



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

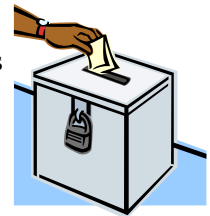
October - December 2009

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2009 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Don't forget to vote in the 2009 FSA County Committee Election. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by November 6, and ballots must be returned to FSA county offices by December 7, 2009. It is important that producers sign their ballots; without a valid signature the vote doesn't count.



The LAA up for election this year is LAA-1 which consists of the townships in Racine County; Burlington, Dover, Norway, Rochester and Waterford. The candidate for election is incumbent:

Michael Weinkauff: Mike is a cash grain farmer from the Rochester area.

Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues, such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing county executive directors. County committee elections give farmers and ranchers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them.

If you participate or cooperate in programs administered by FSA and live in the local administrative area conducting an election, you are eligible to vote. Eligible voters, from the townships above, who have not received a ballot by November 15, should contact their administering FSA county office. Eligible voters must participate or cooperate in FSA programs.

Newly elected county committee members take office January 1, 2010.

Special Note: There may be a 2 - 3 week delay of receiving 2009 DCP Payments because of some glitches in the DCP software. We will process them as soon as possible.

Racine-Kenosha-Milwaukee County FSA Office



CONTINUOUS CRP AVAILABLE

USDA has indicated there will not be a general signup scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. The budget has no available funding for CRP general signups, and instead advocates enrollment in Continuous CRP. Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These targeted practices will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

Please contact Jeanette at extension 105 if you are interested in finding out if your land is eligible for Continuous CRP.

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS ON CRP ACRES

It is up to the local FSA County Committee whether snowmobile trails are allowed to cross acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. If this affects any of your CRP acreage, contact your local FSA office to request this particular use prior to allowing a trail on your CRP land

COMMODITY LOANS

Commodity loans 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.** The loans can either be farm-stored in eligible structures or warehouse-stored at an eligible commercial grain facility.

For commodities to be eligible for loans, 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 is requested, retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding; and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

Beneficial interest in the commodity means the producer retains the ability to make decisions about the commodity, and they are responsible for loss or damage to the commodity; and have title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan—even if you regain beneficial interest.

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 1.5 %. The producer is responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity in farm storage throughout the term of the loan.

2009 Loan rates are:

Kenosha & Racine	Corn	\$1.91/bushel
Milwaukee	Corn	\$1.84/bushel
Kenosha & Racine	Soybeans	\$5.06/bushel
Milwaukee	Soybeans	\$5.07/bushel
Kenosha	Wheat	\$1.92/bushel
Racine	Wheat	\$1.87/bushel
Milwaukee	Wheat	\$2.03/bushel
Kenosha/Racine/Milwaukee	Oats	\$1.40/bushel
Kenosha/Racine/Milwaukee	Barley	\$1.63/bushel

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.

DAIRY PRODUCERS



For those Dairy Producers in the MILC program it is important that you are sure you know what month you want your coverage to start, since our new program year starts October, 1, 2009. You have only up to the 14th of the prior month to elect the month of election such as: If you want October 1st as your start date you have only until September 14th, to select that date.

2010 NON INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when actual production is less than 50% of yields, loss of 50% of the value of the inventory of certain crops or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. NAP is for catastrophic losses and therefore covers the amount of the loss greater than 50% of the expected production, based on the approved yield and reported acreage. NAP is available only for crops for which Federal Crop Insurance is not available in the county and for those commercially grown crops approved by the State FSA Committee. The NAP payment rate is 55% of an average market price for a specific commodity established also by the State FSA Committee. NAP crops have Application Closing Dates by which the administrative fee of \$250.00 per crop not to exceed \$750.00 per county per year, must be paid to the FSA office in order to have NAP coverage.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 12	FSA and NRCS Offices closed for Columbus Day Observance
November 11	FSA and NRCS Offices closed for Veterans Day Observance
November 6	COC Election ballots mailed to eligible voters
November 20	2009 NAP deadline for perennial crops
December 7	Deadline to return election ballots to FSA offices

Producers who qualify as limited resource producers may request a waiver of the NAP administrative fee.

For those who want to be eligible to apply for the 2010 Supplemental Disaster Programs they must pay the NAP fee for ALL of their non-insurable crops for which Wisconsin offers NAP coverage, plus obtain an insurance plan for all of their insurable crops on ALL farms.

The following chart shows the final dates to purchase crop insurance or NAP on most crops in our counties.

9/30/09	Fall-planted <u>NAP</u> crops including: forage production, mint, oats for forage, potatoes, rye, Christmas trees, aquaculture, ginseng root, turfgrass sod, mushrooms, and floriculture Fall-planted <u>Crop Insurance</u> crops including: forage production (alfalfa, alfalfa mix, and red clover), and wheat
11/20/2009	Perennial <u>NAP</u> crops: raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, grapes, blackberries, honey, and maple sap Perennial <u>Crop Insurance</u> crops including: Apples
3/15/10	Spring-seeded <u>NAP</u> crops including: squash, peppers, cabbage, cucumbers, lettuce, pumpkins Spring-seeded <u>Crop Insurance</u> crops including: Corn, sweet corn, soybeans, barley, oats for grain, forage seeding, and AGR Lite

STORAGE FACILITY LOANS FOR HAY AND FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

As of August 17, 2009 Producers may submit applications requesting aid in erecting fruit and vegetable cold storage facilities and storage for hay. Interest rates are reported on a monthly basis and the rate set for the loan will be the rate in effect on the date of approval.

The term of these loans can run from 7 years to 12 years depending upon total costs. Loans \$100,000 or less are 7 years, \$100,000.01 - \$250,000 are 7 or 10 years and \$250,000.01 - \$500,000 are 7, 10, or 12 years.

There is a non refundable \$100 fee that is due at the time of application. This fee is used to help defray the costs to CCC of making the storage facility loan.

Loans are computed at 85% of eligible costs or 80% if the requestor would like to have the requirement waived for having a severance agreement filed. The amount of the loan depends upon security required.

A producer who does request a loan is required to purchase federal crop insurance for all crops on the farm and if the crop is not covered by Federal Crop Insurance, NAP coverage is required. Also insurance on the facility, with CCC as beneficiary and flood insurance, if required, is also to be proven on an annual basis.

It is imperative that no preparation for the facility is made prior to obtaining FSA Approval of the project. Any early work may make your project ineligible for coverage.

The eligibility for erecting a facility is the computations needed for you to store a 2 year harvest. We must take off any storage you now have available.

Again because of the many rules involved in this program it would be of your benefit to contact Linda at the FSA office extension 100. Forms are available to start the paperwork immediately because of the time restraints involved in this program.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

County Executive Director, Kimberly Iczkowski welcomed her second son into her family on June 19th. Brody Gene weighed 7 lb 13 oz and was 21 ½" long. Her other son Elliot is very happy being a big brother.



CONFIRMATION OF EMERALD ASH BORER IN KENOSHA COUNTY

One adult emerald ash borer (EAB) beetle was discovered in a survey trap on the west side of the city of Kenosha on Monday, August 10, 2009. The beetle was sent to federal identifiers and subsequently confirmed as EAB. The beetle was discovered during a routine inspection of the trap. An emerald ash borer quarantine went into effect on Saturday, August 22, 2009 for Kenosha County. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's emergency rule establishes quarantines on materials that could transport EAB from Kenosha County. A Federal quarantine for is expected to be enacted soon.

The quarantine restricts the movement of products outside of the county borders that could transport any of the life stages of EAB. Products such as all species of hardwood firewood, ash logs or timber, and ash nursery stock cannot be moved outside of the county without state or federal approval. Certification for firewood movement is available to firewood dealers only.

A confirmed EAB larva was also discovered in the City of Franklin in Milwaukee County on August 28, 2009. City public works officials observed ash trees showing signs of EAB, including D-shaped exit holes. State officials were notified, and survey specialists arrived on site to conduct further evaluation with public works staff. A larva was found after peeling the bark on a suspected tree.

As of September 1, 2009 the tree-killing emerald ash borer has been discovered in seven Wisconsin counties: Brown, Crawford, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Vernon and Washington. EAB quarantines currently exist in Crawford, Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Vernon and Washington counties. The quarantine for Brown and Kenosha counties went into effect on August 22, 2009. Milwaukee County quarantine is pending. Background information regarding EAB and quarantine map updates can be found on the web at www.emeraldashborer.wi.

UW Extension along with cooperating universities have produced a Multistate EAB Insecticide Publication titled *Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from*

Emerald Ash Borer and is available in printable format at no cost at <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>.

Key points and summary recommendations from this publication include:

- ✓ Insecticides can effectively protect ash trees from EAB.
- ✓ Unnecessary insecticide applications waste money. If EAB has not been detected within 10-15 miles, your trees are at low risk. Be aware of the status of EAB in your location. Current maps of known EAB populations can be found at www.emeraldashborer.info
- ✓ Trees that are already infested and showing signs of canopy decline when treatments are initiated may continue to decline in the first year after treatment, and then begin to show improvement in the second year due to time lag associated with vascular healing. Trees exhibiting more than 50 percent canopy decline are unlikely to recover even if treated.
- ✓ Emamectin benzoate is the only product tested to date that controls EAB for more than one year with a single application. It also provided a higher level of control than other products in side-by-side studies.
- ✓ Soil drenches and injections are most effective when made at the base of the trunk. Imidacloprid applications made in the spring or the fall have been shown to be equally effective.
- ✓ Soil injections should be no more than 2-4 inches deep, to avoid placing the insecticide beneath feeder roots.
- ✓ To facilitate uptake, systemic trunk and soil insecticides should be applied when the soil is moist but not saturated or excessively dry.
- ✓ Research and experience suggest that effectiveness of insecticides has been less consistent on larger trees. Research has not been conducted on trees larger than 25-inch DBH.
- ✓ When treating very large trees under high pest pressure, it may be necessary to consider combining two treatment strategies.
- ✓ Homeowners wishing to protect trees larger than 15-inch DBH should consider having their trees professionally treated.
- ✓ Treatment programs must comply with any label restrictions on the amount of insecticide that can be applied per acre in a given year.





Racine County Land Conservation
14200 Washington Ave.
Sturtevant, WI 53177
262-886-8479

Staff Contributions by:
 Chad Sampson, Jonathan Grove,
 & Krystal Freimark

**Wisconsin DNR Gypsy Moth
 Suppression Program**

In an effort to reduce the population of the Gypsy Moths in Racine County, the DNR is continuing with the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program in 2010. The suppression program is voluntary and open to all landowners and municipal governments within Racine County. The program includes a state-organized aerial insecticide spray treatment occurring in May or June. Potential spraying areas are being determined this fall. If you are experiencing gypsy moth problems on your property and would like to apply for the suppression spray program, contact the Racine County Land Conservation office at (262) 886-8479 prior to the first week of December 2009.

Gypsy Moth Life Cycle



It's a Gypsy Moth if . . .

- It's hairy and has red and blue spots on the caterpillar's back.
- Caterpillars are present May to Mid – July
- Moths emerge July through Aug. / Sept.
- Egg Masses ¾" to 2" in size (Aug. – May)

More information: www.gypsymoth.wi.gov



The Wildlife Damage Deer Donation will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this fall. Since its inception in 2000, Wisconsin hunters have donated over 70,000 deer which were processed into over 3.1 million pounds of ground venison to families in need. Not only are families being helped, but the donations help move the deer in Wisconsin closer to healthier populations.

Tree & Shrub Sale

**2010 Racine County
 Land Conservation Tree Program**

It's that time again! This year's 27th Annual Tree and Shrub sale will begin this fall. Several new species have been added to the sale including: Elderberry, Dawn Redwood, White Oak, & Dogwood-White Flowering. The order form is included in this issue of Ties to the Land. Orders are due to the Land Conservation office by February 26, 2010. The seedlings should arrive at the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove by mid-April.



**Conservation Reserve
 Enhancement Program**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is an opportunity for Wisconsin landowners to voluntarily enroll agricultural lands into conservation practices such as riparian buffers, filter strips, wetland restorations, and grassed waterways. The USDA makes annual payments for practices installed based on soil types with rental rates averaging between \$68 – 143 per acre. Also, included are a federal incentive payment (35-60% of the annual rental rate) and a maintenance fee (\$5-10 per year). In addition to the annual rental rate, the Federal government and State provide one-time, up-front signing incentives. Amounts vary depending on the soil type, and if the agreement is for 15-years or if it is perpetual. Eligibility requires the parcel have crop history or is within 150' from of an eligible water body. Contact FSA, NRCS, or the Land Conservation office for more information.

Jerry Hebard, District Conservationist
phone: (262) 878-1243 ext. 108
e-mail: jerry.hebard@wi.usda.gov

Conservation Stewardship Program

The revamped Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) began on August 10 with the first sign-up period cutoff scheduled for September 30. CSP encourages farm and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. Signup for 2009 contracts continues through Sept. 30 at all NRCS Service Centers, however continuous sign-up for the 2010 program will open in October.

CSP involves a five-year contract in which the farmer agrees to maintain existing conservation practices and to do more conservation practices during the five years of the contract. It also requires time and good documentation of your farm conservation activities, which are used to determine eligibility and ranking. NRCS notes that there is a lengthy application to complete plus substantial record-keeping requirements. NRCS has prepared a self-screening checklist that farmers can take to see if they may be eligible.

To participate in CSP, farmers must meet three types of eligibility criteria: the applicant must be eligible, the land must be eligible and a conservation stewardship threshold must be proven.

To be eligible to apply:

- You must be established as a farm operator with the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to application.
- You must have documented control of the land for the term of the contract (5 years)
- The applicant and the farm must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions
- The applicant must have non-farm income less than \$1 million or meet the adjusted gross income provisions.

Eligible land:

The land must be privately-owned agricultural land or nonindustrial private forest land, or tribal land.

Note: You must include your entire eligible farming operation, meaning all the land you farm not just portions of the farm. Lands already enrolled in a program, such as the Conservation Reserve Program or Wetlands Reserve Program, are excluded.

There are many questions and issues that are covered in the CSP application and in the ranking process. Ideally, the farm, including all cropland and pastureland, should show few signs of erosion or soil loss; water quality should be protected with grassy buffers and nutrient management; and some areas of land should be managed for wildlife habitat.

The national average CSP payment is mandated by Congress to be \$18 per acre per year. Individual payments and state averages may be more or less than this amount. Actual payment amounts for individual contracts are expected to be determined in mid-November. Payments are made after completion of the contract year, so for contracts signed in 2009, payments will be made next year, in October, 2010.

Contact the NRCS office at 1012 Vine Street in Union Grove for an application packet and to set up an appointment if you feel you meet the eligibility criteria for CSP. Time is limited for this signup period, so applicants are required to have completed documentation at the appointment. NRCS will complete a field visit before contracts are signed with successful applicants, to verify information and check records.

For more information on the Conservation Stewardship Program or any of the USDA conservation programs, please check these it out at www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov.



Kenosha County PO Box 550 Bristol, WI 53104 262-857-1945	Racine County 14200 Washington Avenue Sturtevant, WI 53177 262-886-8460
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Rose Skora
Agriculture Educator
Kenosha/Racine Counties UW Cooperative Extension
rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

Deal or No Deal: Managing Through the Mayhem is a workshop designed for dairy and crop farmers, agricultural professionals and educators on financial risk. Topics will include:

- Managing the Market: Impact of Volatile Prices and Costs
- Cost of Production: What is Your Cost per bushel: A focus on crops
- Cost of Production: A focus on dairy costs of production

This program will be held in several locations throughout the state. The closest program for Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee county farmers will be held on Friday, November 6th from 10 am until 2:30 pm in Elkhorn, WI. Costs are \$15/person. For more information or a brochure, contact Rose Skora at rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu or 262-857-1948 or 262-886-8464.

The **2nd Annual Southeast Wisconsin Rural Landowner Conference** scheduled for Saturday November 7th will offer opportunities for rural landowners and small farmers as well as individuals who are considering a farm enterprise.

Vicki Elkin of Gathering Waters Conservancy will begin first by giving an overview about Farmland Preservation. After the keynote speaker, participants will be able to choose from a variety of educational topics including: Selling at a Farmers' Market, Backyard Composting, Raising Poultry, Food Preservation Techniques, Raising Sheep, Legal Aspects to Small Scale Farming, Management Options for Conservation Covers, and Vaccinations and Wormers for Horses. The day will end with information about Energy Conversation and Alternative Energy Options for Households and Farms.

In addition to the educational sessions, a trade show will be available and new this year will be a farmers' market held in conjunction with the conference. Anyone interested in selling at the farmers' market should contact Carol Reed at 2reeds@sbcglobal.net or 262-210-6360.

The program will be held on Saturday November 7th, 2009 at the Kenosha County Center in Bristol and will run from 8:15 am -3:15 pm. Costs for the program are \$20/person or \$35/two people and \$10 for youth between 14 and 18. The costs are higher if participants choose to pay at the door. Lunch is included with the registration fee.

Registration information as well as the brochure is available at:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/kenosha/ag/index.html>

For questions, please contact Rose Skora, 262-857-1948 or rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu.

The **2nd Annual Connecting Threads Conference** will be held on November 13 and 14th at the Mead Hotel in Wisconsin Rapids. This conference is specifically designed for women working in agriculture.

Workshop sessions will include information on the following:

- Farm records
- USDA programs and services
- Domestic violence on the farm
- Farm succession
- Holistic farm management
- Organic certification process
- Farm family stress
- Wisconsin Farm Center – services available to farmers

In addition to the workshops, a trade show will be available. Farm women who produce agricultural products or other items will be given the opportunity to sell them as well.

The program will run on Friday November 13th from 7:30 am – 7:30 pm and 7:30 am and 4:15 pm on November 14th. Women can choose to attend either days or one of the days. The program is a collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, UW Cooperative Extension, Wisconsin Farmers Union and other partners.

Scholarships will be available. Registration and hotel information is coming out soon. Anyone requesting additional information on the workshop can contact Kathy Schmitt at Kathy.Schmitt@Wisconsin.gov or 608-224-5048 or 1-800-942-2474.



DIRECTORY OF AGENCIES

Racine/Kenosha Farm Service Agency (FSA)

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Racine County UW-Extension

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UW-Cooperative Extension

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