



# Ties to the Land



## Your Resource Partners in Kenosha and Racine Counties:

Racine County Land Conservation Division  
University of Wisconsin Extension

Farm Service Agency Office

Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

FALL 2007 NEWSLETTER

### Table of Contents

#### Farm Service Agency

Crop Disaster Program .....	1
Direct Payments.....	1
Commodity Loans and LDPs.....	2
NAP Program Sign-Up.....	2
MILC Payments Suspended.....	2
Accuracy in Payments Compliance.....	2
Linda Feldkamp Celebrates 40 Years of Service!.....	3
Kenosha/Racine Staff.....	3
Dates to Remember.....	3

#### Racine County Land Conservation

New Employee.....	4
August Rains and Flooding.....	4
Tree Program.....	4
Wildlife Damage Program.....	4

#### Natural Resources Conservation Service & Kenosha County Land Conservation

Managing Trees on Your Property brochure.....	5-6
---	-----

#### Kenosha/Racine Counties UW Extension

We Energies Agricultural Incentive Programs.....	7
Workers Compensation Information.....	7

### 2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

County offices will send applications for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) when the program is announced. **No sign up deadline has been announced for the program as of this date.** To qualify, losses must have exceeded 35% of the farms' **insured** actual production.

The program that will become effective September 10<sup>th</sup> is a program to cover losses of livestock or feed in 2005. Please call the FSA office if you think you have any of these losses.

### 2007 DIRECT PAYMENTS TO BE ISSUED

We will issue final direct payments for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) to those operators who have furnished land owner statements starting October 1, 2007. Final payments represent the second half of the 2007 direct DCP payment. If you received an advance payment, you will receive the remaining 78% in October. If you did not receive an advance, expect to see 100% of your farm payment in the month of October.

### 2008 DIRECT SIGN UP

It is still unclear what next year will bring, because the 2007 Farm Bill is still being negotiated in Washington DC. We will inform you of 2008 programs as soon as the information becomes available.

### RECONSTITUTION REMINDER

Changes that require farm reconstitutions such as property sold, or developed should be reported as soon as possible so that we can update your records prior to sign up.



## **COMMODITY LOANS AND LDP'S**

Commodity loans and LDP's are available on a variety of crops including barley, corn, grain sorghum, mohair, oats, oilseeds, soybeans, wheat, unshorn pelts, and wool. **Corn silage is not eligible for a commodity loan.** For commodities to be eligible for loans or LDP's, they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC.

To be eligible for loans and LDP's, you must file a crop report, meet conservation compliance requirements, have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date the loan or LDP is requested and, in the case of a loan, retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding; and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

Commodity loans are an excellent way to obtain operating funds while you wait for the market prices to peak. These loans mature nine months following the month of issuance. Currently the interest rate is 6.0%. The producer is responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity in farm storage throughout the term of the loan.

It is **very important** to make sure you do not remove or dispose of loan collateral without authorization. Violating provisions of the loan and LDP program may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and LDP's. Maintaining loan collateral is the borrower's responsibility. Liquidated damages assessed for violating these provisions can result in a fine amounting to several thousand dollars.

## **NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) FOR PERENNIAL CROPS**

The NAP is designed to cover losses due to damaging weather conditions and covers losses in excess of a 50% loss. Losses are generally determined by the percentage of loss compared to the producer's actual yield history. Lost production eligible for payment is paid at 55% of the value of the crop.

Producers interested in obtaining NAP coverage on their Perennial Crops acreage should visit their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible to complete an application for their 2007 acres. Perennial Crops include apples, grapes, blackberries, blueberries, cranberries, raspberries, strawberries, honey, and maple sap. **The deadline to sign up is November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**

Producers are reminded that NAP coverage is only available for crops where coverage is not available under the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIC).

**Notices of losses on crops covered by NAP must be filed with the local FSA Office within 15 days of the date of the disaster.** Notices of loss must be filed for each loss related weather event or condition that causes damage to the crop.

## **MILC PAYMENTS SUSPENDED DUE TO RISING PRICES**

The county office wants you to know that due to an increase in milk prices, the MILC payment rates for the past months have been zero.

Do you need to bring in any milk statements? Please look at the chart below to see if you are eligible for a payment. **If you have not brought in your receipts for any month with a payment listed below please do so by November 1<sup>st</sup> to remain eligible for payment.**

2006	October	\$0.4318
2006	November	\$0.4386
2006	December	\$0.4284
2007	January	\$0.034
2007	February	\$0.102
2007	March through September	\$0.00

## **FSA'S 2007 NATIONAL COMPLIANCE AND SPOT CHECK REVIEW**

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agricultural producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency.

This year we are required to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method, which also includes FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review all participation as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. These checks are ongoing and will be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on participation.

FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations.

## LINDA FELDKAMP CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Linda Feldkamp celebrated 40 years of service with the Farm Service Agency. Linda is now the Administrative/Price Support Program Technician in the Racine Kenosha FSA Office, but originally started as the Conservation Program Clerk for the Kenosha County ASCS Office. Many things have changed through the years, especially the programs. Linda recalls that in 1984 workload increased dramatically through the Payment-In-Kind (PIK) program and the work seems to have continued to grow since then. The year 1986 brought computers to the ASCS offices, which has made some things easier and some things harder. There was also a combination of the Racine and Kenosha ASCS offices in 1986, which added yet another number to her list of experiences. In 1999, Linda watched former County Executive Director (CED) Elmer Strassburg retire. In 2002 she welcomed the new CED, Kim Iczkowski into the office. In 2003 she watched Program Technician Eileen Doyle retire and in 2005, Program Technician Rita Arnold also moved on to enjoyment of retired life. Linda also saw Program Technician Angie Drews join the office in 2005. She has seen many people come and go through the years, but her smile, laugh and welcoming personality has always remained the same. She hopes to assist (and sometimes give a hard time) to the farmers of Racine and Kenosha County for a few more years so please stop by and congratulate her for 40 years of truly dedicated service to the producers of Racine and Kenosha County. We hope to have her in the office for another 40 years!!



**Linda with current U.S. Secretary of  
Agriculture, Mike Johanns**

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE RACINE KENOSHA FSA OFFICE STAFF

Sometimes it's nice to learn a little something about the people you deal with when you come into our office. Listed below are a few interesting things about the Racine Kenosha FSA staff.

### **LINDA FELDKAMP**

**Length of Service:** 40 years

**Family:** Husband, Bruce and Daughter, Casey

**Did You Know:** Linda is very active in the Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary. Currently she is serving as the Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary Guard, and in 5 years she will become the Wisconsin State VFW Auxiliary President.

### **ANGIE DREWS**

**Years worked:** 2 years

**Family:** Husband- Joey, 2 Dogs- Shorty and Dopey, 3 Cats- Julien, Lucky, Smokey

**Did You Know:** Angie is the daughter of Carol Schmuki, Program Technician in the Waukesha Milwaukee FSA Office, Carol has been in the Wauk/Mil office for 28 years.

### **EVELYN PIZZALA**

**Years worked:** 29 years

**Family:** Husband- Rollin, 2 Sons- Tommy and Jimmy, 2 Daughters- Tammy and Christina



**Did You Know:** Evelyn's children have spread out- Tommy and Jimmy are in Kenosha, Tammy recently moved to Minnesota with her husband Paul, and Christina lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### **KIM ICZKOWSKI**

**Years worked:** 6 years

**Family:** Husband- Mark, 1 Son- Elliot, 1 Cat- Scout

**Did You Know:** Kim enjoys running and annually does a 4-mile run at the Wo-Zha-Wa Fall Festival in Wisconsin Dells in September to keep active.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

October 8	Office closed in observance of Columbus Day
November 11	Office closed in observance of Veterans Day
November 20	Deadline to apply for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) for Perennial Crops.
December 1	Final date to return ballots in FSA Election
December 9	Count Ballots at FSA Office

## Racine County Land Conservation

14200 Washington Ave.

Sturtevant, WI 53177

262-886-8479

### Land Conservation Hires New Employee



Hello Racine and Kenosha Counties, my name is Jon Grove. I am the new employee at Racine County Land Conservation in Ives Grove, hired as Project Specialist. I recently graduated from UW-Parkside with a degree in Geography, a concentration in applied environmental geography and also certification in Geographic Information Systems. While at UW-Parkside, I volunteered with many different programs gaining valuable knowledge that I use today at my new career. Also, while at Parkside I devoted much of my time towards soil conservation and working with GIS applications, which both have given me a well-balanced background. I was introduced to Racine County LCD during an internship with Racine County Planning and Development Department. During my internship, I gained valuable experience towards my career.



I have lived in Racine County all my life and grew up on a farm in Caledonia. My family raised livestock, built a horse boarding facility, and has implemented a crop rotation system of corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. While living on the farm, I applied my knowledge from my educational experience to everyday working situations because this region has highly valuable land that is used for farming which then needs important soil and water management practices.

In my free time I enjoy the outdoors, whether it is working on my family's farm, hunting, fishing, camping or hiking. My recreation hobbies and farming background drove me to pursue a career in which I can help conserve our natural resources. I look forward to working with all of you in the future to help protect our valuable environment. To contact me call 262-886-8479, or email [Jonathan.Grove@GoRacine.org](mailto:Jonathan.Grove@GoRacine.org)

## August Rains and Flooding

As measurable rain was a daily occurrence in August, our office receives calls from many citizens. The calls range from complaints about flooded yards and basements, to positive comments about the integrity of the conservation projects installed through our programs.

If you have existing erosion concerns that are more apparent due to the recent rains and flooding, please feel free to contact our office to discuss any potential projects and cost-sharing for 2008.

### Tree Program - 2007

It's that time of year again! Time to order your trees for next spring. The Racine County Land Conservation office has provided your order blank in this issue of the newsletter. This year's order form includes many of the usual selections of pines, spruces, oaks, and shrubs.

Prairie and Wildflower seed mixes are available for your native planting needs. Please review your order carefully and mail to:

Racine County Land Conservation  
14200 Washington Avenue  
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Make your checks payable to Racine County. Also, make sure to include a daytime phone number.

Tree pick-up will take place in mid-late April, we will send you a notice with the exact dates.

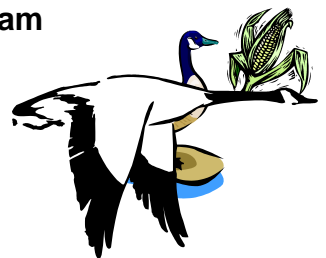
Supplies are limited, so order early to ensure you receive the trees you've selected. If you have any questions about the tree program, please call us at 262-886-8479, or go to the Racine County website at [www.racineco.com](http://www.racineco.com) and look under the alphabetical search "T" and click on Tree Order Form. You can also click on "L" and view the Land Conservation page for more information or additional order forms.



### Wildlife Damage Program

The Wisconsin Wildlife Damage, Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) is available for Racine County residents. The counties are contracted with USDA-APHIS – Wildlife Services to provide program assistance.

If you have crop damage due to deer, geese, or turkeys, then contact USDA-APHIS – Wildlife Service at **1-800-433-0663**. **All crop damage must be reported within 14 days of the first damage each year.**

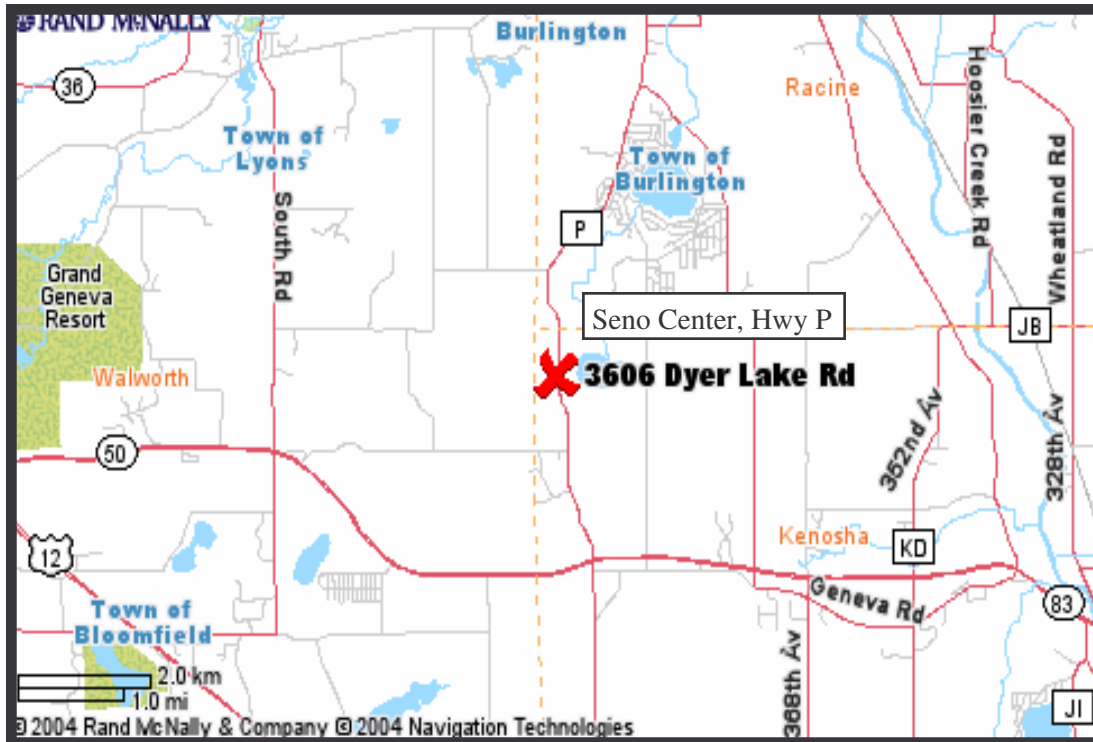




## Managing Trees on Your Acreage, Saturday, October 27th, 2007

Workshop Map and Driving Directions

Location: Seno Center, 3606 Dyer Lake Road (Hwy P), Burlington, WI



The Seno Center is located 5 miles south of Burlington and 7 miles north and east of Lake Geneva on **County Hwy P**. It is 1.5 miles north of State Hwy 50 and 15 miles west of Kenosha.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

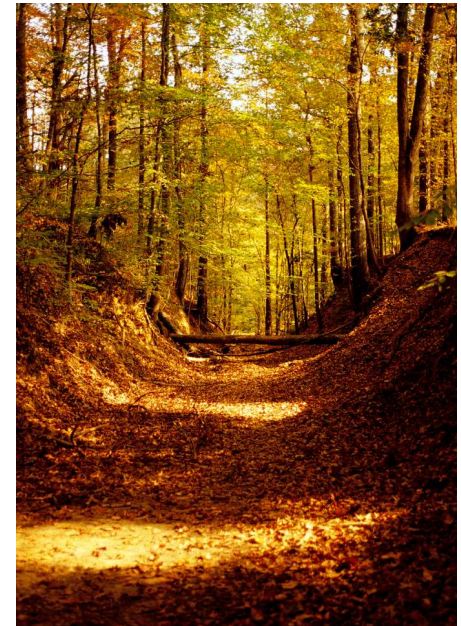
**Rose Skora**, Kenosha County UW-Extension 262-857-1945 or [rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu)

**Kendra Johncock**, Seno Center, 262-743-1694

UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA. To ensure equal access, please make requests for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible prior to the scheduled program, service or activity. For handicap accessibility, contact Kendra at the Seno Center in advance to make special arrangements at 262-743-1694.



# Managing Trees on Your Acreage Workshop



**Saturday,  
October 27th, 2007  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
The Seno Center,  
Burlington, WI**

Learn how to identify the trees on your acreage, techniques and tips for planting new trees, what's happening with Emerald Ash Borer and where to turn for help with woodland management.

# Managing Trees on Your Acreage

## Registration Form

Registration fee:  
**\$10/person**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration information to:

Kenosha County UW-Extension  
Managing Trees on Your Acreage  
P O Box 550 Bristol, WI 53104

Make checks payable to: **UW-Extension**

**Registration Deadline:**  
**Monday, October 22nd, 2007**

# Managing Trees on Your Acreage Workshop Agenda

Saturday, October 27th, 2007

*This workshop is designed for people wishing to plant and maintain woodlots.*

**8:30 - 9:00: Registration**

**9:00: Welcome and Introductions**

**9:15 - 10:30am: What Trees are These?**

Join our "woodland experts" from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the SENO Woodland Education Center as they teach us how to identify common woodland trees during a classroom session and relaxed stroll in the woods.

**10:30 - 11:30: Success with Tree Planting**

Learn what trees might grow best on your land, how to prepare your land for new trees (Including invasive plant management and the latest information on the spread of Emerald Ash Borer), planting techniques, long term care and where to get new trees.

**11:30 - Noon: Assistance with Managing your Woodland**

This session will include a general discussion about the people, programs and organizations that can help you manage your trees.

### Disclaimers/FYIs:

- Please dress appropriately for the day. We will spend time indoors and outdoors.

---

### **Sponsored by:**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Farm Service Agency  
Racine County Land Conservation Division  
Kenosha & Racine Counties UW-Cooperative Extension  
UW-Cooperative Extension Basin Education Program  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
The Seno Center  
Kenosha/Racine Land Trust  
Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation Division

---

<b>Kenosha County</b>	<b>Racine County</b>
<b>PO Box 550</b>	<b>14200 Washington Avenue</b>
<b>Bristol, WI 53104</b>	<b>Sturtevant, WI 53177</b>
<b>262-857-1945</b>	<b>262-886-8460</b>

Article Submitted by: Rose Skora  
rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu

## **WE ENERGIES OFFERS AGRICULTURAL INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

We Energies offers a variety of energy and cost saving programs for farmers in Kenosha and Racine Counties. Below is some information specific to the *Agricultural Incentives Program*.

You can reduce farm operating costs by installing energy efficient equipment. Maybe it's as simple as updating the lighting in the barn with more efficient fixtures and bulbs or upgrading to a variable-speed drive on your vacuum pump. Whatever the solution, We Energies *Agricultural Incentives Program* understands the needs and concerns of our state's farmers and can help you increase profits, reduce energy use and improve productivity. You get the added benefit of knowing you're helping preserve Wisconsin's environment as well. Less energy used means fewer negative impacts on our air, water and land. Through the We Energies *Agricultural Incentives Program*, you can:

- Receive assistance in making energy efficiency improvements with grants and financial incentives.
- Receive assistance when your compressor fails.
- Receive assistance with your new parlor design.
- Find your farm's energy wasters and learn what you can do to fix them.
- Put new agricultural technologies to work for you with suggestions and advice from energy advisors
- Learn how a renewable energy system, such as an anaerobic digester, could make your farm more energy self-sufficient.

- Discover new resources and information with access to training, education and other state, federal and utility programs.

## **WE ENERGIES DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK & GREENHOUSE INCENTIVES**

Incentives are available for eligible dairy and livestock producers for installing energy efficient lighting, ventilation, milk house equipment and more. Additionally, the greenhouse program offers assistance with climate control, heaters, fans and more.

For more information, contact the *Agricultural Incentives Program* at 1-866-727-1097, Tara Daniels at 262-770-2335 or check out the We Energies website at: <http://www.we-energies.com/agricultureservices>.



## **WORKER'S COMPENSATION**

Worker's compensation is a mandatory state law that provides workers and their dependents with financial and medical benefits in the case of an on-the-job injury or death.

In the case of agriculture, worker's compensation must be provided if you employ six or more workers (at one or more locations) on the same day for 20 days (does not need to be consecutive) during the year from January to December. The employer must have insurance within 10 days of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of employment.

**EXCEPTION:** Some relatives are not counted as employees.

Contact the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Worker's Compensation Division at 608-266-1340 for questions or to determine if your family members count as employees in relation to paying worker's compensation insurance. Additional information can also be found on the following website: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/wc/employers/default.htm>

## DIRECTORY OF AGENCIES

### Racine/Kenosha Farm Service Agency (FSA)

1012 Vine Street, Union Grove, WI 53182 1330  
Phone: 262-878-3353, Ext 2 Fax: 262-878-3283

### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1012 Vine Street, Union Grove, WI 53182 1330  
Phone: 262-878-1243, Ext 3 Fax: 262-878-3283

### Racine County Land Conservation Division

14200 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant, WI 53177  
Phone: 262-886-8479, Fax: 262-886-8488

### Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation

19600 75<sup>th</sup> St, PO Box 520, Bristol, WI 53104  
Phone: 262-857-1895, Fax: 262-857-6508

### Kenosha County UW-Extension

19600 75<sup>th</sup> St, PO Box 550, Bristol, WI 53104  
Phone: 262-857-1945, Fax: 262-857-1998



### Racine County UW-Extension

14200 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant, WI 53177  
Phone: 262-886-8460, Fax: 262-886-8489

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>: Observation of Veterans Day:** FSA/NRCS offices closed

**Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>:**  
**Thanksgiving, All Offices Closed**

**Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Day after Thanksgiving,** All County offices closed

**Monday-Tuesday, December 24-25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve and Day:** All offices closed

**Monday-Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Eve and Day:**  
All offices closed

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Ties to the Land Newsletter**

**Your Resource Partners:**  
Farm Service Agency  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Racine County Land Conservation  
Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation  
UW-Cooperative Extension

**P.R.S.R.T.S.T.D**  
**U.S. Postage & Fees Paid**  
**Permit #15**  
**Bristol, WI**

**TIES TO THE LAND NEWSLETTER**  
**Kenosha/Racine Farm Service Agency**  
**US Department of Agriculture**  
**1012 Vine Street**  
**Union Grove, WI 53182 1330**