrial private forest lands are eligible.

Highlights for 2011

- Total CSP payments\$10.8 million
- 587 new contracts
- 253,947 acres

First Tribal CSP Project in Wisconsin

The Lac Du Flambeau Chippewa Tribe was selected for CSP funding in 2011. This is the first contract with a Tribe since the new program was offered in the current Farm Bill. The contract covers 28,449 acres of woodland. The tribe will be performing activities such as, creating snags, den trees, and leaving coarse woody debris on the forest floor creating wildlife habitat and improving the health of the forest soil. They will also be constructing and installing wildlife structures to benefit targeted species including cavitynesting birds, bats, bees, raptors, reptiles, amphibians, and waterfowl. The Tribe will also perform hardwood and conifer crop tree release to enhance the health and productivity of individual trees, while improving other resources such as wildlife habitat, recreation, timber value, and aesthetics.



A tree release thins out the canopy of the hardwoods in this forest allowing these conifers to grow more quickly.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

Wildlife is one of Wisconsin's natural resource treasures. The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) provides costsharing to develop or improve fish and wildlife habitat. The new habitat may include prairie and oak savannah, instream fish structures, livestock exclusion, fencing, brush management, streambank restoration and other practices. Almost any type of land is eligible.

Wisconsin proposals are evaluated on wildlife habitat priorities. Applications are scored on a number of factors, including type of habitat to be established, location within designated priority area, conservation practice life span and benefits to at-risk species.

Highlights for 2011

- Cost share assistance = \$272,995
- 30 contracts

Sauk County Stream Restoration

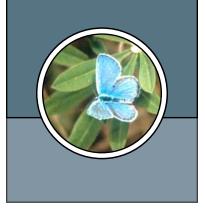
WHIP was a critical element of the first phase of a multiyear stream restoration project on Bear Creek in Sauk County in 2011. The work to shape and stabilize streambanks and provide habitat for trout, reptiles, and amphibians is the result of a large partnership effort. Partners on the nearly one-mile long phase of the work include the landowner, NRCS, Sauk County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, and others.



A work party builiding lunkers structures that will be installed into the streambank to create habitat for fish in the newly restored stretch of Bear Creek.



Environmental Improvement <u>Program</u>s



Creating Habitat

Easement Programs



A Success Story-A little bit of paradise

It was 1964 when Elsbeth and Siegfried Fuchs bought a 138-acre farm in Waterloo, Wisconsin and started dairy farming. As an immigrant from Prussia, Elsbeth moved to America looking for a new life, and found a dream. Elsbeth and Siegfried farmed together until he passed in 2008. Siegfried's wish was to return the land back to a natural state. In 2009, Elsbeth saw a special on Wisconsin Public Television highlighting the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). She was excited to learn more about WRP and how she might be able to participate in the program, so she contacted her local NRCS office.

The property was a perfect fit for the program. A permanent conservation easement was placed on 85 acres of the farm. The restoration included tree removal and filling of existing ditches, removal of water diversions, wetland scrapes and establishment of micro-topography along with seeding the uplands with native plant species. All these efforts will result in new wildlife habitat, shallow marshes, floodplain forest and upland

Wetlands Reserve Program

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is an easement program aimed at restoring wetlands that were drained for crop production before 1985. The restored wetlands help protect water quality, improve groundwater and provide great wildlife habitat. The easements are for either a permanent or a 30-year easement.

Highlights for 2011

- Cost share assistance = \$8.3 million
- 19 easement contracts
- 1,942 acres



Kristin Westad (L), NRCS Easement Biologist visits the beautiful wetland restoration on the Elsbeth Fuchs farm in Waterloo, WI.

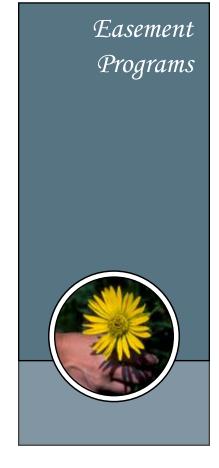
prairies. Both permanent open water and seasonal pools will draw waterfowl and wildlife.

The 4000-acre Waterloo Wildlife Management Area is within 1.5 miles of this farm. This protected area contains a diverse range of habitat areas including sedge meadow, open water marsh, fens, hardwoods, native prairie-just to name a few. The Fuchs wetland restoration is a great addition to this neighboring wildlife area.

So now Elsbeth can keep the farm in nice condition, keeps a beautiful garden, and has been able to help out her family with their finances. Forty-five acres of the remaining acreage is rented for crops because she feels the "whole world is in turmoil, and people look to America to lead and grow food to feed the world."

Siegfried always wanted to give back to America and told Elsbeth that "everyone needs to have a little bit of paradise." Now there is.





Koepke Pleasant View Farm in Waukesha County, WI

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

FRPP is a voluntary program that keeps productive farmland in agricultural use through the sale of a conservation easement. Land enrolled in this program remains in agricultural use and farmed according to a conservation plan.

FRPP provides matching funds to existing farmland preservation programs such as Land Trusts and state or local programs.

Highlights for 2011

- *Cost share assistance* = \$753,800
- 3 easements
- 619 acres*
- * pending as of Nov. 2011

Preserving the Legacy

Koepke Pleasant View Farm - Oconomowoc, WI Pleasant View Farms is a 109-acre, fifth generation farm founded in 1875 by the Koepke Family. It is currently being cropped with a No-Till system and is part of a larger dairy operation owned by the family. Ninety four acres are located adjacent to city water and sewer: therefore the threat of development is imminent. The remainder of the farm is in the Ashippun/Oconomowoc Agricultural Enterprise Area - a state designated area where agricultural preservation and activity is promoted.

The Koepke Family is preserving the legacy of their family farm and serve as showcase for others who might be interested in land stewardship programs.

Preserving the Land for the Future

Easement Programs



Floodplain Easements

Through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) the Natural Resource Conservation Service invests in Floodplain Easements (FPE) that provide flood storage and remove the threat of future flood damages on high-risk properties. Flooded farmland, lost crops and fields or farm structures are all impacted by flooding. By purchasing these easements floodwater is stored and conveyed reducing flood damage and protecting property and people downstream.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) NRCS in Wisconsin worked with willing landowners to purchase these floodplain easements. An area of concentration has been in the southern part of the state.

Since 2009, \$22.8 million has treated 5,123 acres on 35 floodplain easements in Wisconsin.



A whooping crane visited the Avon Bottoms Floodplain Easement in November, 2011, within one year of the floodplain restoration. Whooping cranes are an endangered species in Wisconsin and a major effort is underway to re-establish this majestic bird and its habitat. This photo was captured by the landowner.



An aerial view of Avons Bottoms,





Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) in Wisconsin is comprised of individuals and organizations working together to maintain and improve the management, productivity, and health of privately owned grazing land. Owners and managers of these grazing lands address natural resource concerns while contributing to the economic viability of their rural communities.

NRCS grazing land specialists have the expertise and experience to provide technical assistance to graziers regarding the long-term productivity and ecological health of their grazing land. Through GLCI efforts NRCS provides training in grazing lands management and is involved with public awareness activities to support conservation activities on private grazing lands. Wisconsin now has 56 Prescribed Grazing Planners to assist landowners, 29 from NRCS and 27 from county or non-profit organizations.

GLCI Vision for Wisconsin Grazing

Wisconsin agriculture contributes \$59 billion to the state's economy. Our 36,000+ livestock farms represent a major agricultural sector. We believe that well-managed pasture is key to the long term sustainability of Wisconsin's agricultural economy, environment and livestock farming community.

Highlights for 2011

- 300 farmers served with technical assistance
- 230 grazing plans implemented covering 9,963 acres
- Five training workshops conducted for Prescribed Grazing Planners
- Approximately 12,000 tons of soil saved from sheet and rill erosion by converting cropland to pasture
- *Reduction in phosphorous and nitrogen runoff by 80 percent compared to cropland*



The Wisconsin Soils Team

The Soils Team in Wisconsin consists of 12 field soil scientists, who collect data and conduct studies in the State. Technical data and GIS support is provided by the soils data and technology team. Four Resource Soil Scientists assist NRCS conservationists and many non-NRCS soil data users to understand and use soils data to make informed land use decisions.

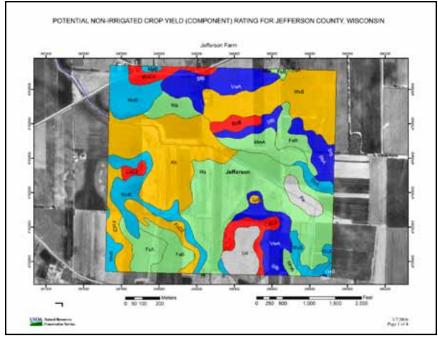
Highlights for 2011

- Rapid Carbon Assessment completed sampling for a soil organic matter study, part of a nationwide initiative. Nationwide results, available in 2012, will help improve management of soil carbon.
- The new Ecological Site Inventory develops Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) for major Wisconsin soils describing the inter-relationships between soils, landforms, and vegetation.
- Soils data was completely updated on the widely-used Manure Management Advisory System site in cooperation with the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Areas and soil types suitable for land spreading are clearly identified in an on-line, user-friendly, GeoPDF format.
- New technologies such as LiDAR data, GIS analysis, and highresolution aerial photography were used to improve soil line placement and accuracy in Southeast Wisconsin, primarily Dodge County.



Fieldwork for the northeast bedrock project was completed. This project used new technologies to improve the characterization of these soil mapunits in a 5-county area of East Central Wisconsin. Tools and techniques included Ground Penetrating Radar, Electromagnetic Induction, ArcGIS, 3D-Mapper, backhoe pits, transects, and zonal statistics. Several other ambitious projects focused on collecting soils data needed to create more accurate forest biomass interpretations; improve soil erosion estimates; investigate phosphorus-rich clayey soils in western Wisconsin; update crop yield information; and map areas for oak veneer log production.

Natalie Irizzary, Project Soil Scientist, taking soil samples with a Giddings probe.



Web Soil Survey is free and on-line at www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov

Web Soil Survey

Providing Soil Information

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. The soil data and information is produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. Operated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil maps and data are available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and soon will cover 100 percent of the nations soils. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information.

Making Wise Land Use Decisions

The Wisconsin Soil Survey Program focused efforts in 2011 on:

Web Soil Survey

- Improving soils data to meet modern standards and user needs
- Collecting new data and developing new interpretations to meet current needs
- Helping landowners and other decision makers use the soils data effectively



A simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data.



Outreach

NRCS programs and services are available to all producers and potential customers. Some groups have special needs and NRCS is dedicated to reaching out to all including Tribal, Hmong, Hispanic, Women and Beginning Farmers.

A Success Story - Keeping the Water Clean

Nhiacha Yang, a Hmong farmer in the Green Bay area wasn't quite sure what to think about getting advice from NRCS. There was some apprehension on his part about applying for government programs. John Malvitz, District Conservationist in Brown County, knew that there was a manure runoff concern on his farm given its location near a stream. One day, John stopped by to talk with Mr. Yang and explain how NRCS could help him solve some of the issues with his barnyard. Despite the language barrier, and after several visits from John, Nhiacha understood what practices would be planned to improve his barnyard, how to apply for NRCS assistance and finally, what it took to install the suggested practices.

Nhiacha Enterprise is a farm located in Neshota River Watershed, an area targeted for water quality improvement through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The enterprise is primarily a butchering facility that processes chickens, hogs, beef, sheep and goats. Many of these animals are held in outdoor lots, or in the barns on the farm. The barnyard lots were in poor condition, with very little or no vegetation, posing a manure management issue. The flow of water from the barn roofs were an additional problem washing manure and runoff into an intermittent stream.

A survey of the site was completed and a full design of the improved barnyard was presented to Nhiacha. He applied for and was granted an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract funded through the GLRI. The practices installed included a new concrete barnyard and a reception tank built to intercept the waste runoff. Roof gutters were installed on some of the buildings to stop the rainwater from running across the barnyard.

Nhiacha was very grateful for the assistance NRCS provided to him and is impressed with the success of the project. He is working with NRCS, to help others in the Hmong Community learn about NRCS programs.



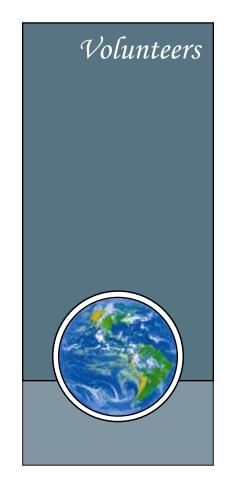
Earth Team Volunteer Program

NRCS is proud of the dedicated Earth Team volunteers who have committed their time and talents to conserving and protecting our natural resources. In 2011, 70 volunteers gave 2,900 hours of service to NRCS in Wisconsin.

These volunteers play an important part in carrying out the NRCS mission of "Helping People Help the Land." Volunteers expand NRCS services by using their time, talent, and energy to help meet agency needs. They take pride in their contributions and NRCS is grateful for their assistance to the agency.



Earth Day event in Lafayette County brought out over 40 volunteers to teach students about many aspects of the environment, including this history lesson.





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Wisconsin

December 2011