

2016 GENERAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

Following is a summary of general land & water conservation activities carried out by the Land Conservation Committee during 2016:

- Sponsored Twelfth Annual Dodge County Small Packet tree Sale Program; 204 landowners purchased 19,025 trees.
- Cooperated with DNR Forester in renting out two tree planters to two landowners who planted 1,400 trees.
- Continued administration of Dodge County Animal Waste Storage and Nutrient Utilization Ordinance. Issued permits and assisted landowners with projects on one farm.
- Conducted county-wide cropland soil erosion survey.
- Continued farmer network for those interested in learning about and trying intensive rotational grazing on their farms.
- Provided soil maps and soil data to many farmers, landowners, crop consultants, and other land users.
- Prepared annual workload analysis and applied for state grants to carry out programs; received \$137,622 in state aid for technical services provided.
- In cooperation with staff from the University of Wisconsin Extension Service, conducted one workshop to train 18 farmers on how to practice proper nutrient management on their farms. Also, conducted one workshop to re-certify 53 farmers for preparing their own nutrient management plans. Also, trained 6 farmers on use of nutrient management computer program called SNAP-Plus.
- Provided technical, financial & educational assistance to 365 landowner/citizen contacts.

“Our livelihood is intimately tied to the food we eat, water we drink, and places where we recreate. That’s why we have to promote responsibility and conservation when it comes to our natural resources.” (Mark Udall)



FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM:

The Dodge County Land Conservation Committee administers the conservation compliance provisions of the Farmland Preservation Program. Some of the activities in 2016 include:

- Prepared (new and revised) soil conservation plans for 17,671 acres of enrolled cropland.
- Monitored status of 125 conservation plans covering 17,575 cropland acres for compliance with standards.
- Managed 553 conservation plans covering 97,539 cropland acres.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING ACTIVITIES:

- Documented over 138,000 acres of cropland under Nutrient Management Plans in 2016.



LAND & WATER
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Dodge County’s Land and Water Resource Management Plan was updated in 2012. The new 10-year plan was approved by the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Board on December 4, 2012; and then approved by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors on January 15, 2013.

Goals established under the new Dodge County Land and Water Resource Management Plan include the following:

- Protect and improve the quality of Dodge County’s ground water resources, surface water resources, and soil resources
- Protect Dodge County land and water resources from adverse impacts caused by cropland drainage and wetland alterations
- Protect Dodge County agricultural interests from wildlife crop damage
- Increase farmer, rural landowner, and general public awareness and knowledge of land and water resource issues in Dodge County
- Encourage environmentally desirable types of land use conversions

Key Land & Water Plan Accomplishments in 2016 By All Conservation Agencies/Groups		
Planned Activity	Annual Goal Amount	2016 Amount Achieved
Residue Management	5,000 Acres	1,034 Acres
Cover Crops Planted	1,000 Acres	1,621Acres
Gully Erosion Practices	5,000 Feet	6,271 Feet
Riparian Grass Buffers	10 Acres	20.59 Acres
Manure Runoff Control	4 Farms	1 Farm
Idle Rural Well Closing	20 Wells	25 Wells
Wetland Restorations	40 Acres	42 Acres
Woodland Plantings	50 Acres	21 Acres
Grassland Plantings	100 Acres	380 Acres
Nutrient Management	10,000 Acres	6,922 Acres
Cropland Protected by Conservation	12,000 Acres	11,088 Acres

Other Land & Water Plan Accomplishments in 2016

- Committed \$27,500 of state funding to cost share agreements to install various land & water conservation practices on Dodge County farms and properties.



WILDLIFE CROP DAMAGE ABATEMENT AND
CLAIMS PROGRAM

The Dodge County Land Conservation Committee participated in the Wisconsin Wildlife Crop Damage Abatement and Claims Program in 2016. The program seeks to abate the damage being done to county agricultural crops by deer, geese and turkeys, and provides compensation payments for damages exceeding \$500.00 per year up to a maximum claim of \$10,000. Some of the major activities of 2016 include:

- Contracted with USDA-APHIS to carry out day to day program activities.
- Twenty landowners were assisted with damage abatement.
- Received 4 claims for assessed crop damage of \$2,783.94; processed damage payments to 4 crop producers for \$2,044.58.
- Processed 30 deer under the venison donation program resulting in 1,187 pounds of venison donated to food pantries.

“Man was the last of creation but was given the duty to care for the earth and all other created living creatures ”. (Lailah Gifty Akita)



INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
(GENERAL):

- Informed general public of Dodge County's manure storage ordinance through newspaper articles.
- Maintained and enhanced Land Conservation Department web site.
- Distributed 12 separate news releases regarding various land & water conservation issues to Dodge County news media outlets.
- Provided two news articles for publication in one issue of the Dodge County Farm Bureau Newsletter.
- Provided one-on-one educational service to county farmers and landowners on an as-needed basis.

“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. We shall never achieve harmony with the land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice and liberty for people. In these higher aspirations the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive.” (Aldo Leopold)

2016 KEY CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY
COOPERATING AGENCIES AND
ORGANIZATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

(Forestry Accomplishments through September 2016)

- Land Planted to Trees = 21 Acres
- Managed Forest Law Plans = 34 Acres
- Stewardship Plans = 54 Acres

(Wildlife Habitat Improvement Accomplishments)

- Prescribed Burns = 3,450 Acres
- Oak Savanna Enhanced = 4 Acres
- Terrestrial Invasive Species Control = 120 Acres
- Sharecropped = 124 Acres

(Groundwater Protection Accomplishments)

- Rural Well Filling & Sealing = 25 Wells

USDA - NATURAL RESOURCES

CONSERVATION SERVICE

- Grass Waterways = 1.5 Acres
- Residue Management = 2,200 Acres
- Lined Waterway = 0.1 Acre

USDA – FARM SERVICES AGENCY

- Contour Buffer Strips = 2 Acres
- Streambank Protection = 65 Feet
- Grassland Plantings = 380 Acres
- Subsurface Drainage = 2,200 Feet

THE DODGE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
2016 ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report is provided compliments of the Dodge County Land Conservation Committee. Members of the Committee include: Larry Bischoff, Chairman; Dale Macheel, Vice Chairman and FSA Representative; Lisa Derr, Secretary; William Foley, Lake District Representative; Richard Fink, William Muche, Allen Behl, members.

2016 LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



131 Landowners applied 134 new practices



2.5 acres of Grassed Waterways installed
1 acre Critical Area Seeding installed



One landowner installed new manure storage system



Conservation Planning:
17,698 Acres Farmland Preservation Conservation Plans
3,270 Acres Nutrient Management Conservation Plans
8,724 Acres of Manure Spreading Restriction Maps



Before
One Landowner closed old manure storage structure



After