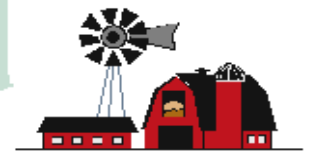




Ties to the Land



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

July, 2009

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DOUG CARUSO NAMED ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of Doug Caruso as Administrator of the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA). From 1993 to 2001, Caruso was at USDA as State Executive Director of FSA in Wisconsin, which served approximately 100,000 farmers and rural landowners through a network of sixty county offices. We are happy to welcome Mr. Caruso back to the agency, and look forward to his leadership.

2009 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP DEADLINE-AUGUST 14

Starting in 2009, producers have the option to choose to sign up in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. This election can be made on each farm.

Because of tradeoffs with electing ACRE over DCP and the irrevocable commitment to ACRE, producers are encouraged to review ACRE decision tools from State extension and other sources to help evaluate the choices. Please go to www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp to learn more about the programs and find tools that can help you to make your decision.

The deadline to sign up for DCP or ACRE for 2009 is August 14th, 2009 - NO EXCEPTIONS.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. For SURE program purposes, a "farm" refers to all acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted to crops that are for sale by the producer, and all harvested hay crops.

There will be an "application" period for 2008 in the future. Please watch the mail or upcoming newsletters for further details.

2009 ACREAGE REPORTING

After finishing spring planting, farmers are reminded to report all of your crop acreages and planting dates to the Racine/Kenosha/Milwaukee County Farm Service Agency office by **July 15th** to maintain farm program eligibility.

Acreage reports are required to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), and receive loan deficiency payments (LDPs) or Marketing Assistance Loans. Acreage reporting may also be useful to track cropping history for future FSA program enrollment.

2009 COMMODITY LOAN RATES

Even if you have not considered a commodity loan in the past, you may want to give it some thought this year. Commodity loans can provide an additional option to store your crop until next spring and still have some working capital that may be needed at harvest time.

Racine County

Corn \$1.91	Soybeans \$5.06	Wheat SRW \$1.87	Oats \$1.40	Barley \$1.63
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Kenosha County

Corn \$1.91	Soybeans \$5.06	Wheat SRW \$1.92	Oats \$1.40	Barley \$1.63
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Milwaukee County

Corn \$1.84	Soybeans \$5.07	Wheat SRW \$2.03	Oats \$1.40	Barley \$1.63
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FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program offers producers low interest financing for the purchase of new grain storage and drying equipment. Because of the passing of the 2008 Farm Bill, there will be many changes made to the program in July. Please contact Linda at extension #100 for more information about those changes.

DEADLINES TO PURCHASE CROP INSURANCE

9/30/20xx	Fall planted NAP crops (Ex: forage, mint, Christmas trees, sod, floriculture) Fall planted crop insurance crops (Ex: Alfalfa, alf. Mix, red clover, wheat)
11/20/20xx	Perennial NAP crops (Ex: raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, grapes, blackberries, honey)
3/15/20xx	Spring seeded NAP crops (Ex: squash, peppers, cabbage, cucumbers, pumpkins, swt. corn) Spring seeded Crop Insurance Crops (Ex: corn, soybeans, barley, oats, forage seeding, AGR Lite)



2009 COC ELECTION INFORMATION

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets and nomination forms can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage or are available from your local FSA office. The COC election nomination period begins June 15, 2009 and ends August 1, 2009. The LAA up for election is LAA1, Burlington, Dover, Norway, Rochester, and Waterford.

WHEN AM I GETTING MY MILC CHECK FROM FSA?

The 2008 Act changed the \$16.94 per cwt of milk trigger for MILC payments to a variable trigger that may be adjusted monthly for variations in feed costs above \$7.35 per cwt. of a 16-percent protein feed ration. As a result, MILC payments rates are calculated using both of the following:

- ☐ Boston Class I price announced by the Agricultural Marketing Service
- ☐ National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost (NADFRC) prices for corn, soybeans, and hay alfalfa announced by NASS.

Web links to both price announcements are posted to the PSD web site located at

www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=prsu&topic=mpp-mi.

The change in the determination of the rates does change when the MILC payment will be able to be processed. All payments must be processed after the Pending Release Date listed below:

Applicable Month	Pending Release Date
April	May 29
May	June 29
June	July 31
July	August 31
August	September 29
September	October (TBD)

Visit the Tradeshow!

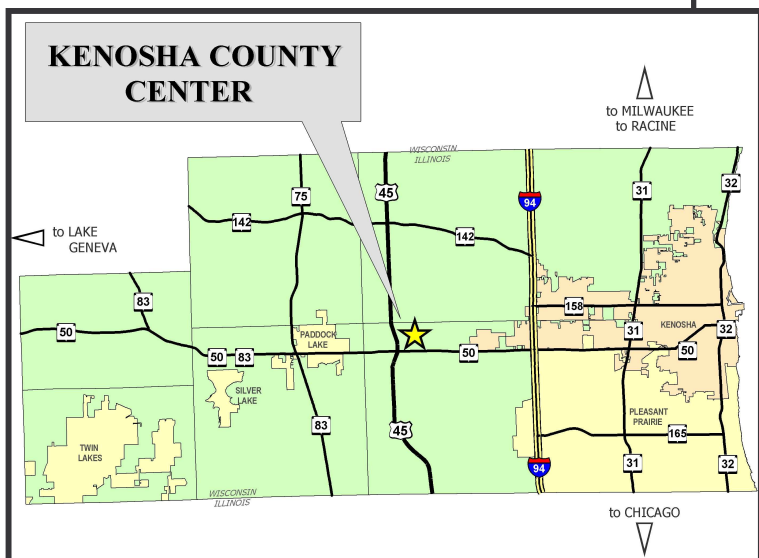
Businesses and organizations will be on hand at the tradeshow to provide you with additional resources.

Thank you sponsors and organizers of the 2nd Annual Rural Landowner Workshop

Caledonia Conservancy
Farm Service Agency
Kenosha County Land Conservation
Kenosha/Racine Land Trust
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Racine County Land Conservation
The Seno Center
University of Wisconsin Extension -
Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties

Location:

Kenosha County Center
19600 - 75th Street
(Northeast corner of Hwy 45 & 50)
Bristol, Wisconsin



2nd Annual Southeast Wisconsin Rural Landowner Workshop

A day-long program designed for rural landowners, existing small farmers and/or individuals who are thinking about getting involved in a farm/agricultural enterprise.

NEW THIS YEAR! A Farmers' Market will be held from 8am - 1pm at the Kenosha County Center in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Rural Landowner Workshop. Vendors can contact Carol Reed at 2reeds@sbcglobal.net for more information.

For more information about the workshop contact:

Rose Skora, 262-857-1945
or rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu

UW
Extension

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements. To ensure equal access, please make requests for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible prior to any program. If you need the material in another format, please contact the Kenosha County UW-Extension office at 262-857-1945.

2nd Annual Southeast Wisconsin Rural Landowner Conference



Saturday
November 7, 2009
8:15 am - 3 pm
Kenosha County
Center
19600—75th Street
Bristol, WI

2nd Annual SE Wisconsin Rural Landowner Workshop Registration Form

Name: _____

Additional Names: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Indicate 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice for each session/workshop.

10:00 AM Workshops A

- _____ 1. Selling At Farmers Markets
- _____ 2. Composting 101
- _____ 3. Raising Poultry

1:00 PM Workshops C

- _____ 1. Legal Aspects to Small Scale Farming
- _____ 2. Management Options for Conservation
- _____ 3. Horses: Vaccinations and Wormers

11:00 AM Workshops B

- _____ 1. The Future of Farming
- _____ 2. Food Preservation Techniques
- _____ 3. Raising Sheep

Registration also available on-line
at:

[http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/
kenosha/ag/index.html](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/kenosha/ag/index.html)

Workshop Fees

___ \$20 per person ___ \$35 for two people ___ \$10 ages 14 - 18

___ \$25 per person ___ \$40 for two people ___ \$10 ages 14 - 18 (At the door)

\$ ___ **TOTAL ENCLOSED:** ___ **vegetarian lunch requested**

Children under 14 may attend for free if accompanied by an adult. Child care will **not** be available.

Please send registration form with check payable to *Kenosha County UWEX* :

Kenosha County UW-Extension, Rural Landowner Conference
P O Box 550, Bristol, WI 53104

Please keep the brochure as confirmation of attendance.

**To help us ensure accurate food counts, please register
by Monday, November 2nd, 2009**

2nd Annual Southeast Wisconsin Rural Landowner Workshop Agenda

Location: Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street,
Bristol, WI 53104

8:15 am - 9 am Registration/Trade Show/Farmers' Market

9 am - 10:00 am Keynote:

Farmland Preservation: An Overview: Vicki Elkin,
Gathering Waters Conservancy

10:05 am - 11:05am Workshops A

1. *Selling at Farmers Markets: What you Need to Know*, Kristin Krokowski, Waukesha County UW Extension
2. *Composting 101*, Barb Larson, Kenosha County UW Extension
3. *Raising Poultry: Learn the basics of keeping a small flock*, Ron Kean, UW Extension Poultry Specialist

11:10am - 12:10pm Workshops B

1. *The Future of Farming in WI and the Nation*
2. *Food Preservation Techniques*
3. *Raising Sheep: The Basics*, Dave Thomas, UW Extension Sheep Specialist

12:10pm - 1pm Lunch (provided), Trade Show & Farmers Market

1:00 - 2:00 Workshops C

1. *Legal Aspects to Small Scale Farming*, Phil Harris, UW Extension Farm Law Specialist
2. *Management Options for Conservation Covers: Trees, Prairies, Wetlands and Grasses*
3. *Horses: Update on Vaccinations and Wormers*, Kevin Nelson, DVM, Bristol Vet Service

2:05 - 3:05 Keynote

Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy Options for Households and Farms

3:05 - 3:15: Closing Remarks



CONSERVATION COST-SHARE MONEY AVAILABLE TO KENOSHA COUNTY LANDOWNERS

The Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Division has available cost-share assistance for natural resource conservation and protection efforts throughout the County. Cost-share funds are provided by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection for implementation of the Kenosha County Land & Water Resource Management Plan.

In general, cost-share assistance is provided for conserving and protecting land and water resources associated with conventional and grazing-based agricultural operations. Technical assistance and cost-sharing grants are available to help eligible landowners install soil and water conservation practices. Cost-share rates, in most cases, are 70%. Following is a list of some of the eligible conservation practices:

- **Access road or cattle crossing** - a road or pathway that confines or directs livestock or farm equipment and is designed and constructed to control surface water runoff, to control live stock access to a stream or waterway, to stabilize a stream crossing, or to prevent erosion.
- **Critical area stabilization** - planting suitable vegetation on highly erodible areas such as steep slopes, gullies, and roadsides, so as to reduce soil erosion or pollution.
- **Barnyard runoff control**- Components that divert the flow of clean water and/or treat contaminated water.
- **Diversion** - a structure installed to divert excess surface runoff water to an area where it can be used, transported or discharged without causing excessive soil erosion.
- **Filter strip** - a strip or area of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land and environmentally sensitive areas.
- **Grade stabilization structure** - a structure that stabilizes the grade in a channel in order to protect the channel from erosion, or to prevent gullies from forming or advancing.

- **Heavy use area protection** - surface material used to control runoff and erosion in areas subject to concentrated or frequent livestock activity.
- **Livestock fencing** - excluding livestock in order to protect erodible areas or woodlots.
- **Livestock watering facility** - a trough, tank, pipe, spring development, pump, well, or combination of devices installed to deliver drinking water to livestock.
- **Manure storage system abandonment** - permanent removal of a manure storage facility, including removal and proper disposal of residual manure, liner material, and contaminated soils.
- **Milking center waste control system** - Equipment to contain or control the discharge of waste water, cleaning chemicals, waste milk or other discharges from a milking parlor or milkhouse.
- **Roof runoff system** - facilities for collecting, controlling, diverting, and disposing of precipitation from roofs; may include gutters, downspouts, erosion-resistant channels, subsurface drains and trenches.
- **Sediment basin** - permanent basins that reduce the transport of waterborne pollutants.
- **Streambank and shoreline protection** - vegetation, rock, or structures used to stabilize and protect the banks of streams and lakes, against scour and erosion.
- **Underground outlet** - a conduit installed below the surface of the ground to collect surface water and convey it to a suitable outlet.
- **Waterway system** - a network of natural or constructed watercourses and outlets that are shaped, graded and covered with vegetation or another suitable surface material to prevent erosion caused by surface water runoff.
- **Well abandonment** - permanently disabling and sealing a well to prevent contaminants from reaching groundwater.
- **Wetland restoration** - construction of berms or the destruction of tile line or drainage ditch functions to create conditions suitable for wetland vegetation.

Additional assistance for land and water conservation and protection may be available through this or other programs.

Please contact the Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Division at (262) 857-1895 for additional information.



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

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



**What's the difference
 between farmland
 preservation credit &
 farmland tax relief credit?**

Farmland Preservation Credit

- Farm real estate taxes are limited to \$6,000.
- Prior year farm property taxes must be paid in full unless an alternative method of computing the credit is used.
- Individual claimant may not claim Homestead Credit.
- Farmland must meet gross profits requirement of \$6,000 in current year or \$18,000 for current year & 2 immediately proceeding tax years; unless at least 35 acres are enrolled in a conservation reserve program. There is no gross profit requirement when an alternative method of computing credit is used.
- Real estate taxes on entire acreage in exclusive agricultural zoning district or included in farmland preservation agreement may be used in computation.
- The amount of credit is dependent upon the amount of the claimant's household income & the real estate taxes levied.
- Must meet soil & water conservation standards.
- Credit may need to be repaid when the farmland is sold.
- Schedule FC must be filed to claim credit.

NOTE: Racine County residents zoned A-1 within the Towns of Burlington & Waterford are eligible for the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) tax credit. Currently, there are 18 eligible farmers who meet the standards & report their crops & update conservation plans with the LCD Staff.

Farmland Tax Relief Credit

- Farm real estate taxes are limited to \$7,894.
- Prior year farm property taxes must be paid in full.
- Individual claimant may claim Homestead Credit.
- Farmland must meet gross profits requirement of \$6,000 in current year or \$18,000 for current year & 2 immediately preceding tax years unless at least 35 acres are enrolled in a conservation reserve program.
- Real estate taxes on farmland may only be included in the computation. Real estate taxes on improvements must be excluded. Farm acreage does not need to be exclusive agricultural zoning or subject to a farmland preservation agreement.
- The amount of credit is a flat percentage of the real estate taxes levied.
- No soil & water conservation standards necessary.
- No repayment is necessary when land is sold.
- Credit claimed on individual or fiduciary income tax return or corporation franchise or income tax return.

Source: WI Dept. of Revenue



**Wisconsin State law
 requires the following:**

Agricultural performance standards

- Control cropland erosion to meet tolerable rates.
- Build, modify or abandon manure storage facilities to accepted standards.
- Divert clean runoff away from livestock and manure storage areas located near streams, rivers, lakes or areas susceptible groundwater contamination.
- Apply manure and other fertilizers according to an approved nutrient management plan.

Manure management prohibitions

- No overflow of manure storage facilities.
- No unconfined manure piles near water bodies.
- No direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters.
- No trampled streambanks or shorelines from livestock.



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

Home and Garden Tips

New Construction

More often than not, soil will be without grass, trees, shrubs, and other plants at some time during construction. Without this protective vegetation, storms can move the soil into your neighbor's yard, clog storm drains and streams, and carry pesticides and nutrients into the water.

During Construction

- Cover a bare area with mulch, such as straw, grass clippings, stones, wood chips, and other protective cover.
- On steeper slopes, you should cover the mulch with burlap netting for extra protection. Vegetated and mulched areas increase water filtration into the soil, reducing erosive runoff water.
- The key during and after construction is to control the concentrated flow of water. Watch where water runs off during storms. These are the areas of concentrated flow that need to be protected.
- Act on what you learned by keeping grass in the channel on gentle slopes and lining the channel with stones or pavement on steep slopes.

After Construction

- If the area you are building in has a steep slope, build terraces or steps made of logs or old

railroad ties across the slope to divert water away from slopes and prevent soil erosion.

- Between the steps, spread a thick layer of wood chips to protect the soil.
- If the slope is gentle, seeding grass may be enough.
- Use splash guards on gutter outlets to help reduce erosion at the foundation of your home.

Landscaping


- Select plants that grow well in your area and are suitable for the climate conditions in your yard (sunny/shaded areas or wet/dry soil).
- Plant ground covers, such as English Ivy and Asian Jasmine, in shaded areas where grass is difficult to establish and maintain.
- Consult your local nursery for ground covers that grow well in your area. Ask about landscaping plants that mimic nature and consume little water.

Aesthetics

Plant windbreaks of trees or shrubs to reduce soil loss from blowing wind and also to provide habitat and shelter for wildlife. Windbreaks reduce the wind around your home and serve as a sight and sound barrier.

For additional information on landscaping tips or information on conservation practices, please contact our office. Certain conservation practices can even offer technical assistance and financial reimbursements for installation and material costs.

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 75th St, PO Box 520, Bristol, WI 53104
Phone: 262-857-1895, Fax: 262-857-6508

Kenosha County UW-Extension
19600 75th 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, July 3rd: *Independence Day*
Observation: All offices closed.

Wednesday July 29 – Sunday August 2nd: *Racine County Fair*

Wednesday August 6 – Sunday August 16th: *Wisconsin State Fair*

Wednesday August 19 – Sunday August 23rd: *Kenosha County Fair*

Monday, September 7th: *Labor 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

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