

# JEFFERSON COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2008 TO 2009

## Jefferson County on the Defense Against Invaders

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. 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.

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 Suppression 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. Landowners who want their woodlands sprayed are responsible for the cost of the application, however the cost is quite reasonable.



The Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department coordinated the suppression program in our County. A database of infestation complaints was kept. The sites were investigated and those that met the minimum acreage requirements were surveyed for egg masses in fall. Only one site in the Town of Oakland met the minimum requirements for egg masses to warrant an aerial spray. A total of 36 acres were treated in late May. The LWCD has received reimbursement for staff time and mileage spent coordinating the program through the DNR.

Photo: Joe Strupp Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation

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## The Search for New Revenue Opportunities

In July, 2009, the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department entered into a cooperative agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide technical assistance in completing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts.

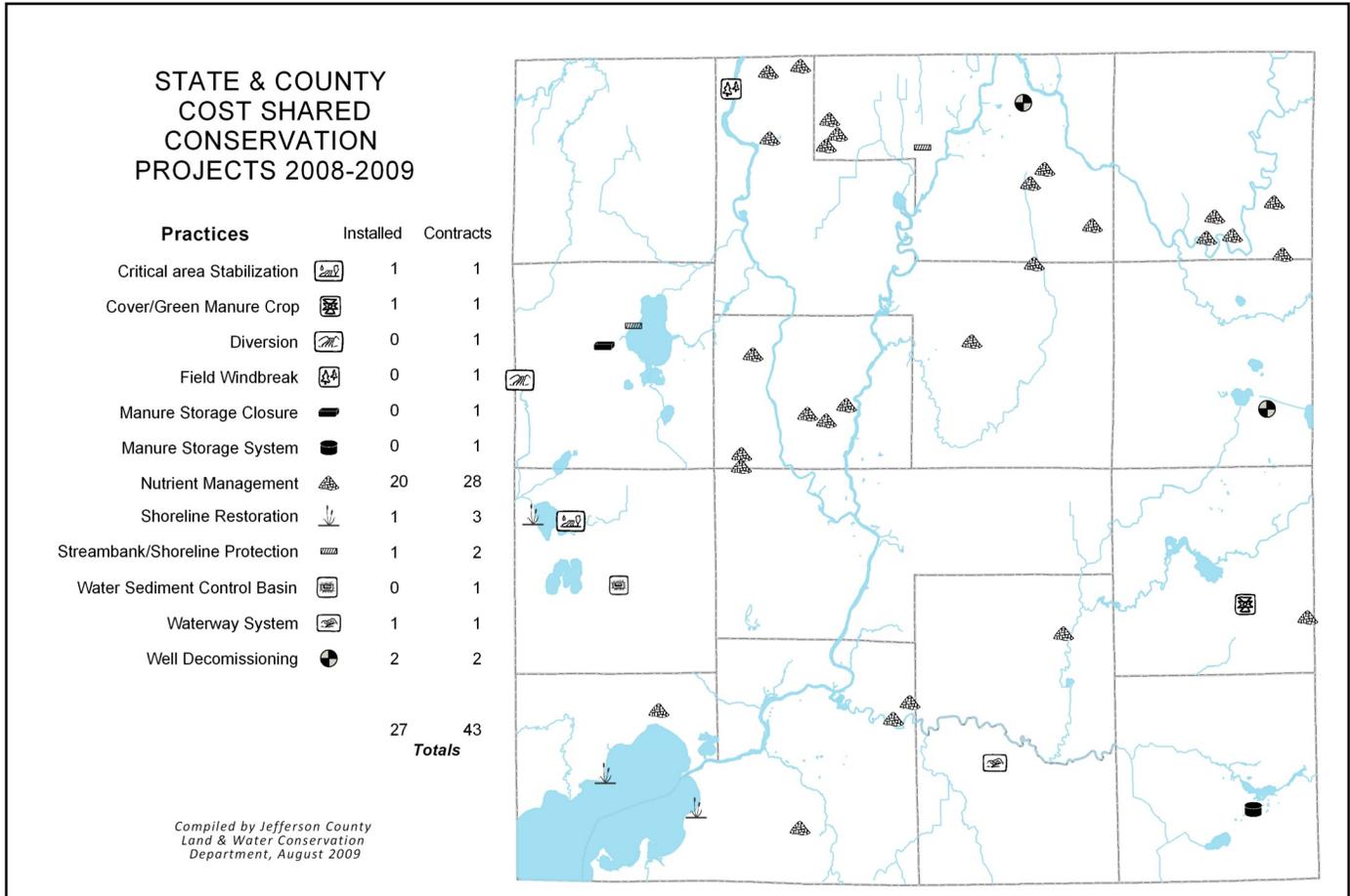
The Department will receive approximately \$3,500 to work with 25 landowners to re-enroll acreage in CRP contracts that are set to expire. These existing contracts will expire on September 30th. Eligible contracts must be completed by that date. NRCS will be providing training for staff on site evaluation and contract development. If this arrangement proves to be successful, the Department will seek to enter into additional cooperative agreements with NRCS in the future.

Practices included in these contracts include filter strips, riparian buffers, wildlife scrapes and wetland restorations. A field visit will need to be made to each site to determine if the practice is eligible for re-enrollment. Inappropriate cover such as reed canary grass or an excess of undesirable woody vegetation may make the site ineligible.

Another new revenue source recently approved by the Land and Water Conservation Committee is the implementation of a \$5 annual certification fee for Farmland Preservation Program participants. This revenue source is expected to generate just under \$5,000. It will go into effect beginning January of 2010.

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# 2008/2009 CONSERVATION PRACTICES



The Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department had three different funding sources for cost-sharing of Best Management Practices for 2009. The County cost-sharing program essentially has been discontinued due to funding shortfalls but we were able to use unspent carryover from 2008. There was \$23,400 available for 2009. The State grant funds are divided into two separate programs; Nutrient Management Cost-sharing and Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Program funding. The Nutrient Management dollars totaled \$30,000 while we received \$20,400 for LWRM. All sources of cost sharing have been significantly reduced due to budget constraints.

The funding for Nutrient Management has all been contracted for 2009. A total of 8 contracts covering 870 cropland acres were signed this year. State cost share dollars have also been allocated for water and sediment control basin repair with underground outlets.

The County Cost-share Program carry over has been used to sign contracts for stream bank restoration and shoreline habitat.

All Best Management Practices that receive cost-sharing are required to enter a maintenance period of 10 years. Cost-share recipients must maintain and care for the practice installed. Periodic checks are carried out by the Land & Water Conservation Department to insure compliance with this provision. If practices are not maintained land owners must either bring the practices back into compliance or pay back the cost sharing funds they have received.

# FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) provides tax credits to agricultural landowners throughout the state. In Jefferson County, 987 landowners, with 144,162 acres participate in the program.

In 2008 (for the 2007 tax year) an average credit of \$559 was realized per participant, bringing \$480,462 back into the County.

In Jefferson County, approximately 73% of our eligible landowners participate in the tax credit program.

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.

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.

All participants are reviewed at least once every six years for compliance with their conservation plan. In 2009, 215 landowners were checked for compliance. This review is done either in the office or with an actual farm visit. Most



# CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ~ CREP

The State of Wisconsin has extended its Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture to participate in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The new contract period extends through January 31, 2013.

Under CREP, landowners are paid an annual rental payment by the USDA to take sensitive lands out of crop production. Contract lengths are 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 2008, six landowners enrolled 21 acres into CREP. A total of 727 acres have been enrolled since the programs inception in 2002, with over \$308,000 in State funding having been paid to Jefferson County landowners.

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.

## PROGRESS ON ROME POND

In the spring of 2008, the Land and Water Conservation Department received a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to fund a study on Rome Pond in the Town of Sullivan. Accomplishments of the project so far include completion of the aquatic plant survey and a training workshop for individuals wanting to monitor for invasive species in lakes. The training was a success involving 16 participants.

For the remainder of the project, the LWCD will be working cooperatively with the Rome Pond Improvement Association and the public on developing an aquatic plant management plan for Rome Pond. The total budget is \$4,025 with the DNR funding \$3,018.75 and the remainder being contributed by the County with staff time.

## LOWER SPRING LAKE WORK

The Land and Water Conservation Department and the Lower Spring Lake District have joined forces to update the lake's aquatic plant management plan. The District voted to reimburse the County for the time put into the project by the Department's summer intern, and the costs of gas and equipment. Reimbursements are estimated to be approximately \$900.

The aquatic plant survey is now complete with data analysis on-going. LWCD staff will meet with the Department of Natural Resources, Lake District board members, and the public to determine beneficial changes to their plant management.



The plant harvester used on Lower Spring Lake.

## Phosphorus, Sediment, and e-coli, Oh My!



LWCD staff and volunteers collecting samples.

The extreme flooding events of 2007 and 2008 highlighted a problem with a stream entering Rock Lake. Large amounts of sediment and phosphorus were washed into a channel on the west side of the lake. In addition, water tests showed the presence of e-coli in the water. These three things were not only a concern to the residents of the channel who have spent thousands of dollars in dredging costs, but also a concern to the health of Rock Lake.

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The LWCD provided assistance to the Rock Lake Improvement Association (RLIA) to determine what next steps need to be taken and apply for a Department of Natural Resources grant. The grant was awarded to RLIA and they hired a consultant. The LWCD has been providing support to the project through strategizing with the consultant and assisting with water sampling. A portion of the LWCD intern's time is being reimbursed through this grant project. The final outcome of the project should be an understanding of the source of the pollutants and suggesting remedies.

The consultant will be giving an update to the public at the RLIA annual meeting on Saturday, August 22 at the main Korth Park shelter at 10 am. Everyone is welcome to attend!

## NON-METALLIC MINING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY



Nonmetallic mining continues to be a widespread activity in Jefferson county. Currently there are 25 non-exempt permitted sites in the County with approved reclamation plans. The activities at these sites provide sand, gravel, crushed stone, construction aggregate and topsoil. In the 2009 permitting season nearly 475 acres of open extraction and related

activities have been documented. This includes 21 newly affected acres along with 29 acres awaiting permit release.

The Department of Transportation (WiDOT) State Highway 26 project has provided nearby landowners the opportunity to market extractive materials. As stated in NR 135 these areas are exempt from permitting for the specific road project and the duration of WiDOT contracts.

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, and the potential to enhance wildlife habitat while increasing land value and tax revenue.

Sources: WDNR And Jefferson County Nonmetallic Mining Ordinance & Site Documentation.

# Survey Says...

## Department Assessments of Agricultural Resources

### 2009 SOIL LOSS TRANSECT SURVEY

2009 marks the 12th anniversary of conducting the transect survey to monitor soil loss trends in the County. This year's survey was conducted the week of June 9th.

The roadside cropland transect survey method is designed to gather information on tillage and crop residue management systems. The database application, Win-Transect, supplied by various cooperating Wisconsin Agencies, including the Wisconsin Department of Ag, allows for a consistent method of recording the survey data.

A pre-established survey route is driven each year and the annual survey points are monitored at an estimated half mile interval for both left and right sides of the road. The survey team records the current crop, amount of residue and tillage system at nearly 750 observed active

points, into the database. That information is then further compiled to provide overall soil loss and estimated trends in tillage and cropping systems throughout the County. Locations of higher than average soil loss can be identified and landowners informed of the problem with corrective conservation practices suggested.

The following is a summary of the results from the 2009 Transect Survey:

- ◆ Approximately 172,700 cropland acres were surveyed.
- ◆ 84% of all fields were at or below the level of soil loss established by the USDA as tolerable.
- ◆ The average county soil loss is 2.5 tons /acre/year. The maximum tolerable soil loss is 5 tons/acre/year.

- ◆ 41% of crop ground was planted to corn.
- ◆ 24% of crop ground was planted to soybeans.
- ◆ Hay made up 19% of cropland
- ◆ Almost 50% of the land was tilled using reduced tillage methods.
- ◆ Almost 18% of the land was no-tilled.



## 2009 Livestock Inventory



The Livestock Inventory is conducted on a four to five year interval and accounts for livestock populations

which can be viewed from public roads throughout the County. Known locations not visible from any public access are also accounted for. This year's survey is currently being conducted.

Locations are recorded for farms with livestock which may include cattle, swine, horses, chickens or other exotic species.

A ranking system is being developed this year in an effort to track larger operations.

With the assistance of our summer intern the information is entered into a database which enables that data to be associated with a fire-number location. With the use of a GIS (Geographic Information System) program, we are able to analyze and map the data.

Applications include allowing GIS data users to target potential areas of conservation practice implementation and assist with nutrient management planning.

Preliminary results of 2009's survey show that there seems to be more raising of animals for personal use with some very small commercial egg operations. Also the continued consolidation of dairy operations seems apparent.

Trend analysis and mapping has been performed in the past and will remain the major component of any end-use for the data.

The next survey will be conducted again in 4-5 years, and will continue to monitor trends and examine data.

## 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. Our Department's goal is to work with farmers to correct these violations rather than seek enforcement action.

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

letter details 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 2008 the LWCD has received and investigated six potential violations of NR 151. The complaints were for four manure stacks within a Water Quality Management Area, and two incidents involving manure spreading. We also worked cooperatively with one land owner to resolve



### 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 Condi-

tional 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 Department. 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 2008 Jefferson County LWCD has received 4 Livestock Siting Applications for review. Two of those have received their permits, and two are in the final stages of their review.

## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FUNDING

In 2009 the Jefferson County LWCD received a special \$30,000 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 11 different landowner/operators. Eight of these offers have been accepted. These contracts will cover a total of 870 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 compliance as long as it is in agricultural production. Plans developed under this program are expected to cover the 2010 to 2013 crop years.

## 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 2008/2009 program year, about 12,000 trees were sold.

The following species were offered: Sugar Maple, Fraser Fir, White Cedar, White Pine, Techny Arborvitae, Blue, White, and

Norway Spruce, Burr and Red Oak, Red Osier Dogwood, American Cranberry 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 office.



## 2009 INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

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 so that staff made presentations almost 30 times over the course of the day.

**Conservation Counts** The Conservation Department's newsletter goes out to over 2,000 readers.

**Jefferson County Fair** Land and Water Conservation staff joined other County Departments to provide information to fairgoers.

**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 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.

**USDA Farm Bill Informational Meetings** The Conservation Department was invited to participate in the informational meetings held by the Farm Service Agency that outlined the new Farm Bill. Staff presented a short update on the various programs we administer. There were three meetings with around 50 agricultural producers in attendance at each.

**Koshkonong Creek Watershed Forum** LWCD staff helped plan a 1/2 day event to educate the public on the history, ecology, and immerging issues of the Koshkonong Creek watershed. The event was attended by approximately 70 participants.

**Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring** LWCD staff trained citizens from 3 counties and 6 different lakes on how to monitor, identify, and report aquatic invasive species in lakes.

**NEW AND RETURNING FACES ON THE LAND AND WATER COMMITTEE**



Carlton Zentner

At the beginning of 2009, the County Board voted to restore the Land and Water Conservation Committee to its five member status. The Committee had been reduced to three members two years previously. It was determined that a three member committee was not conducive to proper discussion and decision making, thus it was restored to its full compliment.



George Jaeckel

New to the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Committee is George Jaeckel and returning, after a brief hiatus, is Carlton Zentner. They join current committee members Karen Christian, Greg Torres and Mike Burow. The Department welcomes both new and returning members to the Committee.

**2009 STUDENT INTERN: JENNIFER KISER**



Jennifer Kiser is a senior at the University of Wisconsin Madison. She is working on her B.S. in the Biological Aspects of Conservation.

Jennifer is originally from Buffalo, New York. She moved to Wisconsin to be near her family after completing a five year enlistment in the United States Coast Guard. Jennifer was stationed in New Orleans, LA. She worked as a Marine Science Technician. Her

main duties were to supervise the clean-up of oil spills and hazardous material releases. She moved to Wisconsin one month before Katrina hit New Orleans! Jennifer's passion is travel. Last year she went on a four month back-packing journey through South America. After graduation, Jennifer plans to travel for awhile and then continue her education in the Environmental Public Health field.

She is very excited to be a member of the Land and Water Conservation Department for the summer. She enjoys learning about conservation and how it applies to agriculture. She has participated in an aquatic plant survey on Lower Spring Lake and is involved in a project on Rock Lake which includes obtaining water samples and monitoring sediment.

The Student Intern position is funded through a grant from the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, and monies from the Rock Lake Improvement Association, and the Lower Spring Lake Management District.

**Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department Staff**



**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
- George Jaeckel
- Carlton Zentner

**Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department**

- Mark Watkins, Director
- Patricia Cicero, Water Resources Mgmt. Specialist
- Gerry Kokkonen, GIS /Land Use Specialist
- Nancy Lannert, Resource Conservationist
- Jennifer Kiser, Student Intern
- Beth Klotz, Administrative Clerk
- Joe Strupp, Resource Conservationist

# DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

## A SUMMARY OF THE 2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT

- Managed 987 conservation plans covering 144,162 acres for the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP),
- Conducted status reviews for FPP on 215 farms ,
- Assisted 8 new landowners in applying for FPP,
- Processed 1 voluntary Notice of Non-compliance for FPP,
- Processed 9 Notices of Non-compliance for failure to comply with program requirements,
- Held Annual Tree and Shrub Sale resulting in the establishment of about 12,000 new trees,
- Produced the 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,
- 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,
- Coordinated the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program in conjunction with the DNR,
- Issued one manure storage closure permit,
- Reviewed 25 nutrient management plans covering 12,203 acres,
- Reviewed 4 Livestock Siting Permit applications,
- Applied for and received operational grants from the Wisconsin Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection totaling \$148667, a slight decrease from 2008..
- Continued implementing Land and Water Resource Management Plan Cost Sharing program. A total of \$20,400 in cost-share dollars has been made available from the Department of Agriculture,
- Continued implementing the County Cost-sharing program with \$23,400 available to assist landowners install best management practices,
- Continued allocation of SEG Grant awarded from the Department of Agriculture . A total of \$30,000 in cost-share funds were available for Nutrient Management Planning.
- Issued and monitored 25 Non-metallic mining permit for the 2008-2009 program year. Also reviewed several borrow site reclamation plans in consultation with County Zoning Department.

**"Out of the long list of nature's gifts to man, none is perhaps so utterly essential to human life as soil."**

~From "Soil Conservation" by Hugh Hammond Bennett, The Father of Soil Conservation 1939

## 2010 AND BEYOND

*"The times, they are a changing!" Bob Dylan surely wasn't singing about conservation in his 1964 song about social and political upheaval, but now, like then...the times, they are a changing!*

*One of the biggest changes Land Conservation will face in the upcoming years is the implementation of the Working Lands Initiative. WLI will bring about changes in the implementation of the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program, both in the amount of the actual tax credit our agricultural landowners may receive as well as compliance issues. WLI offers more protection to agricultural lands through conversion fees paid by landowners converting land from A1 zoning. These fees will be used to support the purchase of development rights easements.*

*There will be growing pains with the new WLI but this new statewide endeavor will strengthen conservation, give protection to our State's natural resources and reduce the loss of agricultural land to development.*

*The following is a list of the Departments upcoming and continuing endeavors:*

- \* Work with DATCP as we implement the new Working Lands Initiative.*
  - \* Continue to look for new sources of revenue and grants.*
  - \* Continued implementation of the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program.*
  - \* Start the planning phase of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan update.*
  - \* Continue to recommend and apply appropriate best management practices to protect our natural resources.*
  - \* Continue to promote and review nutrient management plans.*
  - \* Work on completing and implementing an electronic tracking system for NR151.*
  - \* Continue to review Livestock Siting applications for completeness.*
  - \* Continue to handle animal waste complaints and work towards educating livestock owners on proper handling of their animal waste.*
  - \* Maintain the Department's web site and add more features to make its use more convenient.*
  - \* Consider the possibility of accepting credit card payments for the tree sale program.*
  - \* Monitor the latest developments in alternative uses of animal waste products.*
  - \* Offer assistance to our conservation partners such as Town and Country RC&D and the Rock River Coalition on environmental projects.*
  - \* Continue to assist the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission.*
  - \* Remain aware of Emerald Ashe Borer*
-