

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2007 TO 2008

In This Issue...

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Farmland Preservation | Pg 2 |
| CREP | Pg 2 |
| Lake Project | Pg 3 |
| Non-Metallic Mining | Pg 3 |
| Tree and Shrub Sale | Pg 3 |
| New Imaging Software | Pg 3 |
| Transect Survey | Pg 4 |
| Gypsy Moth Program | Pg 4 |
| NR151 Update | Pg 5 |
| Livestock Siting | Pg 5 |
| Nutrient Management | Pg 5 |
| Cost Sharing Programs | Pg 6 |
| Information and Education | Pg 7 |
| Staff and Committee Update | Pg 8 |
| Department Highlights | Pg 9 |
| Looking Ahead | Pg 10 |



Land & Water Conservation Department Staff Left to Right, Joe, Patricia, Mark, Deb, Gerry, Nancy and Zak. "Working together to protect and enhance the environment"

2008

THE YEAR OF THE FLOOD

Jefferson County experienced some of the worst flooding in history this year. In addition to the devastation experienced by homeowners and businesses, farmers were also impacted.

The Land and Water Conservation Department has received several requests for cost-sharing to repair waterways and other conservation practices that were damaged by the heavy rains and flood waters.

Jefferson County UW-Extension Crops and Soils Agent, Joe Bollman estimated damages to corn and soybeans at about \$40 million. Over 50,000 acres were affected by the flooding or about 40% of the corn and soybean crop. It is estimated that another \$5-7 million in losses to turf, fruit and vegetable crops occurred as well.

In a year where Jefferson County producers were looking forward to record high corn

prices, the flooding came as a devastating blow.

Farm Service Agency is compiling the official crop damages for Jefferson County but at the time of this publication, these figures had not yet been released.



Even No-tilled fields experienced some washing with the heavy rains.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) provides tax credits to agricultural landowners throughout the state. In Jefferson County, 1,006 landowners, with 146,523 acres participate in the program.

In 2007 (for the 2006 tax year) an average credit of \$627 was realized per participant, bringing \$557,173 back into the County.

In Jefferson County, an average of 73% of our eligible landowners participate in the tax credit program. Not all landowners opt to take the credit every year. In 2007, 889 landowners claimed the tax credit.

The basic qualifications for Farmland Preservation are as follows:

- You must own at least 35 acres in

- Exclusive Agricultural Zoning,
- Land must produce gross farm receipts of at least \$6,000 per year,
 - You must live in Wisconsin and file Wisconsin Income Tax,
 - Land must be farmed in compliance with an approved conservation plan,
 - Participants must annually certify with the Department that they intend to claim the tax credit and that they are following their conservation plan. The annual certification can now be done using a link on the Department's web site.

All participants are reviewed at least once every 6 years for compliance with their conservation plan. In 2008, 170 landown-

ers were checked for compliance. This review is done either in the office or with an actual farm visit. Most reviews are conducted in the field.

The Farmland Preservation Program not only provides tax relief to landowners, but through the conservation compliance requirement insures that cropland will remain productive for years to come.



CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ~ CREP

In last year's Annual Report, we informed our readers that CREP was coming to a close, unless it was reauthorized by the 2008 USDA Farm Bill. We are pleased to report that CREP has been reauthorized and the State of Wisconsin has again signed on as a participating state.

Under CREP, landowners are paid an annual rental payment by the USDA to take sensitive lands out of crop production. Contract lengths are either 15 years or a



perpetual easement is available on most practices.

Eligible practices for CREP include:

- filter strips (areas next to streams or other water features planted to grasses and legumes or native plantings),
- riparian buffer strips (filter strips next to streams or other water features planted to trees),
- Wetland restorations,
- Grass waterways draining into a buffer strip.

Many areas that qualify for CREP are subject to periodic flooding. Rental payments from the USDA average about \$86 to \$167 per acre. On land that periodically floods, this annual rental payment may mean more net cash to producers.

Additionally, one-time incentive payments are available from the State of Wisconsin, averaging from \$140 to \$1,100 per acre, depending on the length of contract you choose. Cost sharing to install your practice is also offered.

In 2007, eight landowners enrolled 29 acres into CREP. Jefferson County has \$700,000 available yet for CREP funding.

Not only do the filter strips and the wetland restorations trap sediment and other pollutants from entering surface water, they provide valuable wildlife habitat.

For more information on CREP, contact the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department at 920-674-7115.

LAND CONSERVATION STAFF ATTENDS COUNTY FAIR

The 2008 Jefferson County Fair was held July 9th through the 13th. Once again, Land Conservation staff joined with other County Departments in manning the County Services Tent.

Despite the heavy rains, high temperatures, and damaging winds, staff made contact with a number of County residents, providing information on conservation, invasive species, our annual tree

sale and water quality projects.



LAKE PROJECTS AFLOAT

In the spring of 2008, the Land and Water Conservation Department received a grant from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fund a study on Rome Pond in the Town of Sullivan. The goals of the project are to determine the plant composition of the lake, develop a management plan, educate the public, and educate and train current and future volunteers. The LWCD is working cooperatively with the Rome Pond Improvement Association on the project that will be completed in 2009. The total budget is \$4,025 with the DNR funding \$3,018.75 and the remainder being contributed by the County with staff time.

As part of the project, the LWCD will be hosting a training this fall for aquatic invasive species monitors. Those interested in taking part should contact Patricia Cicero at 920-674-7121.

Last year, the LWCD finished data collection for a DNR grant funded project on Mud and Hope Lakes in the Town of Lake Mills. Highlights of the information collected on Hope Lake include 25 species of aquatic plants and the presence of nesting black terns which are a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Wisconsin. In Mud Lake there were 21

species of aquatic plants and the Blanding's turtle was observed having a fish meal. The Blanding's turtle is a threatened species in Wisconsin.



Blanding's Turtle

Management plans for both lakes will be completed this year.

NON-METALLIC MINING UPDATE

Nonmetallic mining continues to be a widespread activity in the county, with 25 permitted areas in possession of County approved reclamation plans.

The activities at these sites provide sand, gravel, crushed stone, construction aggregate and topsoil. During the September 2007 to September 2008 timeframe nearly 450 acres of open extraction and related activities was documented. This includes 15

newly affected acres along with 35 acres awaiting permit release.

The NR 135 Wis. Adm. Code and subsequent county ordinance updates have now been in effect for over one permitting cycle. The changes allow for, more uniform reporting and fee administration, clarification of term definitions and continuation of uniform reclamation standards.

In summary, reclamation of nonmetallic

mines according to approved plans will achieve desirable post-mining land use. The resulting environmental protection assures, stable non-eroding sites, productive end land use, potential to enhance wildlife habitat, while increasing land value and tax revenue.

Sources: WDNR And Jefferson County Non-metallic Mining Ordinance & Site Documentation

ANNUAL TREE AND SHRUB SALE

The Department's Annual Tree and Shrub Sale continues to be a success. The trees are planted for a variety of purposes including erosion control, energy conservation and landscaping. Even Urban homeowners utilize the program, often by splitting bundles of trees with neighbors. In the 2007/2008 program year, over 12,000 trees were sold.

The following species were offered: Fraser Fir, White Cedar, White Pine, Techny Arborvitae, Blue, White, Norway and Black Hills Spruce, White and Red Oak and American Plum. The plants range in age from 1-2 year old seedlings to 4 year old transplants.

The sale starts in the late summer/early fall of each year and goes on until the trees

are sold out.

Order forms are available on line at the Department's web page or by calling the



NEW IMAGING SOFTWARE BEING USED

Geographic Information System (GIS) data and components are used on a daily basis in the Department. Recently this capability was enhanced for the casual everyday user of the GIS.

Most desktop workstations will be or already have been equipped with a digital image software package, Electronic Field Study (EFS™), produced by Pictometry International©. The software allows for views of

rural areas from a traditional, straight down ortho view, and 45° oblique north and south, angled views.

In and around more populated areas higher resolution photos have been acquired with the addition of views from all four directions. All the images used by the software were captured during April through June of 2008.

The ability to add traditional GIS to the image viewer supports particular site investigations and planning. Data specific map projects can be set-up in a network accessible workspace and used by those with a need to view certain types of data (e.g. conservation agriculture). The ability to add updated and reliable GIS data in EFS™ by traditional users can replace the need for licensing expensive GIS software and fees for maintenance.

2008 TRANSECT SURVEY

2008 marks the 11th year of conducting the Transect Survey to monitor soil loss trends in the County. The program was developed by Perdue University to estimate soil loss on a county-wide basis with a predicted accuracy rate of over 95%.

The same pre-established route is driven each year. Stops are made every half mile or so and data is collected at each point. Some of the data is the same year to year such as soil type and slope. Surveyors enter the current year's crop, amount of residue and tillage type into a data base. That information is then manipulated to give us soil loss data and estimate trends in tillage and cropping.

This year's survey was made more difficult by the weather. Many fields were unplanted due to wet conditions. In many fields,

the residue had washed away making it hard to tell what kind of tillage was used. Fortunately, the survey was completed before too many roads were closed from flooding.

An updated version of the Transect Survey was used this year, making for additional challenges. While essentially the same, there were some differences. There were more crops and different tillage systems to choose from causing some discrepancies when merging the past data to this year's. However, the data is still statistically valid.

The following is a summary of results from the 2008 Transect Survey:

- 88% of all fields were at or below the tolerable soil loss, meaning they are not losing significant amounts of soil,

- The average soil loss in Jefferson County is 2.3 tons /acre/year. Maximum tolerable soil loss is 5 tons/acre/year,
- 42% of crop ground was planted to corn,
- 25% of crop ground was planted to soybeans,
- Hay made up 18% of cropland,
- Almost 50% of the land was tilled using reduced tillage methods,
- Almost 18% of the land was no-tilled.

GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM

The gypsy moth is a devastating pest of most trees in the United States. It was brought from Europe to Massachusetts in 1869 to interbreed with silkworms in an effort to develop a hardier hybrid. Unfortunately, the gypsy moths escaped and have been moving westward ever since.

As of 2008, virtually every county in the east half of Wisconsin has established populations of gypsy moths. These counties are considered quarantined.

For the counties in the quarantine area, the DNR has developed a Gypsy Moth Suppres-

sion Program. The program is a voluntary partnership that involves state, counties, municipalities and landowners in a state-organized aerial insecticide treatment to suppress moth populations.

The Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department recently presented a resolution to the County Board to participate in the suppression program. The Board approved the resolution in August. The Department Director has been designated as the local coordinator. The coordinator will keep a database of infestation complaints, survey for egg masses in the winter and work with the DNR to coordinate

aerial spraying of an insecticide used to kill the caterpillars. Landowners who want their woodlands sprayed will be responsible for the cost of the application, however the cost is quite reasonable.

Gypsy Moth caterpillars can kill trees if the defoliation is severe enough. While all trees can be targets for this pest, they prefer oak, birch, apple, tamarack and aspen.

Gypsy Moth Life Cycle

Photos courtesy of the W-DNR



Egg masses are laid by female moths in August. The larva develop in the egg where they overwinter.



Caterpillars emerge from the egg mass in mid-May. They climb into the tree canopy where they hang by a silk thread until a breeze blows them to another area. Then they again enter the tree canopy and begin feeding.



After feeding for about 6 weeks, the caterpillars find a safe place to transform into a pupa. After a couple weeks, they emerges as winged adult moths.



Male gypsy moths are mottled brown and gray with feathery antennae. Females are larger and white. Female moths cannot fly. Females exude a scent that attracts males to her. Once she has mated she lays her eggs in a tear drop shaped, buff colored mass. An extremely healthy female may produce as many as 600-1000 eggs.

NR151 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Wisconsin State Statute, NR 151, contains runoff pollution performance standards and prohibitions, and implementation and enforcement provisions. NR 151 is intended to protect water quality by minimizing soil erosion and limiting nutrients from manure, croplands and other nonpoint source pollutants that enter waterways.

The Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) comes across situations or receives complaints from the public concerning apparent violations of NR 151 through out the county. It is our Department's goal to work with farmers to correct these violations.

Typically when our staff observes a violation or what appears to be a violation a letter is sent to the property owner. The letter de-

tails the situation and asks the land owner to contact the LWCD to discuss solutions to the problem. The LWCD tries to find a solution that benefits the environment as well as the farmer. We share information on conservation practices that provide solutions and help locate cost-share money where applicable for implementation of any needed practices.

The majority of NR 151 concerns in Jefferson County come from unconfined manure stacks and manure spreading issues. Since September of 2007 the LWCD has received and investigated 13 potential violations of NR 151. The complaints were for eight manure stacks within a Water Quality Management Area, and five incidents involving manure spreading.

Water Quality Management Areas

A Water Quality Management Area, or WQMA is defined as an area within 1,000 feet of a navigable lake, pond or flowage or an area within 300 feet of a navigable stream or river or a site that is susceptible to groundwater contamination or has the potential to be a direct conduit for contamination of groundwater.



LIVESTOCK SITING LAW UPDATE

The Livestock Facility Siting Law consists of a state statute (S93.90) and a rule (ATCP51). The statute limits the prohibiting of livestock facilities from agricultural zoning districts. It establishes procedures local governments have to follow if they choose to issue conditional use or other local permits for siting livestock facilities. It also creates the Livestock Facilities Siting Review Board to hear appeals concerning local decisions on permits.

Jefferson County adopted a new Zoning Ordinance in May of 2006, which includes the Livestock Siting Law. In Jefferson County, due to a previous existing Conditional Use

Permitting process (CUP), the threshold of 150 Animal Units (AMU's) is used for the Livestock Siting process. Expansions that exceed 150 AMU's, a previous CUP, or those obtaining a State WPDES Permit will need to apply for a Livestock Siting Permit.

Livestock Siting only applies to dairy and beef cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, and goats. All other types of livestock will be permitted under the old CUP system.

The ordinance requires that an application packet, facility maps, and worksheets be filled out and submitted to the Zoning De-

partment. In order to properly complete the application, a livestock producer needs to have a detailed plan as to what the expansion will entail.

The LWCD reviews the application and gives a recommendation of completeness to the Zoning Committee.

Since August of 2007 Jefferson County LWCD has received two Livestock Siting Applications for review. Both those have been found complete and have received their permits.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FUNDING

In 2008 the Jefferson County LWCD received a special \$84,000 grant from the Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection to promote the development and utilization of nutrient management plans.

The grant provides cost-sharing to farmers for nutrient management planning at a flat rate of \$7 per acre for 4 years, totaling \$28 per acre. The funding had to be used for planning in sensitive water quality areas.

At the time of this report the LWCD offered the cost sharing to 28 different landowner/operators. Twenty of these offers have been accepted. These contracts will cover a total of 2,797 cropland acres in the County.

The nutrient management plans developed under this grant meet the requirements of NR151, and the cost-sharing requirements of ATCP 50, therefore the land will be obligated to stay in compli-

ance as long as it is in agricultural production. Plans developed under this program are expected to cover the 2009 to 2012 crop years.

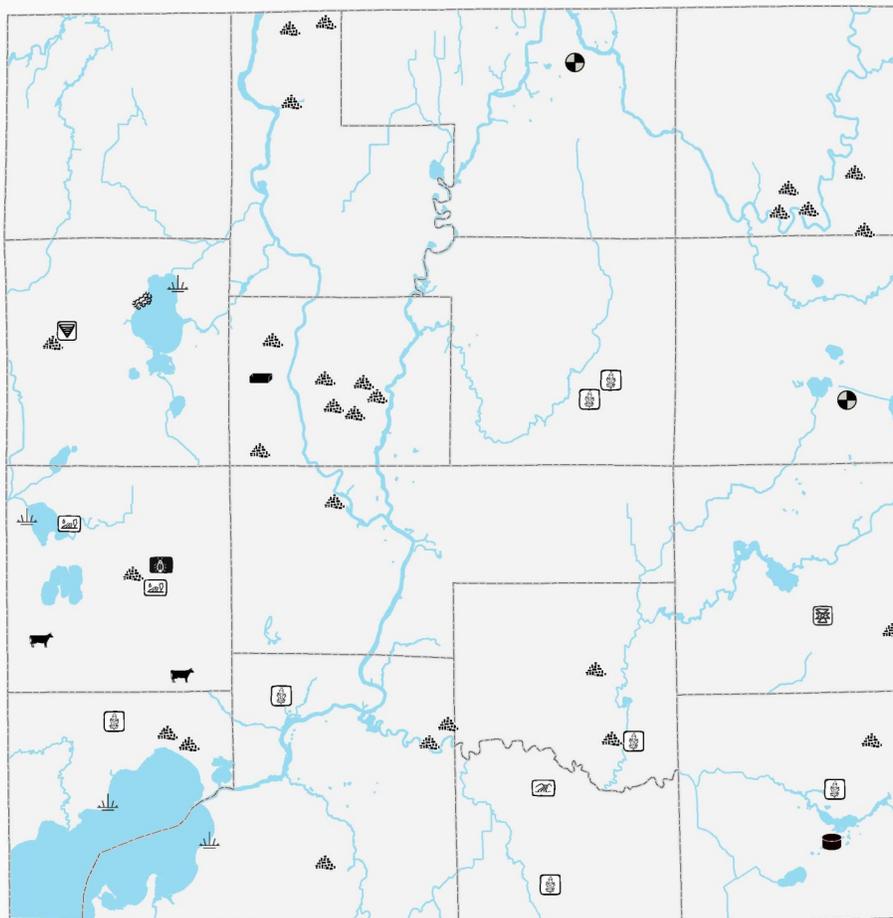


2007/2008 INSTALLED CONSERVATION PRACTICES

LWRM & COUNTY COST SHARED CONSERVATION PROJECTS 2007-2008

| Practice | Installed | Contracts |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Conservation Tillage | 0 | 1 |
| Cover Crop/Green Manure | 0 | 1 |
| Critical area Stabilization | 0 | 1 |
| Manure Storage System | 1 | 0 |
| Manure Storage Closure | 1 | 1 |
| Nutrient Management | 5 | 22 |
| Pesticide Management | 1 | 0 |
| Prescribed Grazing | 0 | 2 |
| Streambank/Shoreline Protection | 0 | 1 |
| Shoreline Restoration | 2 | 2 |
| Waterway System | 1 | 0 |
| Well Decommissioning | 1 | 1 |
| Wetland Restoration | 2 | 5 |

14 Total 37
51 Total Projects



Compiled by Jefferson County
Land & Water Conservation
Department August 2008

The Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department has three different funding sources for cost-sharing of Best Management Practices. The County funds its own cost-sharing program. There was \$35,000 available in this program for 2008. The State divides its money into two separate programs; Nutrient Management Cost-sharing and Land and Water Resource Management Program funding.

The funding for Nutrient Management has all be contracted for 2008. A total of 20 contracts covering 2,797 acres were signed this year. Most plans are expected to be completed for the 2009 crop year. Land and Water Resource Management Plan cost-share funding has just about all been allocated as well. Contracts have been signed for stacking pads (manure storage) and prescribed grazing. Another prescribed grazing contract is in the planning phase.

Under the County Cost-share Program, contracts have been signed for one Shoreland restoration, one cover crop planting, two well abandonments and one critical area stabilization. One prescribed grazing, one Shoreland restoration and one shoreline protection are in the planning phase.

All Best Management Practices that receive cost-sharing have been evaluated and ranked to give priority to practices that offer the most environmental benefits. Once the practices that are in the planning phase have contracts developed, any remaining cost-sharing will be allocated to the next highest ranking project.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

When requested, the staff of the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department make every effort to honor requests to provide informational and educational programs. The following is a brief synopsis of the past year's activities.

Fourth Grade Farm Day Sponsored by the Jefferson County Agribusiness Club and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, this event brings over 700 fourth grade students to the Jefferson Fair Park to learn about Agriculture in the County. Jefferson High School FFA members help host this all-day event. Land Conservation Staff presented a "recipe for soil" to the fourth grade students. Students rotate from station to station every 10 minutes meaning that staff presented the "recipe for soil" almost 30 times over the course of the day. Other stations include UW Extension, various Agribusinesses and livestock producers who bring their animals for the students to view up close.

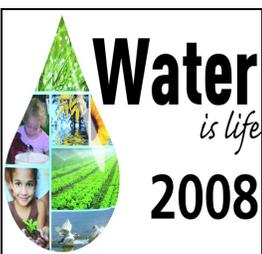
Conservation Counts The Conservation Department's bi-annual newsletter goes out to over 2,100 readers.

Jefferson County Fair The Land and Water Conservation Department staff joined in with other County Departments at the County Services Tent.

Jefferson Cub Scout Pack Presentation Land and Water Conservation staff assisted a local Cub Scout Pack earn their Environmental Sciences badge.

LWCD Web Site The Department maintains its own web page featuring information on the various programs we administer. For example, Farmland Preservation participants can use the web site to complete their annual certification card on-line and people wishing to purchase trees or shrubs can download order forms.

Rock River Coalition A staff member from the Department sits on the Board of Directors for the Rock River Coalition. The Coalition works to improve the environmental, recreational and cultural resources in the Rock River Basin.



Soil Stewardship Week The 2008 theme of Soil and Water Stewardship week was "Water is Life". Soil Stewardship is one of the largest conservation-related observances in the nation. Since 1955, the National Association of Conservation District (NACD) has sponsored this program. Each year Jefferson County Churches are offered materials free of charge to promote the personal and social responsibility of land stewardship. Ten churches took part in the observance that was held the week of April 27th to May 4th, 2008.

The earth's water is constantly moving through a process known as the water cycle. It falls to the earth as rain, is taken up by plants and animals, returned to the soil, evaporated into the clouds to fall again as rain. Since everyone relies on water, we all need to do our part to preserve the quality and quantity of water for all times.

TREE PLANTERS GET A FACE LIFT

The Land and Water Conservation Department Intern spent a few days this summer sprucing up the tree planters. After the planters were done being used for the 2008 planting season, Zak scrubbed them down. He then removed any flaking paint and gave the planters a fresh coat of color. The Department owns three planters. The yellow one pictured below is the newest of the three and is made to go through brushy conditions. The cage-like structure helps protect the person planting trees from scrapes and abrasions.



NEW FACES ON THE LAND AND WATER COMMITTEE



Greg Torres

After the April 2008 elections, new County Board Committee assignments were made. New to the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Committee are Mike Burow and Greg Torres. They join Karen Christian who joined the Committee in in January of 2007. The Department welcomes both new members to the Committee.



Mike Burow

GOOD BYE AND THANKS

The Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department said good bye to two Committee Members this past April.



Carlton Zentner

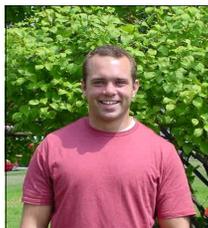
Howard Wiedenhoef decided not to run for re-election. He left the Land and Water Conservation Committee and the County Board after serving for many years. Carlton Zentner was reassigned to the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission and the Solid Waste and Air Quality Committee.

Thanks to both Carlton and Howard for serving on the Land and Water Conservation Committee.



Howard Wiedenhoef

2008 STUDENT INTERN: ZAK PETITT



Zak Petitt, a senior at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater, comes to the department from Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. He will be graduating in the Spring of 2009 with a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Geography. His minor is in Environmental Studies and GIS (Geographic Information Systems).

Zak has been helping the Department with Farmland Preservation status reviews, the Soil Loss Transect Survey, various aquatic plant surveys and other miscellaneous duties. These "miscellaneous" duties range from painting the tree planters to watering trees at the Potter's Field. Zak is always ready to lend a hand no matter what the job!

After Graduating from UW-Whitewater Zak would like to pursue work in either the conservation, or renewable resources fields.

In his free time he enjoys working out at the gym and being outdoors,. He has run in a number of 5K races this summer and spent some time fishing for musky up north.

The Student Intern position is funded in part through a grant from the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association.



Zak, learned first hand about erosion this year. Jefferson County experienced some of the worst flooding in history in 2008.

Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department

Courthouse
320 South Main Street
Jefferson WI 53549
Phone 920-674-7111
Fax 920-674-7114

Hours of Business
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Committee

- Mike Burow, Chairperson
- Greg Torres, Vice Chair
- Karen Christian, FSA Rep/ Secretary

Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department

- Mark Watkins, Director
- Patricia Cicero, Water Resources Management Specialist
- Gerry Kokkonen, GIS /Land Use Specialist
- Nancy Lannert, Resource Conservationist
- Deb Miller, Administrative Clerk
- Zak Petitt, Student Intern
- Joe Strupp, Resource Conservationist

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

A SUMMARY OF THE 2007/2008 ANNUAL REPORT

- Managed 1,006 conservation plans covering 146,423 acres for the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP),
- Conducted status reviews for FPP on 170 farms covering approximately 24,700 acres,
- Assisted 4 new landowners in applying for FPP,
- Processed 1 voluntary Notice of Non-compliance for FPP,
- Processed 3 Notices of Non-compliance for failure to comply with program requirements,
- Held Annual Tree and Shrub Sale resulting in the establishment of 12,000 new trees,
- Produced the bi-annual publication "Conservation Counts", the Department's newsletter. Publication is distributed to over 2,100 County landowners and other interested parties,
- Conducted the Annual County-wide Soil Loss Transect Survey,
- Assisted the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with the Wildlife Damage Abatement Program,
- Maintained and rented out, in partnership with the DNR County Foresters, tree planters and herbicide sprayers for use in establishment of tree plantings,
- Soil Stewardship materials distributed to 10 County Churches,
- Coordinated conservation planning and best management practice installation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS),
- Continued processing applications and payments for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in partnership with Farm Service Agency (FSA), NRCS and DATCP,
- Maintained and updated digital map layers for county Geographical Information System (GIS),
- Continued maintenance of the Jefferson County Potter's Field
- Maintained Video Lending Library,
- Helped promote County Clean Sweep Program,
- Participated in County Advisory Committee which includes directors of LWCD, NRCS, and FSA,
- Staffed Conservation booth in the County Services Tent at the Jefferson County Fair,
- Sponsored County Board Resolution for participation in the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program in conjunction with the DNR,
- Issued two manure storage permits,
- Issued one manure storage closure permit,
- Reviewed 24 nutrient management plans covering 16,948 acres,
- Reviewed 2 Livestock Siting Permit applications,
- Applied for and received operational grants from the Wisconsin Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection totaling \$150,600, an increase of \$3,114 from 2007.
- Continued implementing Land and Water Resource Management Plan Cost Sharing program. A total of \$20,000 in cost-share dollars has been made available from the Department of Agriculture,
- Continued implementing the County Cost-sharing program with \$35,000 available to assist landowners install best management practices,
- Issued and monitored 25 Non-metallic mining permit for the 2008 program year.



LOOKING AHEAD FUTURE CHALLENGES IN CONSERVATION



If only we had a crystal ball, we could see what the future conservation needs would be in Jefferson County. We know we will continue to manage the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program and will continue to promote nutrient management planning. But a year ago, we didn't foresee adding Gypsy Moth Suppression to our roster of program activities. Just like five years ago, we didn't know Livestock Siting was on the horizon. So what other changes are coming? We know that NR151 is going through a rewrite. It was originally passed in 2002. We are unsure when the rewrite will be finalized. The State is looking at revamping the Farmland Preservation Program. We do not know exactly what will be included in those changes. The Department will be losing revenue from the sale of part of the County Farm for the Highway 26 by-pass project. We are unsure of just how much that will affect our ability to maintain our current programming.

What we do know is that our programs are dynamic. We evolve as they evolve. And we do know that we will keep working to protect and enhance our natural resources to insure they are viable for generations to come.

Here's some of what the future holds for the Land & Water Conservation Department:

- * *We will work with DATCP as they update the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program.*
- * *We will continue to look for new sources of revenue and grants.*
- * *We will begin implementation of the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program.*
- * *We will start planning for the next update of the County Land and Water Resource Management Plan.*
- * *We will continue to recommend and apply appropriate best management practices to protect our natural resources.*
- * *In accordance with NR151 and ATCP50, we will continue to cost-share and review nutrient management plans.*
- * *We will work on completing and implementing an electronic tracking system for NR151.*
- * *We will continue to review Livestock Siting applications for completeness.*
- * *We will continue to handle animal waste complaints and continue educating livestock owners on proper handling of their animal waste.*
- * *We will maintain the Department's web site and add more features to make its use more convenient.*
- * *We are looking into the possibility of accepting credit card payments for the tree program.*
- * *And as always, we will continue to monitor the latest developments in alternative uses of animal waste products.*
- * *We will work with the Town and Country RC&D on environmental projects.*
- * *We will continue to assist the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission.*