

NewsWatch

Report highlights state conservation successes

USDA'S Natural Resources Conservation Service has released its summary of conservation accomplishments in Wisconsin for 2007. Highlights in the NRCS report include results of farm bill conservation programs and their uses in Wisconsin.

"This year marked the end of an amazing journey called the 2002 Farm Bill," says Pat Leavenworth, NRCS state conservationist. Over the course of the farm bill from 2002 through 2007, Wisconsin farmers signed up for 7,623 contracts for farmland conservation work in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, plus 648 working farms enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, which now has 200,000 acres in the state.

"Again this year, thousands of Wisconsin farmers continued to work to safeguard the soil and water. They can be very proud of their stewardship of the land, and so can those who work in conservation," Leavenworth says.

Some highlights from 2007:

- Nearly \$26 million was dedicated to helping Wisconsin farmers and landowners protect the state's soil and water quality through the NRCS farm bill conservation programs.
- EQIP funded 1,100 new contracts

for conservation projects on working farmland. More than one-third of these funds were dedicated to helping livestock and dairy farms improve manure management, one of the most critical issues in Wisconsin agriculture.

■ Since the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program was established in 1996, NRCS has helped 11 different farmland programs purchase easements to protect prime farmland from development. The easements guarantee that more than 11,500 acres on 78 working farms in 11 counties will remain in agriculture.

Other notable accomplishments from 2007:

- 552,515 acres of conservation plans written
- 471,016 acres of cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality
- 504,110 acres of cropland with conservation applied to improve water quality
- 179 comprehensive nutrient management plans applied
- 3,161 acres of wetlands created, restored or enhanced

The NRCS state report is available online at www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov.

Source: NRCS

Nilsestuen calls for grant ideas to bolster agriculture economy

ROD Nilsestuen, secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, is asking for grant proposals to boost Wisconsin's farm profits.

Individuals, associations, agribusinesses and industry groups are invited to submit proposals to the 2008 Agricultural Development and Diversification grant program. DATCP will award \$380,000 total this year; the maximum grant amount is \$50,000. Proposals must be received in the Division of Agricultural Development by March 15 at 5 p.m.

"We are looking for projects that will add value to Wisconsin agriculture and invest in the state's future," says Nilsestuen. "These highly competitive grants return millions of dollars to the state in increased profits, new markets and new technologies."

For example, with help from a 2004 ADD grant, a Wisconsin company has successfully tested technology that converts cheese waste into renewable energy. The company has completed the first phase of the business and is looking to expand production.

Grant funds come from the DATCP's Agricultural Development and Diversification grant program. Sixteen agricultural development projects ranging from renewable energy

to organic agriculture received about \$450,000 in 2007.

Last year's grant projects included helping increase sales for Wisconsin farmers markets, developing biomass for fuel, and cashing in on demand for fresh fruits and vegetables by developing cold-hardy plants.

"We welcome a wide variety of projects," says Mike Bandli, ADD grant program coordinator.

Apply online

The 2008 request for proposal, guidelines, template, evaluation sheet, tips and past projects are available online at www.datcp.state.wi.us; search "ADD grants." Or, call Mike Bandli at 608-224-5136 for more information.

The ADD grant program was created in 1989 to stimulate Wisconsin's farm economy. Based on post-grant surveys, the program has generated more than \$100 million in economic returns, including annual sales increases, annual cost reductions and additional economic returns. Economic activity that has resulted from the success of grant projects includes more than 600 new jobs, more than \$30 million in new capital investment and more than 400 new products.

Source: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Celebrating 30 Years of Quality!

YOU ARE INVITED TO...

Customer Appreciation Days!

Come in for a FREE Quote & the Best Prices of the Season!

MARCH 13TH & 14TH

8AM - 6PM

MARCH 15TH

8AM - 5PM

Free gift with estimate!
Food & Refreshments provided!

Pre-Engineered Structures For: • Residential • Commercial • Equine • Farm • Suburban • Metal Roofing



50'x64'x16'
042495



42'x48'x12' w/8' porch
070816



27'x56'x10'
071307

• FABRAL LIFETIME STEEL PAINT WARRANTY • 3 PLY NON-SPLICED COLUMNS • FEATURING DOORS

• BUILDERS RISK & FULL INSURANCE DURING CONSTRUCTION

CALL 1-800-373-5550 OR CONTACT THE OFFICE NEAREST YOU!

APPLETON, WI, Hwys 76 & 96	(920) 757-5881	SLINGER, WI, 4476 Hwys 60 & 41	(262) 644-6880
ELLSWORTH, WI, Hwy 63 South	(715) 273-1444	SPARTA, WI, 7599 Hwy 16 West	(608) 269-3424
LAKE GENEVA, WI, Hwy 120 North	(262) 248-0600	VERONA, WI, 190 Paoli St. (Hwy 69 South & Hwy 18-151)	(608) 845-9700
PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WI, 37434 Hwy 18 South	(608) 326-2909	WAUSAU, WI, 2108 Cassidy Dr. (Exit 194 off I-39)	(715) 675-7701
PULASKI, WI, 900 E. Glenbrook Dr. (Hwy 32)	(920) 822-1698	ESCANABA, MI, 1814 N. Lincoln Rd (Hwy 2/41)	(906) 789-7720
RICE LAKE, WI, 239 S. Main St. (Hwy SS, Exit 140 off Hwy 53) ...	(715) 236-7344		



Serving our Clients since 1978

Color & Design your building at WWW.CLEARYBUILDING.COM

See Cleary website for map to offices