

Ties to the Land Newsletter

October-December 2012



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



WELCOME OUR NEW EMPLOYEE- KRISTIN LOOCK



You might notice a new face the next time you are in the FSA office in Union Grove. Kristin Loock joined the team on September 10th and is ready to help all the owners and operators in Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha County!

Kristin joins us after working for 13 years in the banking industry; most recently at Chase Bank in Racine. She has a great understanding of customer service and will be a great asset to the office. She will be responsible for administering the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) and farm loans and will also assist in a variety of other areas in the office. Kristin has two girls; Emily, 7 and Ashley, 5. She spends much of her free time being active in the community as a Girl Scout leader and volunteer with her daughters' troops. Stop in and introduce yourself when you are in Union Grove!

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

If you are a woman or Hispanic farmer and believe you were improperly denied farm loan benefits by USDA between 1981 and 2000. You may be eligible for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov



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WHEN CABBAGE WAS KING

It all began in the 1880s, when a Somers farmer planted a single acre of cabbage. He did so well with that first crop; he quadrupled his planting the following year and shipped that crop to St. Louis. His neighbors caught on quickly and followed suit. That attracted the attention of Chicago produce dealers, who introduced the local growers to a new variety, the Danish Bald Head, which both traveled and stored well. Soon Kenosha-grown cabbage was being shipped by the boxcar-loads across the nation. Legend has it - as many as 600 tons of cabbage rode the rails from Somers on peak harvest days.

By 1900, much of the lakeshore strip in Somers and northward into Racine County was planted in cabbage. Warehouses and shipping stations sprang up along the tracks throughout the area. There was real green in growing cabbages and, reported, small fortunes were made. Land abuse and over use led, in the early 20th Century, to a soil fungus that caused cabbage "yellows," seriously threatening profits. A UW professor tested new strains in Somers, beginning in 1910. Of 24,000 plants he set out, only three heads escaped the "yellows" . . . cabbages naturally resistant to the fungus. But before they could be harvested, a nearby herd of cows broke through the fence and devoured two of them. Luckily the sole surviving head produced seeds and by 1916, a new cabbage variety, Wisconsin Hollander No. 8, a resistant type, was being widely grown.

When other diseases, black leg and black rot began to plague local cabbage growers a few years later, another UW scientist, set out to find the answer. By 1925, they had solved the



problem, breaking the disease cycle with seed grown in more arid western states. Cabbage growing in Kenosha County probably reached its peak around 1930, when nearly 2,100 acres were planted and Wisconsin ranked first in the nation in the overall production of cabbage. Today, Wisconsin ranks 7th in the U.S. for fresh market cabbage production and 2nd behind New York, in kraut cabbage, a special variety with low water content and a white interior.

A little known fact about Kenosha County's emergence as the nation's premier cabbage grower, beginning in the 1880s, liberal amount of horse manure was applied to the fields. The same locomotives that hauled freight cars of cabbage south to Chicago and beyond, returned with trainloads of manure from an almost endless supply collected in countless metropolitan stables during those pre-automobile years. (Reprinted from *Southport - Of Cabbages and Kings*, by Don Jensen)

USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1012 Vine St. - Union Grove WI - 53182
262-878-1243 x3 www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov

Many producers don't realize that most of the NRCS conservation programs are open for sign-up at any time, continuously, not just for a few weeks each year. For example, you can make an appointment and sign-up for cost sharing through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) at any time throughout the year. Those applications are held until an annual ranking date is announced, and then all applications that NRCS has received to date will be ranked for funding that year.

Frequently, the ranking dates are in the winter, and producers rush to sign up when the ranking date is announced. However, this is Wisconsin and the snow cover makes it difficult for the NRCS staff to get a good look at the land and add all needed practices to the application. Funding may not be available in the spring to add anything that was missed, but that can be avoided by signing up earlier.

Example Practices (not all inclusive)

Cover Crops	Diversion
Filter Strip	Grassed Waterways
Nutrient Management	Pest Management
Pipeline	Prescribed Burning
Prescribed Grazing	Terrace
Pasture and Hayland Planting	Residue Management
Watering Facility	Roof Runoff Structure
Seasonal High Tunnels	Stream Crossing
Waste Storage Facility	Well Decommissioning
Tree/Shrub Establishment	



**Racine County Land
Conservation**
14200 Washington Ave.
Sturtevant, WI 53177
262-886-8440

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

Staff Contributions by:
Chad Sampson, Jon Grove, & Brian Sadler

Earn \$200.00 / Acre

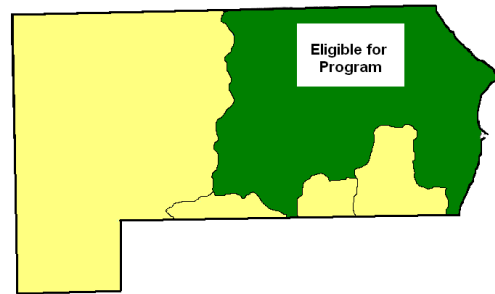
Guaranteed for the Next 15 years

Does it sound too good to be true?

Racine County Land Conservation has received a grant from The Fund for Lake Michigan to plant grassed buffers along streams, ditches, and rivers on marginal cropland. Take that marginal cropland and receive **\$3,000 / acre as an upfront payment** to leave cropland in grass for the next 15 years!

What are the rules?

1. You must live in the Root River or Lake Michigan direct watersheds?
2. Your cropland must be determined eligible by Racine County Land Conservation staff.
3. You must sign a 15-year contract. If the contract is broken, you must repay all of the money received.
4. You can plant either warm season or cool season grasses.
5. You can harvest the buffer after August 1st.



Please contact Chad Sampson at the Racine County Land Conservation office at 262-886-8440 for more information.

Tree & Shrub Sale

2013 Racine County Land Conservation Tree Program

It's that time again! This year's Tree and Shrub sale will begin this fall. Several new species have been added to the sale including: Black Cherry, Elderberry, and more. The order form is included in this issue of Ties to the Land. Orders are due to the Land Conservation office by February 22, 2013. The seedlings should arrive at the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove by mid-April. You will be notified two weeks before pick-up.



Student Environmental Poster Contest

The Racine County Land Conservation Division is looking for students and teachers to participate in the Annual Student Poster Contest. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three posters in each division within Racine County. The top three posters will be displayed at the department booth at the 2013 Racine County Fair. First-place posters will advance to the Area Contest. All posters must be submitted to the Racine County Land Conservation office, located at 14200 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant, WI no later than **4 p.m. on FRIDAY OCTOBER 5, 2012**.

For contest rules visit <http://www.wlwca.org>. Please contact our office with your school and number of participants between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



DIRECTORY OF AGENCIES

Kenosha/Milwaukee/Racine 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

209 N. Main Street, Burlington, WI 53105
Phone: 262-767-2929, Fax: 262-767-2949



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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

Change Service Requested

**Farm Service Agency
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Racine County Land Conservation
Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation
UW-Cooperative Extension**

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