



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

April/May/June 2010

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Racine Kenosha Milwaukee FSA Office
1012 Vine St.
Union Grove, WI 53182
262-878-3353

WELCOME (BACK) LORI!

You may notice a new/old face the next time you walk into the Racine Kenosha Milwaukee FSA Office. Lori Edquist joins the staff as our "newest" permanent Program Technician (PT), but she is no stranger to the office. Lori worked for the Racine Kenosha ASCS office from 1986 through 1998. She returned to the office in 2000 by serving on the County Committee for LAA 4 until she stepped down in 2008 to fill a temporary PT position in the office. Lori was a temporary PT until she was hired in February this year.



Lori is very familiar with local farming; her parents operated a farm in Franksville, and she and her husband Mark currently own a farm in Paris. Lori has three children; Tim, 15, Ryan, 13, and Andrea, 10.

Lori will be administering the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) as well as the Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL). Please give her a call at extension 105 if you have any questions or would like to wish her congratulations!

OWNER'S SIGNATURES NEEDED

If you have picked up any new land, or if you have any new owners, the FSA office must have a signature of the new owner acknowledging that you will be running the farm. A requirement for this year is that we **MUST** have this signature by September 30th, 2010. If you do not bring in the owner's signature by September 30th, you will not receive a program payment for the 2010 crop year.

YOU WILL NOT GET PAID FOR YOUR CONTRACTS!

If you have not signed them by JUNE 1st, 2010
Appointment postcards were sent out in March and April to come in and sign up for the 2010 DCP/ACRE program.

Please contact the FSA office if you did not receive a postcard or have not signed up for the program yet.

FINANICIAL INFO AVAILABLE ONLINE

It is tax time... did you call the office to get a summary of all payments made? We are happy to assist by printing this report, but did you know you can get this information from the comfort of your own home? If you would like to be able to access your Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service program information from home, go to www.customerstatement.usda.gov From this webpage you must first register for a Level 2 e-Authentication account, and then you will be able to keep up with all FSA and NRCS program information in the convenience of your own home!

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM AVAILABLE

Do you have any additional storage needs? Got a setup that needs a new leg? The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) may fit your needs. The program provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility. Examples of eligible structures include permanent grain drying and handling equipment, hay storage, horizontal and upright silos, and cold storage facilities for fruit and vegetable storage. Loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are now available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each loan term are different and are based on the rate at which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

FSFL loans may now be closed using a partial disbursement and then a final disbursement option. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial

disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

The FSFL program helps to ensure that producers have adequate capacity to store their harvested production. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL loan must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The FSFL program involves a \$100 per borrower processing fee. Loans less than \$50,000 can often be secured by the structure built or improved. Loans greater than \$50,000 are generally secured by real estate.

For more information about FSFL please contact Lori at the FSA office at 262-878-3353 x 105.

INTEREST RATES

The interest rates on loans change monthly, but ordinarily do not fluctuate greatly from month to month. As of the printing of this newsletter, the interest rates for loan programs are as follows:

| MARCH 2010 RATES | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|
| Commodity loans | 1.375% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)- 7 years | 3.125% |
| FSFL-10 years | 3.625% |
| FSFL- 12 years | 4.000% |
| Farm Loan Program Rates | |
| Farm Operating-Direct | 3.00% |
| Farm Ownership- Direct | 5.125% |
| Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing | 5.00% |
| Farm Ownership- Down Payment | 1.50% |

MAINTAIN YOUR GRAIN! (UNDER LOAN)

As temperatures rise with the impending spring season, producers are reminded to check the quality of their stored grain since spring is often when maintaining quality can be difficult. Quality problems can quickly affect grain value. Producers with marketing assistance loans and using farm-stored grain as collateral are responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity for the term of the loan.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is not responsible for any quality loss. Producers are also responsible to ensure payment is received prior to feeding or selling any commodity under CCC loan. County offices will be conducting spot-checks over the next several months to verify that the quality and quantity of the loan collateral is being maintained by the borrower.



2008 SURE SIGNUP GOING ON NOW

You may remember that the spring of 2008 was a VERY wet season. If you suffered a crop production loss due to the wet weather, or any other natural disaster during the 2008 crop year you have the opportunity to sign up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program. Please contact Angie at 262-878-3353 x 103 to find out if you are eligible for the program.

OFFICE CHANGEUP!

The job responsibilities of each Farm Service Agency Program Technician (PT) have changed in the past few months due to the retirement of Linda and the hiring of Lori. Listed below are the responsibilities and contact information for each staff member.

Evelyn Pizzala

Extension 104

Evelyn.pizzala@wi.usda.gov

Programs:

MILC

Payment Limitation

Aerial Maps/CLU

Wool



Angie Drews

Extension 103

Angela.drews@wi.usda.gov

Programs:

Disaster Programs (NAP/SURE)

Administrative

Farm Record changes

Reconstitutions



Jeanette Held

Extension 100

Jeanette.held@wi.usda.gov

Programs:

Conservation

Commodity Loans



Lori Edquist

Extension 105

Lori.edquist@wi.usda.gov

Programs:

DCP/ACRE

Farm Storage Facility Loans



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM TOUR

Wednesday, September 15th, 2010

Registration: 7:45 a.m.

Tour: 8:30-1:00

Lunch: 1:00

Start at the Racine County Building,

Hwy 20 & I-94

Contact FSA for more information

ATTENTION! PLEASE READ IF YOU RECEIVED MONEY FROM OUR OFFICE IN 2009!

We would like to remind producers who received payments and benefits from FSA or NRCS in 2009 or who will receive benefits in 2010 of the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) compliance requirements. USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the IRS to establish an electronic verification process for verifying compliance with AGI provisions for farm programs.

If you signed a CCC-926 certifying AGI compliance in 2009 or 2010, you will need to complete a CCC-927 (or CCC-928 for entities) which authorizes CCC/FSA to share program participation information with IRS. Signing these forms also allows IRS to use and disclose certain tax information to CCC/FSA for AGI compliance verification purposes.

Program participants are required to:

1. Complete the CCC-927 and/or CCC-928.
2. Mail the completed forms:
 - directly to IRS at the address specified on the forms
 - within 60 calendar days of the signature date

*Completed CCC-927's and CCC-928's will not be accepted or retained in any FSA office.

Participants that choose not to submit a completed CCC-927 and/or CCC-928, as applicable will be determined noncompliant with AGI limitations for the 2009 and 2010 crop years and program benefits will not be earned.

Copies of the CCC-927 and CCC-928 forms are available at the Racine Kenosha Milwaukee County FSA Office. The AGI fact sheet is available on the web at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/irs mou09.pdf

AGI explained in VERY simple terms: If you received money from our office, you must sign and return this form to the IRS. If you don't return this form to the IRS timely, you will be required to refund ALL of your payments for the applicable year!

Please stop in the office to pick up one of these forms. Because of program rules we are unable to mail them to you!



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation staff is available to provide technical service and conservation planning assistance to landowners and units of government to help them to find solutions to land and water resource problems. We assist land-users with conservation systems that reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, improve and conserve wetlands, and improve pasture conditions. In general, we will first assess any sources of erosion or pollution with the landowner and draft suggested solutions. If the landowner decides to install a conservation practice(s), the conservation staff will supervise the design and construction of the project and certifies it upon completion.

COST-SHARE AVAILABLE

Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation has cost-share money available for landowners interested in applying general conservation to their land. So don't hesitate to call our office at (262) 857-1895 and find out if your projects will qualify for cost-share through the Soil and Water Resource Management Program. Cost-share dollars are available to landowners who implement soil and water conservation practices that reduce soil erosion/sediment delivery, and that reduce non-point source water pollution. A seventy-percent cost share may be provided as an incentive payment to landowners for a variety of approved practices that protect water quality. See our website for a list of eligible practices http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/conservation/swrm_grant.html

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Current rules require all farmers who mechanically apply manure or commercial fertilizer to cropland (not just livestock operators) to have a nutrient management plan (NMP). Nutrients include nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium from manure, legumes, organic byproducts, and commercial fertilizer.

Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation has a cost-sharing program for landowners interested in preparing a nutrient management plan. The program offers a flat-rate payment of \$7 per acre per year for a four year period (\$28/acre total), as available. The lump sum is given up front. Once a NMP is in place, by law, a farmer needs to update it annually. The update can take the form of an annual checklist submitted to DATCP and the County Land Conservation Department as a way to certify that the NMP complies with Wisconsin's NRCS 590 standard. It is important to note that all landowners who accept cost-share must agree to comply after the 4 year contract period and continue the practice as long as the land is farmed without any additional cost-sharing for this practice.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP

Our *Ties to the Land* Newsletter is a cooperative effort of the USDA Farm Services Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, UW-Extension and the Racine and Kenosha County Conservation Divisions, but without the help of our volunteers who fastidiously collate, fold, and sort the newsletter it would never get out the door. So we would just like to say;



"THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!"

KENOSHA COUNTY TREE PICK-UP

If you ordered trees this year, a receipt will be sent to your home indicating your tree pick-up day. The tentative dates to pick up this year are Thursday or Friday, April 22nd and 23rd, based on your order number. If you have any questions about the program, please call our office at 262-857-1895.



"Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world." - Virgil A. Kraft

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

Reduce your use of hazardous household and garden products by choosing safer, less-toxic products.

Avoid household products with hazardous ingredients, or handle them with extreme care. Many toxic ingredients in paint thinners and drain cleaners, for example, can contaminate water sources.

Use only enough of the product to get the job done. Never dump hazardous products down drains, the toilet, or near flowing water, ponds, or lakes. Do not dump them on the ground. Use natural and less-toxic household products whenever possible.

| Instead of: | Use |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Air freshener | A small dish of vinegar or lemon juice set out in a warm area |
| All-purpose cleaner | One quart warm water, 1 teaspoon liquid soap, 1 teaspoon borax, and 1/4 cup vinegar |
| Bleach | Borax |
| Carpet cleaner | To neutralize odors, sprinkle the carpet with a mixture of one cup borax and 2 cups cornmeal or use baking soda. Let stand 1 hour before vacuuming. |
| Chlorine scouring powder | Baking soda |
| Detergent | Simple soap or phosphate-free detergent |
| Disinfectant | Ammonia |
| Drain cleaner | Plunger, followed by a handful of baking soda and a half cup of vinegar. Cover and allow to sit for 15 minutes. Pour in 2 quarts of boiling water, and the clod should disappear. |
| Floor cleaner | Mop floors with a mild soap solution or 1 cup vinegar mixed with 2 gallons of water. Linoleum floors can be polished by |

| Instead of: | Use |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | mopping with skim milk. (No, it doesn't smell.) |
| Furniture polish | On unfinished surfaces, use natural oil such as almond or olive oil. On finished surfaces, dust with a damp cloth and wipe dry. |
| Glass cleaner | Two tablespoons of vinegar to 1 quart of water. |
| Grease remover | Baking soda paste |
| Mildew stain remover | Vinegar solution |
| Mothballs | Cedar chips |
| Oven cleaner | Pour salt on fresh oven spills, and scrape the residue off when the oven cools. Ammonia can be applied to tough stains. A pumice stick, available at many hardware stores, will also work. |
| Pest control | Make chili powder packets to keep ants out of your kitchen. |
| Stain remover | Cornstarch paste |
| Surface cleaner | Use a vinegar and salt mixture |
| Tile cleaner | Scrub areas with baking soda and a toothbrush |
| Toilet bowl cleaner | Baking soda or borax |
| Window cleaner | Mix 1/4 cup of white vinegar or 2 tablespoons of lemon juice and a quart of warm water. |

Common Stains

Blood: First, soak or rub in cold water until stain is almost gone. Then, if fabric is washable, launder in warm water and detergent. On non-washable materials try a little borax or hydrogen peroxide to get the last traces out. Once blood stains set, they are difficult to remove, but a warm solution of trisodium phosphate will sometimes work on cotton or linen.

Coffee, tea: These are easier to remove if no cream was involved. Treat as non-greasy stain with cold water. If cream was involved, follow directions for combination stains, treating first with water, then detergent. A solvent may be necessary.



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BEETLE?



Adult Emerald Ash Borer

Infestations of the Emerald Ash Borer have occurred in the counties of Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Washington. These infestations have initiated quarantines in most of the southeastern Wisconsin counties, including Racine. The quarantine places a restriction on the import of firewood onto county lands. The intent is to slow the movement of the pests via human assistance. If you have noticed two or more of the signs or symptoms below please call 1-800-462-2803.

- ☞ Bullet shaped metallic green adult beetles from June to August (see above)
- ☞ S-shaped tunnels under the bark created by larvae feeding
- ☞ Cream colored flattened (full grown) larvae boring under the bark
- ☞ D-shaped holes in the bark where adult beetles have emerged
- ☞ Dieback of the upper and outer tree top

Additional information regarding EAB can be found at www.emeraldashborer.info

Gypsy Moth Spraying

With the spring and summer months approaching its time to keep an eye out for gypsy moth caterpillars and egg masses; caterpillars usually emerge May – July, while egg masses are present from August – May. If you notice any infestations please contact the DNR or the Racine County Land Conservation Department and we will investigate the situation. If requirements are met you may be placed on the 2011 spray list. A spray area for 2010 has already been selected and is scheduled for spraying in May or June. Additional information can found at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov or 1-800-642-MOTH (6684).

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

<http://www.racineco.com/landconv/>

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

High Risk Period for Manure Runoff

As the sun reappears and turns temperatures to spring-like conditions producers should tune an ear to weather forecasts to prevent runoff and nutrient loss. Producers are advised to adhere to the following four steps to prevent runoff:

- ◆ *During periods of snow melt or rain on frozen soils, producers who must haul manure from barns should stack it in areas where the potential for runoff or ground water infiltration is low.*
- ◆ *Farmers who daily haul manure should contact the local Land Conservation Department to identify safe stacking sites that have minimal potential to runoff into either surface or ground water.*
- ◆ *Producers who have lots or facilities with bedded pack systems need to be cautious about spreading manure during high risk periods.*
- ◆ *Identify fields that are away from streams, lakes, and have minimum risk of manure runoff to surface or groundwater.*

Racine County Tree Pick-up

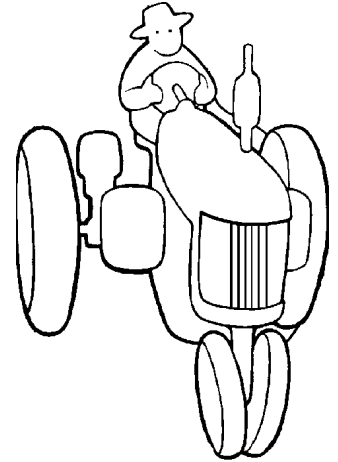
Speaking of spring, it's just around the corner and it's almost time to plant those trees you have been waiting for all winter long. If you placed a tree order, a receipt will be sent to the mailing address provided indicating the tree pick up date(s) and location. Trees may be picked up at the Racine County Fairgrounds located in Union Grove on April 21st or 22nd. If you have any questions about the program, please call 262-886-8479.



2010 Youth Tractor Certification Course

Offered by Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties UW Cooperative Extension

The Tractor Certification Course is a 24-hour program designed to teach safety as it relates to driving farm implements on **public roads**, offering both classroom and hands-on tractor driving experiences, for youth under the age of 16 and over the age of 12.



When: June 21 - 25 and 28, 2010

Time: 8am - Noon

Where: Burlington High School

Cost: \$50/participant

This course meets the **Wisconsin Act 455, Section 10, Section 346.925 "Operation of agricultural machinery by youthful operators"** law that states...

...After April 30, 1996 no person may direct or permit a child under the age of 16 years to operate a farm tractor or self-propelled implement of husbandry on the highway unless the child has been certified as successfully completing a tractor and machinery operation safety-training course...

For More Information Contact:

Peg Reedy, Walworth County UW Extension: 262-741-4961, peg.reedy@ces.uwex.edu

OR

Rose Skora, Kenosha/Racine Counties UW Extension, 262-857-1945 (Kenosha) or 262-886-8460 (Racine), rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu

2010 Tractor Safety Registration Form

Name of Youth: _____ Birth date: _____

Name of Youth: _____ Birth date: _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

of Youth _____ x \$50 = _____ Total Enclosed

Please send registration form and payment to:

Walworth County UW Extension, Tractor Safety Program
100 W Walworth St, PO Box 1001, Elkhorn, WI 53121-4362

Registration Deadline: **Friday, June 11, 2010**



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



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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

Your Resource Partners:

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1012 Vine Street
Union Grove, WI 53182 1330**