



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/August/September 2010

Table of Contents	
Farm Service Agency	
2010 Acreage Reporting	1
2010 Commodity Loan Rates	1
SURE for 2008 Disaster	2
Crop Insurance Deadlines	2
CRP General Sign-up Info	2
County Committee Elections	2
Facility Loan Program	3
Kenosha County Land Conservation	
New Farmland Preservation Program	4
Conservation Compliance Requirements	4
Natural Resources Conservation Service & UW Cooperative Extension	
Southeast Wisconsin Rural Landowner Conference	5 - 6
Racine County Land Conservation	
2010 Tree and Shrub Program	7
Well Abandonment	7
Farmland Meetings for Waterford and Burlington	7
Standards and Prohibitions	7
Racine County Fair booth	7



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

2010 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.

2010 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. The commodity loan program can be used as a financial tool in addition to marketing your grain. Commodity loans can provide an additional option to store your crop from harvest until the following spring and still have some working capital that may be needed at harvest time.

Racine County

Corn \$1.91	Soybeans \$5.08	Wheat SRW \$1.75	Oats \$1.46	Barley \$1.78
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Kenosha County

Corn \$1.91	Soybeans \$5.08	Wheat SRW \$1.80	Oats \$1.46	Barley \$1.78
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Milwaukee County

Corn \$1.84	Soybeans \$5.09	Wheat SRW \$1.70	Oats \$1.46	Barley \$1.78
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SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE) FOR 2008 DISASTER

Producers who suffered crop production losses due to natural disasters during the 2008 crop year currently have the opportunity to sign up for the USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE).

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

To be eligible for SURE, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

To schedule an appointment to sign-up for SURE contact Angie at the FSA office. For more information on the new program, please contact your local FSA county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

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)



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) GENERAL SIGNUP – IT'S COMING...

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

On February 27th, 2010 Agriculture Secretary Vilsak announced that a general CRP signup would be coming sometime in the summer of 2010.

As of the printing of this newsletter we do not know the dates of the signup. If you are interested in learning more about the general signup when we have more information, please contact Jeanette at 262-878-3353.



VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

County Committee ELECTIONS 2010

June 15, 2010 Nomination period begins. Forms are available from your local FSA Office and online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

August 2, 2010 Last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA Office

November 5, 2010 Ballots mailed to eligible voters

December 6, 2010 Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA Office

January 1, 2011 Elected committee members and alternates take office

FSA COUNTS ON YOU:



NOMINATE AND VOTE!

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM (FSFL)

FSFL provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

Eligible Commodities

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans

- corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- pulse crops – lentils, chickpeas, and dry peas
- hay
- renewable biomass
- fruits (including nuts) and vegetable – cold storage facilities

Eligible Facilities and Upgrades

All FSA farm storage facility loan must be approved by the local FSA county committee before any site preparation and/or construction can began.

The following types of facilities and upgrades are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- new conventional cribs or bins for whole grain storage
- new oxygen-limiting and remanufactured oxygen-limiting structures and other upright silo-type structures designed for whole grain wet storage
- new flat-type storage structures, with permanent floors and bulkheads, designed to store whole grain for the loan term
- new electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of the grain storage and handling equipment
- new safety equipment, such as interior and exterior ladders and lighting
- new equipment to improve, maintain or monitor stored grain quality
- new concrete foundations, aprons, pits and pads
- renovation of existing farm storage facilities under certain circumstances
- new permanently affixed grain handling and drying equipment
- new bunker-type, horizontal or open silo structures with at least two concrete walls and a concrete floor
- new structures for storing hay
- new structures for storing renewable biomass

- new cold storage buildings, including prefabricated buildings, suitable for storing fruits and vegetables

All eligible structures and equipment must have a useful life expectancy of 15 years.

Participant Eligibility

Eligible farm storage facility loan borrowers must:

- produce an eligible facility loan commodity
- have a satisfactory credit rating as determined by CCC
- demonstrate the ability to repay the loan
- possess no delinquent non-tax federal debt
- demonstrate a storage need based on the three-year average acreage and share of production
- provide proof of multi-peril insurance
- be in conservation compliance
- be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

Farm Storage Facility Loan Amount

The maximum loan amount for a farm storage facility loan is \$500,000 per loan structure. Loan terms are from 7 to 12 years, with longer loan terms demanding a higher interest rate.

Applying for a Loan

To expedite the processing of a loan application, borrowers will need to have the following items available:

- a balance sheet prepared within the last 90 days
- income and expense projections for the farm operation
- sufficient historical income and expense information to support approval of the loan
- year-to-date actual income and expenses for the current operating year
- loan fee of \$100 per person or entity applying
- cost estimates and plans including plat map of the planned location of the storage facility
- a description of the exact location of the structure
- proof of crop insurance, if applicable

Loan applications should be filed in the administrative FSA office that maintains the farm's records.

JUNE FSFL INTEREST RATES	
Rate locked in for term of loan	
7-year loan	3.000%
10-year loan	3.625%
12-year loan	3.875%



The New Farmland Preservation Program

Changes to the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), signed into law by Governor Doyle in July 2009, could potentially increase your tax benefits for 2010 and following years. In order to receive these benefits, you have new responsibilities involving compliance with conservation standards.

Benefit from Enhanced Tax Credits

The Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative increased the FPP tax credits up to \$7.50 per acre beginning in tax year 2010 for eligible landowners in areas zoned A-1 Agricultural Preservation District. Many farmers will receive higher credits because FPP payments are no longer capped based on income or property taxes.

Meeting New Responsibilities

FPP has an increased conservation focus that is reflected in a new Department of Revenue requirement for claiming the tax credit; namely, you must certify on your tax claim form, beginning in 2011 (tax year 2010), that you are in compliance with state conservation standards. It is now more important than ever that you have accurate information about your compliance status to avoid providing false information on your tax return. You need to know the conservation standards that apply to your farm and how your farm measures up to these standards. Also, if you are currently a participant, what you need to know to continue to claim a tax credit while you work toward meeting standards under a compliance schedule. If you have doubts about your compliance, work with your county Land Conservation Department to pursue a compliance plan. If you do nothing, you may be suspended from the program and lose the opportunity to collect your credit while you are working toward compliance.

For New FPP Participants: The first year you claim a credit, your tax return must include a certificate of compliance issued by the county. The certificate will only be issued if you have achieved compliance with the standards on your entire farm, even if you are not claiming credits for all of the acres on your farm. You

must be actually in compliance, when you file the tax claim and cannot be treated as in compliance based on a commitment to work toward future compliance.

Conservation Compliance Requirements 2010 and Beyond

You must meet applicable state conservation requirements for your entire farm, not just the acres for which you claim a tax credit. These requirements are based on the state agricultural performance standards adopted by the Department of Natural Resources in NR 151 to control farm runoff and incorporated by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection into ATCP 50. Wisconsin's rules to control polluted runoff from farms went into effect October 1, 2002.

The standards that apply to your farm depend on your farming activities

<i>Farming activity on qualified acres</i>	<i>Required Standards</i>
1. Grow agricultural crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet tolerable soil loss ("T") on cropped fields. • Follow a nutrient management plan designed to limit entry of nutrients into groundwater and surface water.
2. Raise, feed, or house livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters. • Limit livestock access to maintain adequate sod cover along waterways.
a.) Have or planning manure storage facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain structures to prevent overflow. • Repair or upgrade any failing or leaking structures that pose an imminent health threat or that violate groundwater standards. • Close abandoned structures according to accepted standards. • Meet technical standards for newly constructed or substantially altered structures.
b.) Within a Water Quality Management Area (300 feet from a stream, 1,000 feet from a lake, or in areas susceptible to groundwater contamination)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not stack manure in unconfined piles. • Divert clean water away from feedlots, manure storage areas, and barnyards located within this area.

RURAL LANDOWNER WORKSHOP - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2010

8:00 - 9:00am: Registration/Trade Show/Farmers Market
 9:00 - 10:00am: Keynote
 10:05 - 11:05am, 11:10 - 12:10pm: Breakout Sessions
 12:10 - 1:00pm: Lunch/ Trade Show/ Farmers Market
 1:00 - 2:00pm, 2:05 - 3:05pm: Breakout Sessions
 3:05 - 3:15pm: Closing Remarks

**Farmers
Market from
8am to 1pm**

DON'T WAIT TO REGISTER!

Early Bird Registration ends October 15.

Registration information and brochure also
 available at: <http://kenosha.uwex.edu/agriculture>.

9:00 – 10:00am	Keynote: <i>Alternative Energy: A Real Life Example: Sister Janet Weyker, EcoJustice Center</i>		
	~~~~~ BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS ~~~~~		
	<b>A: Equine Tract</b>	<b>B: Small Farm Tract</b>	<b>C: Conservation Tract</b>
<b>Session 1</b> <b>10:05 – 11:05 am</b>	<i>Horse Ownership Basics... Panel discussion including horse owners, stable managers and a veterinarian</i>	<i>USDA Funding Opportunities for Vegetable Producer, Kim Iczkowski, Farm Service Agency</i>	<i>Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels: Chrissy Regester, Walworth County UW Extension</i>
<b>Session 2</b> <b>11:10 – 12:10 pm</b>	<i>Composting Options for Farm Operations, Ellen Phillips, University of Illinois Extension</i>	<i>Beekeeping Basics</i>	<i>Installing a Renewable Energy System: technical information, financial incentives and more..., Bill Schutten, Wisconsin Focus on Energy</i>
<b>12:20 – 1:00pm</b>	<i>Lunch (provided), Trade Show and Farmers Market</i>		
<b>Session 3</b> <b>1:00 – 2:00 pm</b>	<i>Buying Hay for Horses, Peg Reedy Walworth County UW Extension.</i>	<i>Getting Started with Goats, Kathy Baumeister, Baumeister's Blue Ridge Farm &amp; Laura Pulda, Nature's Niche</i>	<i>Wind Turbines for Private Property: Real Life Example: Green Leaf Inn</i>
<b>Session 4</b> <b>2:05 – 3:05 pm</b>	<i>What's Wrong With My Horse? Should I Call the Vet? Tracy Busalacchi, Elkhorn Vet Clinic</i>	<i>Presenting Yourself at a Farmer's Market, Carol Reed, Burlington Farmers Market Manager, Michelle Cannon, Larryville Gardens &amp; Jill Thomsen</i>	<i>Solar Energy for Private Property: Real Life Example</i>
<b>3:05pm</b>	<i>Closing Remarks</i>		

## Registration Form

**SESSIONS:** Help us plan for room space by indicating your preference (A-C) for each session.

SESSION #	Registrant 1	Registrant 2
1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone : _____

E-mail: _____

Fee includes lunch & conference resource packet.

**EARLY BIRD** Registration (postmarked by Oct. 15)

____ # of adults @ \$20/person \$ _____

____ # of youth 14-18 @ \$15/person \$ _____

or

**REGULAR** Registration (postmarked after Oct. 15)

____ # of adults @ \$25/person \$ _____

____ # of youth 14-18 @ \$20/person \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

**Please make check payable to:**  
Kenosha County UW-Extension

**Return this form & payment to:**  
Kenosha County UW-Extension  
Rural Landowner Conference  
P O Box 550, Bristol, WI 53104



### Conference Location:

19600 75th Street, Bristol, WI 53104  
The Kenosha County Center is  
located at the intersections of  
Highways 45 and 50 in Bristol.

### 4th Annual Southeastern 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 enterprise.

#### For more information about the workshop contact:

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

Organizers of the 4th Annual Southeastern  
Wisconsin Rural Landowner Workshop

Caledonia Conservancy

Farm Service Agency

Kenosha County Land Conservation

Kenosha/Racine Land Trust

Seno Center

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Racine County Land Conservation

University of Wisconsin Extension

Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties

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.



## 4TH ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN RURAL LANDOWNER WORKSHOP



Saturday

November 6, 2010

8:00 am to 3:15 pm

Kenosha County Center  
19600 75th Street  
Bristol, WI 53104



**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

### **2010 Racine County Land Conservation Tree and Shrub Program**

Thanks to those of you who participated in the 27th Annual Tree and Shrub sale. Our numbers were a bit down from previous years, but despite the economic downturn we still sold 38,000 seedlings. The 2011 order forms will be distributed in the fall with an anticipated pick up date of mid-April 2011.



### **Well Abandonment Let Us Fill You In**

Well Abandonment refers to the *proper* filling and sealing of unused wells. When left unattended or improperly abandoned, these wells pose a significant threat to our groundwater quality by providing an unobstructed path between surface generated contaminants and our groundwater. Unused and/or improperly abandoned wells can also be deemed as safety hazards to humans and animals. If you have an abandoned or unused well on your property, you may be eligible for 70% cost-share assistance (up to \$700) to properly abandon your well. Contact our office at 262-886-8479 to determine if you are eligible for cost-share assistance or for additional information.



### **Waterford & Burlington Residents Mark your calendars!**

For those of you located in the Towns of Waterford and Burlington and zoned A-1 General Farming District please take note of the following dates:

**July 6, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Town of Waterford  
Plan Commission Meeting, Town Hall**

**July 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Town of Burlington  
Joint Plan Commission/Town Board Mtg  
Town Hall**

Racine County Staff will be on hand at the above listed meetings to discuss changes to farmland preservation requirements.



### **Reminder: Agricultural Standards and Prohibitions**

1. Control cropland erosion to meet tolerable rates.
2. Build, modify, or abandon manure storage facilities according to accepted standards.
3. Divert clean runoff away from livestock and manure storage areas located near waterbodies or areas susceptible to groundwater contamination.
4. Apply manure and other fertilizers according to an approved nutrient management plan.
5. No overflow of manure storage facilities.
6. No unconfined manure piles near waterbodies.
7. No direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters.
8. No trampled streambanks or shorelines from livestock.



**See you at the Racine County Fair July 28-  
August 1st. Look for the Land Conservation  
booth in the Commercial Building.**



## 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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US Department of Agriculture  
1012 Vine Street  
Union Grove, WI 53182 1330**