

Ties to the Land Newsletter

January-March 2013



Resources for landowners and operators of
Racine, Kenosha, and Milwaukee County

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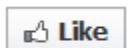
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TIES TO THE LAND" HAS A [FACEBOOK](#) PAGE!

As you are aware, due to budget restrictions we are able to print only one newsletter per year. As an additional way to get useful information to the landowners and operators of Racine, Kenosha, and Milwaukee Counties, the group has created a facebook page to share important information and deadlines. All cooperating agencies will update the page on a regular basis with information regarding programs available and signup deadlines. If you have a facebook page, "Like" us to get great information!"



New for the e-mail newsletter! You can click on any [blue underlined](#) headline or topic in any article to be directed to the website for more information.



Racine/Kenosha/Milwaukee FSA Office

*1012 Vine St.
Union Grove, WI 53182
262-878-3353*

WELCOME TO SENIOR FARM LOAN OFFICER, CAROL NAGEL!

The Racine Kenosha Milwaukee County Farm Service Agency welcomed Carol Nagel to the Union Grove office in November. Carol comes to us from, North Dakota having 28 years of experience with the Farm Service Agency. Carol comes to the Union Grove FSA office to enhance the support available for farm loan borrowers in Racine, Kenosha, Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties. Carol will service the existing loans along with assisting producers with new loans. She will also perform outreach duties throughout the state with a special emphasis on a new micro loan program attractive to Local and Regional Food Systems, and Urban Agriculture producers. This program is due to be launched in January. Carol's goal is to get information about the Farm Service Agency out to individuals and organizations who may not know about the opportunities FSA offers.



FSA Farm Loan Program offers loans to producers that cannot obtain lending from other sources. Examples of eligible loan purposes are; real estate purchases and improvements, chattel purchases, and annual operating expenses. These loans can be obtained directly through FSA or with financing from a financial institute through an FSA Guaranteed Loan. Eligible applicants include beginning and non-beginning farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers. If you are interested in talking to Carol about types of loans available and eligibility requirements, feel free to stop in or call her at 262-878-3353, extension 107. If Carol is not available, please feel free to talk to Kristin Look at extension 104.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available by contacting the Union Grove FSA office. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

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COMMITTEE SAYS GOODBYE TO MIKE WEINKAUF

The Racine Kenosha Milwaukee County Committee held their last meeting of the calendar year on December 6th. The meeting was the last for COC member Mike Weinkauf. Mike has served on board for the last 9 years as the representative of LAA 1. Mike farms with his brother in Rochester and was a great asset to the committee; he provided great insight and perspective during his term and will be missed! Mike received a certificate for service and the office had a potluck to show their appreciation for his service. During the lunch Mike said that he has seen the Farm Service Agency change a lot over the last 9 years and he appreciated the privilege to represent the farmers of Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee. Thanks for serving Mike!



Counting election ballots left to right around the table: Carol Lois, Marv Drissel, Joe Mainus, Angie Drews, Keith Heineck, Myron Daniels and Mike Weinkauf

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NEW COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBER ELECTED

A new County Committee (COC) member has been elected for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 and will start his term January 1st, 2013. **Tom Greil** of Waterford was elected by the landowners and operators of Waterford, Norway, Dover, Rochester and Burlington to serve a 3-year term on the committee. Tom and his wife Nancy farm in the town of Waterford. Help us welcome Tom; he will make a great addition to the County Committee.

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FSA REMINDS PRODUCERS OF THE [DAIRY INDEMNITY PAYMENT PROGRAM](#)

Producers who have been directed by Federal or State Regulatory Agencies to remove their raw milk from the commercial market because of contamination due to no fault of the producer, such as aflatoxin in the feed, may be eligible to participate in the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP).

To be eligible to participate in DIPP, producers will need to provide the following to their local County FSA Office:

- A completed CCC-373 "Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP) Application". This will show the number of cows milked, pounds marketed in the base and claim periods, milking practices, etc.
- Letter explaining how the milk was contaminated.
- Documentation from Federal or State Regulatory Agencies showing "removal" from the market as well as "reinstatement" to the market.
- Base period production from the milk handler or the full month of production prior to the milk being dumped.
- Claim period production from the milk handler or the month during which the milk was removed from market.
- Certify Highly Erodible & Wetland Conservation Compliance

Producers who suffered losses October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, have until December 31, 2012, to file an application for DIPP. Producers suffering losses from October 1, 2012, through March 27, 2013, **must file an application by close of business on March 27, 2013, to be eligible.**

Payment of DIPP applications is contingent upon the authority and availability of funds to pay the claims. Claims will be paid from available funds on a first-come, first-serve basis on the date the claims were approved. Approval of the claims will continue until all funds have been exhausted. Claims received after the funds have been exhausted will not be paid. Affected producers should contact their local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information about DIPP.

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FSA INTEREST RATES FOR DECEMBER 2012

COMMODITY LOAN	1.125%
7-YEAR FACILITY LOAN	1.125%
10-YEAR FACILITY LOAN	1.750%
12-YEAR FACILITY LOAN	1.875%
FARM OPERATING-DIRECT	1.125%
FARM OWNERSHIP-DIRECT/CONSERVATION LOAN	3.125%
FARM OWNERSHIP-DOWN PAYMENT	1.500%



Monday, January 21, 2013 the USDA Service Center is closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, February 18th, 2013 we will be closed in observance of President's Day



REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR SNOWMOBILE TRAILS ON [CRP](#)

The Wisconsin Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds landowners that snowmobile trails must be approved by FSA before being permitted on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage. The Racine Kenosha Milwaukee FSA county committee determines whether or not snowmobile trails are allowed to cross acreage enrolled in CRP.

If this affects any of your CRP acreage, contact Jeanette at the FSA office to request this particular use prior to allowing a trail on your CRP land.

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APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ([NAP](#)) SPRING-SEEDED CROPS APPROACHING

Wisconsin FSA reminds producers that **March 15, 2013, is the application deadline** to sign up for the Non-Insured Assistance Program coverage on most spring-seeded crops.

Producers interested in obtaining NAP on their 2013 spring-seeded non-insurable crop acreage should visit their local county office to complete an application for 2013 acres. This deadline date also applies to persons who have a 2012 policy that expired and want to renew coverage on spring seeded crops for 2013.

NAP coverage is available for crops only where insurance coverage is not available under Federal Crop Insurance policies provided by private insurance agents.

NAP is designed to cover losses due to damaging weather conditions. The program covers losses of more than 50 percent of normal yields or the farm's yield calculated using actual production histories. Payments for production lost in excess of 50 percent are paid at 55 percent of the values established for the crop.

The cost per policy is \$250 per crop per producer with a \$750 cap per county. NAP coverage begins 30 days after the application is filed and the \$250 administrative fee has been paid. The \$250 administrative fee is non refundable. Producers that are considered limited resource under FSA provisions may have the service fees waived.

Producers who currently have NAP coverage or who are interested in coverage need to keep accurate records of their production, report acreage of the crops to FSA annually, and promptly notify FSA when losses occur.

Additionally, in past USDA disaster programs, 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. Coverage requirements vary slightly depending on the disaster program.

Producers are encouraged to contact Angie at the Union Grove FSA office to obtain NAP coverage or for additional information on the NAP before the **March 15, 2013 deadline**. Information on the NAP program can also be found on FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

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CHANGES TO FORM 1099-G AND 1099-MISC FOR FSA PRODUCERS AND VENDORS

Calendar year 2012 brings several changes to the way FSA reports a producer's farm program payments to the producer and to IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G (Report of Payments to Producers). Additionally, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.



Producers who receive less than \$600 in combined payments should consult a tax advisor to determine if these payments must be reported on their tax return. If the payments were subject to voluntary withholdings or subject to backup (involuntary) withholdings a Form 1099-G will be issued regardless of the total amount of the payments.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

For more information regarding IRS reporting changes, please contact the FSA office AT 262-878-3353.



DAN TRELOAR - COUNTY CONSERVATIONIST

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SILVER LAKE ICEHOUSE TRAIL



The newly completed Silver Lake Icehouse Trail is only about ¾ of a mile long but it is one of the most scenic trails in southeast Wisconsin. The trail passes through a forest of oak, walnut, cherry and maple trees and along the shores of Silver Lake on an elevated railroad grade.



WDNR Stewardship grants and a Cooperative Trail Agreement with the WDNR turned the project into reality. The trail connects the Village of Silver Lake with Silver Lake County Park, offering hikers and bikers the opportunity to travel the circumference of the lake and link up to future bike trails.



Two bridges were required to bridge over cuts in the grade that were made to allow fish to pass into a backwater marsh for spawning.

The new trail provides a scenic and safe place for hiking and biking. It provides easy access for fishing on the north shore of the lake and route for residents to visit Silver Lake Park. This trail completes the last link in being able

bike or walk completely around Silver Lake (approximately 5 miles) and will also connect with future bike trails planned in the Town of Salem.



Why call it the Icehouse Trail??

Silver Lake Park was once the site of Consumers Ice Company Ice House which shipped their harvested ice as freight on the rail line. The new bike trail is built on the old railway bed. The KD Rail Line started in 1853 as passenger service between Kenosha and Rockford Illinois hauling ice and milk as well as passengers. Built as the Kenosha, Rockford and Rock Island Railroad when purchased by Chicago & North Western it was renamed the Kenosha Division (KD Line). At the peak of its service it ran 12 daily trains and provided passenger service to tourist areas and resorts in western Kenosha County and terminated in Rockford Illinois.



Refrigeration and trucks hauling milk spelled the end of the KD Line when it pulled into Salem, Wisconsin for the last time on May 31, 1939. Portions of the old line's right-of-way can still be seen in Kenosha County and parts of it are trails, one connecting Bassett and Twin Lakes in western Kenosha County.

Recreational trails are proven to be a high value investment in terms of property values, community attractiveness, small business prosperity and healthier lifestyles. There is no doubt that this trail will be an asset to Kenosha County.

NRCS OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMS, WOODLANDS AND WILDLIFE

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that producers interested in new farmland conservation practices **must apply by Jan. 18** to be considered for 2013 funding.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the primary program available to producers for farmland conservation work, offering flat-rate payments for over 80 conservation practices.

EQIP can help all types of producers - livestock and dairy, grazing, or cash crop, including specialty crops, organic, and agro-forestry. EQIP also offers additional assistance for beginning, socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers.

All eligible applications received by Jan. 18 will be evaluated and ranked for funding. Producers can sign up at the NRCS office in USDA Service Centers statewide. Last year, Wisconsin received about \$26 million in funds for EQIP.

NRCS is expecting increased interest this year, in part because of the extreme weather last summer which showed the importance of conservation practices for good soil health and drought resilience. The key conservation practices for improving soil health are crop rotations, cover crops, no-till or mulch tillage, and erosion-reducing practices such as buffers and grassed waterways.

Special opportunities are also now open for On-Farm Energy, Organic, and Seasonal High Tunnel conservation practices. All three initiatives offer technical and financial assistance. **All applications must be received by Jan. 18 to be considered for funding in 2013.**

- **On-Farm Energy Initiative:** NRCS and producers develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP) or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. Audit data is used to develop energy conservation recommendations. The Landscape AgEMP assesses equipment and farming processes. The farm headquarters AgEMP assesses power usage and efficiency in livestock buildings, grain handling operations, and similar facilities to support the farm operation. Examples of energy conserving practices available include crop rotation, legume cover crop, no-till planting, and Farmstead Energy Improvement.
- **Organic Initiative:** NRCS helps certified organic growers and producers working to achieve organic certification install conservation practices to address resource concerns on organic operations. A wide range of practices are available in this initiative.
- **Seasonal High Tunnel Pilot Initiative:** NRCS helps producers plan and implement high tunnels, steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures that extend growing seasons in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality, fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment, and better air quality due to fewer vehicles being needed to transport crops. More than 4,000 high tunnels have been planned and implemented nationwide through this initiative over the past two years. Supporting conservation practices such as grassed waterways, and diversions are available to address resource concerns on operations with Seasonal High Tunnel structures.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program



NRCS Photo

For more information, visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov, or contact the NRCS office in Union Grove, WI at 262-878-1243 ext. 3.



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14200 Washington Ave.
Sturtevant, WI 53177
262-886-8440
<http://www.racineco.com/landconv/>

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

ROOT RIVER WATERSHED – RIPARIAN BUFFERS



Example of Riparian Buffers

Are you looking for \$200 per acre guaranteed on your cropland for the next 15 years?

Is your existing cropland adjacent to a ditch, creek, stream, or river?

Do you live in the Root River or Lake Michigan Watershed in Racine County?

If your answer to all of these questions is “Yes,” then, maybe our riparian buffer program is an opportunity for you!

The primary purpose of planting riparian buffers is to reduce erosion, improve water quality and increase habitat for wildlife.

Riparian buffers along rivers and streams filter agricultural runoff.

Utilizing a grant, Racine County staff will be assisting with the implementation of 33 acres of riparian buffers over the next two years. We have targeted priority sites within the watershed to plant buffers. The sites are primarily marginal cropland or cropping land too close to the river or stream.

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E – RECYCLING A SUCCESS!



Brian Sadler assisting with the collection

On November 3rd, the “Ties to the Land” team, combined with Asset Recycling, hosted an Electronics Recycling event at the Kenosha County Center.

An estimated 300 – 400 vehicles came to the parking lot to deliver unwanted electronic waste. The amount of waste filled nearly two semi-trailers full used electronics. The weight of the waste was estimated to be around 15 tons of material.

The event was from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. on the first Saturday in November. We plan on doing it again next year! Watch coming issues of this newsletter for more information.



E-waste pile at the end of the day

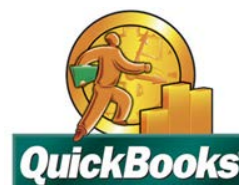
Article Submitted by: Rose Skora
rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu

QUICKBOOKS FOR FARMERS

Are you interested in learning how to use QuickBooks computer software for your farm financial recordkeeping? Or build upon what you already do know? UW Extension in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Extension Center for Dairy Profitability and UW-River Falls are offering a beginning hands-on workshop using QuickBooks in Elkhorn on Wednesday, January 23rd from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

QuickBooks is a financial recordkeeping program and management tool. The program allows you to track and manage income, expenses, bank accounts, receivables, inventory, fixed assets, payables, loans, payroll and equity in your farm business. QuickBooks also provides you with standard and customized detailed reports that are essential to making good decisions.

In this hands-on computer workshop, participants will develop a set of farm financial records and reports including how QuickBooks is structured, how it files work, and how to navigate in the system to tailor financial recordkeeping for your farm business.



Registration is \$25.00 and includes lunch, manual, and materials. Space is limited to 20 people so please register early. Please note full payment for the workshop is required to guarantee a spot.

This QuickBooks workshop is sponsored by UW-River Falls, Center for Dairy Profitability and UW-Extension in Kenosha, Jefferson, Racine, and Walworth Counties as well as are partially funded through a grant from the USDA Risk Management Agency.

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ANNIE'S PROJECT – A PROGRAM FOR FARM WOMEN

Beginning on February 6, the UW-Cooperative Extension offices in Jefferson, Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties in cooperation with the UW Center for Dairy Profitability are sponsoring an *Annie's Project* workshop series for women farmers. The series of three workshops will be held on Wednesdays, February 6, 20 and March 6th at the Center in Elkhorn. Each workshop starts at 8:45 am and ends at noon. *Annie's Project* brings risk management tools and education to farm women so they can be better farm managers, whether that is in a partnership or on their own. The program also provides networking opportunities to discuss common farm issues with other farming women.

The 2013 *Annie's Project* series include:



- An update in taxes – what is new for 2013 and beyond;
- What the Affordable Care Act means for you
- Farm financial budgeting – gathering the financial information to begin analyzing your farm's financial performance and decide the farm's next steps.

The cost of the three day program is \$20/participant, which provides materials and speakers for all three days. To download a brochure and registration form for this program go to www.uwex.edu/ces/heartofthefarm/ and click on conferences and then Annie's Project on the left side of the page.

Both of the programs listed above will be held at the Walworth County Government Center in Elkhorn. For registration information, please contact Rose Skora with the Kenosha or Racine County UW Extension offices at rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu or 262-857-1945 or 262-767-2929. The brochure is also available online at: <http://kenosha.uwex.edu/category/agricultural-news/>