

Ties to the Land Newsletter

October – December 2010



10 Year Anniversary Edition



**Racine/Kenosha/Milwaukee
FSA Office**
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2010 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Don't forget to vote in the 2010 FSA County Committee Election. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by November 5th, and ballots must be returned to FSA county offices by December 6th, 2010. It is important that producers sign their ballots; without a valid signature the vote doesn't count.

There are three LAA's up for election this year; LAA 2, 3 and 5. LAA 2 consists of the townships in Racine County; Raymond, Caledonia, Yorkville, and Mt. Pleasant. LAA 3 consists of the townships in Kenosha County of Wheatland, Brighton, Randall, and Salem, and LAA 5 is all of Milwaukee County. Here are the candidates up for election:

LAA-2- Keith Heineck (Incumbent) Keith is a cash grain farmer from the Franksville area.

LAA- 3- Myron Daniels (Incumbent) Myron is a member of a dairy operation in the Brighton area.

LAA- 5- Joe Mainus (Incumbent) Joe is a cash grain farmer with his son in the Franklin area.

Jackie Crayton- Jackie is a dairy farmer with her husband in the Oak Creek area.

Fred Wobick- Fred is a cash grain farmer in the Oak Creek area.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Farm Service Agency	
2010 County Committee Election	1
Dairy Producers/MILC	2
Continuous CRP	2
SURE Sign-Up	2
Sod – NAP – Corrected Information	2
NAP Program for 2011	2-3
Storage Facility Loans	3
Disaster Program Information for Livestock	3
Kenosha County Land Conservation	
Managing the Water's Edge	4
Natural Resources Conservation Service	
Info for Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crops	5
Racine County Land Conservation	
Wildlife Damage Program	6
Working Lands Initiative Update	6
Wildlife Damage Deer Donation	6
Tree and Shrub Sale	6
UW Cooperative Extension	
Upcoming Events	7

COC ELECTION (continued)

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, 2011

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 for the 2011 fiscal year. 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.



CONTINUOUS CRP AVAILABLE

Do you have an area of farmland that is wet all the time? Do you have an area that washes out every year causing gully erosion? Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share and practice incentive payments of up to 90 percent of eligible costs 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.

SURE SIGNUP DEADLINE APPROACHING

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced that the deadline for producers who suffered crop production losses due to natural disasters during the 2008 crop year to sign up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) is **September 30th, 2010**.

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

CORRECTION NOTE:

The July/August/September 2010 incorrectly stated the deadline to purchase NAP insurance for sod was September 30th. **The correct deadline to purchase NAP insurance on sod is September 1st.**

HEY VEGETABLE GROWERS!! 2011 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

NAP INSURANCE (continued)

be paid to the FSA office in order to have NAP coverage. 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 2011 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.

If you have any questions regarding the NAP program, please contact Angie at the FSA office.

STORAGE FACILITY LOANS FOR HAY AND FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program has been amended to allow producers to build cold storage facilities to store fresh fruits and vegetables in addition to grain storage structures. The expansion of the FSFL program will provide fruit and vegetable producers with new storage and marketing opportunities. The program will help producers to finance the purchase, construction, or refurbishment of cold storage facilities.

To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility
- New walk-in prefabricated permanently installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

Portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used or pre-owned structures or cooling equipment or structures not suitable for a fresh fruits and vegetables cold storage facility are not eligible for FSFL cold storage loans.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan. One partial disbursement of up to half the anticipated total cost is available when that portion of the structure has been completed. The final disbursement will be made when the entire structure has been completed and inspected by a USDA representative.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans require a down payment of at least 15 percent and applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

Loans applications should be submitted to the administrative FSA county office that maintains the records of the farm or farms to which the application applies. If the commodities are produced on land that does not have farm records established, the application must be submitted to the FSA county office that services the county where the facility will be located.

For more information please contact Lori at the FSA county office or go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> to learn more.

September Interest Rates	Rate
Commodity Loans	1.250%
7- Year Facility Loans	2.250%
10- Year Facility Loans	2.875%
12-Year Facility Loans	3.125%
Farm Operating-Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership- Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership- Direct, Joint Financing	5.00%
Farm Ownership- Down Payment	1.50%
Emergency Loan- Amount of Actual Loss	3.75%

NEW DISASTER PROGRAM

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is available to provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather that occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011, including losses because of hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. The livestock death losses must have also occurred in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. Contact Angie at the FSA office to learn more.

Managing the Water's Edge

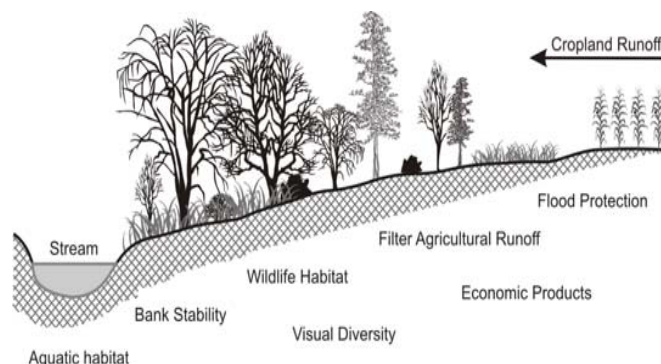
Despite significant research related to buffers, there remains no agreement as to what constitutes the optimal riparian buffer design or proper buffer width for effective pollutant removal, water quality protection, bank stabilization, improved fish and wildlife habitat, enhanced environmental corridors, stable base stream flow, and water temperature control.



Riparian buffers are zones adjacent to waterbodies such as lakes, rivers, and wetlands that protect both water quality and wildlife habitat. These buffer zones help to minimize the human impacts and disturbance to these sensitive areas. A buffer on a farm field is commonly located along the water's edge to filter nutrients, slow soil loss and stabilize the bank. Other related practices that provide buffer protection may include: grassed waterways, contour strips, wind breaks, field borders, or filter strips. These practices may or may not be adjacent to a waterway.

Some key considerations for better buffers/corridors:

- Wider buffers are better than narrow buffers for water quality and wildlife functions.
- Continuous corridors are better than fragmented corridors for wildlife.
- Natural connections/linkages should be maintained or restored.
- Structurally diverse corridors are better than corridors with simple structures (e.g., diverse plant structure or community types, upland and wetland complexes, soil types, topography, and geology).
- Corridors should be located and expanded around rare, threatened, or endangered species.
- Quality wildlife habitat should be provided in a buffer whenever possible.
- Native species diversity should be promoted through plantings and active management.
- Fragmentation of corridors should be reduced by limiting the number of crossings of a creek or river where appropriate.
- Restoration or rehabilitation of hydrological function, streambank stability, instream habitat, and/or floodplain connectivity should be considered within corridors.



Among the many tools available to farmers to reduce pollutant runoff from agricultural lands, such as crop rotations, nutrient and manure management, conservation tillage, and contour plowing, riparian buffers are one of the most simple and cost-effective tools to accomplish this task. Agricultural buffers provide multiple environmental benefits with watershed-wide significance.

Reprinted in part from SEWRPC's *Managing the Water's Edge*. Read the complete publication at <http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev/conservation/infoed.html>



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Wisconsin Opportunities for fruit, vegetable and specialty crop growers

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program helps farmers promote agricultural production while sustaining environmental quality. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist farmers to construct or begin using conservation practices on farmland

EQIP Organic Initiative

The Organic Initiative offers financial and technical assistance to help producers who are transitioning to organic farming and those that are currently certified organic producers. Assistance is for conservation practices related to organic production. This assistance is limited to \$20,000 per year and \$80,000 during a six year period. Producers are required to develop and carry out an Organic System Plan (OSP) or carry out practices consistent with an OSP.

For more information:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Programs/eqip/organic/index.html>

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) helps assess your land and develop a good conservation plan. CTA provides technical assistance to help conserve the natural resources and protect the water and soil on your cropland, forestland and grazing lands.

The 2008 Farm Bill has 10 percent of its funding set aside for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, with cost-share rates up to 90 percent. There are special funds dedicated for organic and specialty crop practices as well.



EQIP High Tunnels or Hoop Houses

Through EQIP, NRCS can help pay the costs for the construction of High Tunnels.

High tunnels or "Hoop Houses" extend the growing season and may help reduce the need for pesticides, keep vital nutrients in the soil, increase yields, and provide other benefits to growers. High tunnels provide steady incomes to farmers - a significant advantage to owners of small farms, limited-resource farmers and organic producers.

NRCS will fund one high tunnel per farm. High tunnels can be as large as 5 percent of 1 acre or 2178 sq.ft.

To sign up or learn more about EQIP assistance for high tunnel projects, contact your local NRCS office.

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)

Grazing Lands are an important part of the services that NRCS offers. Grazing Lands Specialists are available across the state, to provide technical assistance and education for grazers. Pasture walks, conferences and training workshops help you develop and understand grazing plans. The GLCI is a network of individuals and organizations working to keep private grazing lands productive.

More information is available at

www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grazing.html

Web Soil Survey

Healthy lands begin with healthy soils. Soils information is a vital part of keeping your land productive. The Web Soil Survey is a valuable resource that is available to you free of charge. It offers the most up-to-date soil information. It allows you to generate interpretive maps and soil reports. These features make it easy to use and understand the web-based soil survey.

Go to <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>



Racine County Land Conservation
14200 Washington Ave.
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262-886-8479

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

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

Wildlife Damage Program

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

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



Working Lands Initiative Update

The Towns of Waterford and Burlington met in July to discuss farmland preservation and the continuation of A-1 Farmland Preservation within their respective towns. Both Towns determined that farmland preservation was a town priority and each Town would retain A-1 General Farming zoning designation.

Now that interest has been established the County will begin the process of creating farm tract maps and developing a new farmland preservation plan/ordinance to meet Working Lands Initiative requirements. We will continue to update the public on the status of the plan via this newsletter. Please contact this office with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this program.



Wildlife Damage Deer Donation

The Wildlife Damage Deer Donation will be celebrating its 11th anniversary this fall. Since it's 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. Check with your local meat processor to determine program participating butchers.

Tree & Shrub Sale

2011 Racine County Land Conservation Tree Program

It's that time again! This year's 28th Annual Tree and Shrub sale will begin this fall. Several new species have been added to the sale including: Ninebark, Red Osier Dogwood, Serviceberry, and American Plum. The order form is included in this issue of Ties to the Land. Orders are due to the Land Conservation office by February 25, 2011. The seedlings should arrive at the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove by mid-April.



Save the Date

Join us for the Fourth Annual Southeastern Wisconsin Rural Landowner Workshop, Saturday, November 6, 2010 (8:00 am – 3:15 pm) at the Kenosha County Center. Topics include: an equine tract, small farm tract, and a conservation tract. Contact Rose Skora at 262-857-1945 or rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu for more information or registration details.



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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Article Submitted by: Rose Skora
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Upcoming Events

Annie's Project: A new program has been developed to assist farm women who are just starting or are direct marketing their farm products. The program, called *Annie's Project*, will focus on the risk management educational needs for beginning farm women and/or farm women who are considering a direct marketing or value-added enterprise for their operation.

This six week workshop will help participants:

- Evaluate goals, skills and resources to determine farm business feasibility.
- Learn how to gather market research
- Prepare to write a business plan
- Gather information on tax issues and business structures for the farm business
- Learn about financial statements and how to use them to make sustainable decisions.
- Learn about state and federal regulations for farm products and safe food handling.

The program will be held on six Wednesdays, starting in November through December. The dates are November 3, 10, 17 and December 1, 8 & 15, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The classes will meet at the Walworth County Extension Office in the Walworth County Courthouse, 100 Walworth St., Elkhorn, WI. One of the goals of *Annie's Project* is to provide networking opportunities for farm women in similar situations or developing similar enterprises.

Costs are \$30 per participant for the entire six week course. This fee covers materials, speakers, and lunch for the six sessions. For more information, or to register for the class, contact Rose Skora with Kenosha/Racine Counties at 262-857-1945 or rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu. The brochure can found at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/kenosha/ag/index.html>

Annie's Project is partially funded by the North Center Region Risk Management Education Center, the UW Center for Dairy Profitability, UW Agricultural Innovation Center and UW Cooperative Extension and the USDA Farm Service Agency.



Rural Landowner Conference: The 4th Annual Southeast Wisconsin Rural Landowner Conference scheduled for Saturday November 6th will offer opportunities for rural landowners and small farmers and well as individuals who are considering a farm enterprise.

Sister Janet Weyker from the Eco Justice Center will begin first by talking about Alternative Energy Projects at the Eco Justice Center. After the keynote speaker, participants will be able to choose from a variety of educational topics from three tracts: horses, small farm or conservation. The horse tract will feature topics such as horse ownership, composting, buying hay and when to call a vet. The small farm tract will offer information on USDA funding opportunities, beekeeping, raising goats and selling at farmers markets. The conservation tract will include workshops on rain gardens, renewable energy, wind turbine and solar energy.

In addition to the educational sessions, a trade show and farmers' market will be held in conjunction with the conference.

The program will be held on Saturday November 6th, 2010 at the Kenosha County Center in Bristol and will run from 8:00 am -3:15 pm. Costs for the program are \$20/person and \$15 for youth between the ages of 14 and 18. Costs increase by \$5 after the October 15th early bird deadline. A lunch featuring local farmers and local food will be 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, 262-857-1945 or rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu.



DIRECTORY OF AGENCIES

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Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation

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Kenosha County UW-Extension

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Racine County UW-Extension

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Ties to the Land Newsletter

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Racine County Land Conservation
Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation
UW-Cooperative Extension**

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