

FOR LAND'S SAKE

Volume 5, Issue 1

March 5, 2014

LAND CONSERVATION TREE DISPERSAL

Thank you to those who ordered trees from the LCD. A letter will be sent to you in April with your dispersal date.

That date is generally the last week in April, or the first week in May. It is dependent on the weather, and when the nursery is able to lift the trees.



-Tree dispersal is held at the Lafayette County Fairgrounds, between 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 -Tax Exemption forms are available at our office, if you qualify.
 -If you have questions please call us at (608) 776-3836.



Available Conservation Services & Rentals:

- Tree Spuds Hydroseeder -Tree Planter - Whirly Bird Seeder
- Mulcher - Back Pack Sprayer - Weigh Scales

Call Lafayette County LCD at (608) 776-3836 for prices & scheduling.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014

The annual Earth Day Celebration at Woodford Park is scheduled for Friday April 25th. Each year a number of volunteers from local sportsmen's clubs and conservation groups get together and make presentations to the 5th graders in Lafayette County. Due to the bad weather last year, we will be hosting the both 5th and 6th grade.



The kids learn about topics involving our natural resources. Topics range from soil erosion and water quality to wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing.

Some of the groups and individuals that make this day possible include: Friends of Woodford Park, DNR, Fayette Sportsmen's Club, Shullsburg Conservation Club, Gratiot Sportsmen's Club, Lafayette County Conservation Alliance, Tom Osterday, Lafayette County Land Conservation, and NRCS. The Earth Day celebration has been taking place since 1988.

Landowners interested in writing their own Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) must attend a 4 class session. Class 1 "How to Take Soil Samples" is scheduled for March 19, 10 a.m. to Noon, in the Lower Level of Talmer Bank. Mark your calendar, and give us a call at (608) 776-3836 ext. 124 to reserve a seat.

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Special points of interest:

- LCD Tree Dispersal
- Earth Day at Woodford Park
- NRCS News
- Family Fun Websites
- Managed Forest Law
- Atrazine Prohibition Areas
- Who We Are & How To Reach Us

NRCS NEWS:

Conservation Compliance **Melissa Bartz, Lafayette County District Conservationist**

To remain eligible for USDA programs, including disaster programs and crop insurance subsidies, producers must follow the conservation compliance provisions written in the farm bill.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system (plan);
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots or pasture to cropland, combine crop fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations. Local NRCS staff cannot complete determinations within their own county at this time. Please come in and work with FSA and NRCS as soon as possible if you plan on doing any of these activities to allow time for us to do the determination.



Helping People Help the Land
An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employee

WELCOME MATT MILLER

Matt Miller is the new NRCS Soil Technician for Lafayette County. A native of Floyds Knobs, IN, Matt enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2001 and served in Iraq, where he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, before leaving as a sergeant in 2005. He then worked for several years as a manual machinist in Louisville, KY and Madison, WI before embarking on a bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He graduated in Reclamation-Environmental Conservation in 2013, with the goal of beginning a new career with the NRCS. In his free time, Matt loves to fish, hunt, watch college football, and restore antique metal items. He lives in Mount Horeb with his wife, Sarah. They are expecting their first child in May.



The Family Corner

Springtime Fun for Your Family

Growing Flower

This growing flower kids craft is a great way to celebrate spring time. An easy and inexpensive craft! Just move the straw up and down and watch your flower grow!

Here's what you'll need...

- Paper or Styrofoam cup, small or medium sized
- Straw, clear if possible
- Green pipe cleaner
- Green construction paper
- Tissue paper, color of your choice
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue

Here's how to make it...

1. Trace hand prints onto the green paper and cut out. You will need to cut out enough hand prints to cover the cup, the number will depend on how big the hands are and how big the cup is. Glue the hand prints onto the cup to make the 'grass.'

2. With a pencil, poke a hole into the bottom of the cup. Insert the pipe cleaner into the straw, and then insert the straw into the hole in the cup. This makes the stem of the flower.

3. Cut out 3 or more circles out of the tissue paper (use a small mug as a template). Poke the pipe cleaner into the center of each piece of tissue paper and then curl the pipe cleaner to secure the paper.



4. Fold the tissue paper up and wrap the pipe cleaner around the bottom of the cup. Move the straw up and down to watch the flower grow out of the grass!



Learn how to make a basket full of these candy-filled carrots at the Martha Stewart website:

<http://www.marthastewart.com/994641/new-way-decorate-your-easter-eggs#998729>

For even more spring family fun, check out:

<http://www.realsimple.com/work-life/entertainment/spring-activities-00100000088758/index.html>

Join us **Thursday, March 6 from 10:00-Noon at Talmer Bank**. We will be hosting a Jurisdictional Meeting with LCD, P&Z, NRCS, and DNR. This meeting is to help you understand ordinances, permitting, sod and swamp busters, and compliance issues.

TIME CHANGE – MARCH 9, 2014 SPRING AHEAD

In case you haven't heard the *news*, it's almost **time!** According to a [Farmers' Almanac report](#) published on **March 3**, a surefire sign of spring is almost here! And after this year's bitterly cold, snowy, icy, never-ending, downright harsh winter, spring can't come soon enough! The "time" has finally come! In just a few days, millions of Americans will "[spring forward](#)." The annual clock adjusting ritual is almost here!

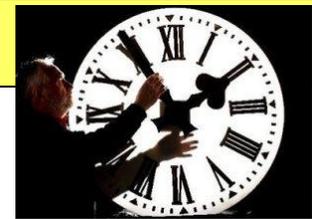
Daylight Saving Time 2014

For **most** of the United States, [Daylight Saving Time \(DST\)](#) occurs on the **second Sunday in March**. At **2:00 a.m.** local time on **March 9, 2014**, most Americans will move their [clocks](#), watches, alarm clocks and handy-dandy gadgets forward one hour. While that means one less hour of sleep, it also means we are one-step closer to warmer weather!

DST not only makes better use of daylight, but is believed to reduce traffic accidents and [reduce energy consumption](#) as well.



And please remember – Sunday is also [Check Your Batteries Day](#) for smoke & carbon monoxide detectors.



MANAGED FOREST LAW (MFL)

It's that time of year: paying the property taxes. If your tax bill for wooded land you own has grown over the past few years, you're not alone. "Use value assessment" has resulted in a property tax shift, lowering taxes on active farmland, but raising taxes on woodlands.

If you own ten or more contiguous acres of wooded land in Wisconsin, the Managed Forest Law (MFL) is an option that can help ease your property tax burden. In order to qualify for this program, your woodland must meet minimum productivity and stocking requirements (a few trees per acre is not enough to be considered a woodland). The land must be used primarily for growing forest products, not for other industry or as cropland, pasture or orchards.

A written forest management plan must be prepared and implemented for your property. The plan can be for either 25 or 50 years. A qualified private forester can prepare this plan for a fee. Certain practices may be required, including the harvest of mature timber, thinning, planting, release and soil erosion control practices. All of these practices are to follow sound forest management guidelines. When timber is harvested (except for firewood for personal use), a five percent yield tax is assessed. For the period the land is under the provisions of the program (25 or 50 years), an "acreage share tax" is paid in place of regular property taxes.

One of the most common misconceptions about the Managed Forest Law is that you are required to open your land to the public for hunting. **THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE!** If you own 160 acres or less of woodland in a municipality (township), you can choose to close it to public access/hunting. Acreage share tax for MFL land that allows you to close it to public hunting is \$10.68/acre, acreage share tax for MFL land where you must allow public hunting is \$2.14/acre. Considering some woodland taxes in Lafayette County are approaching or have surpassed \$70/acre you can save considerably on your wooded property taxes.

There is more than one way to obtain more information on MFL. You can call the DNR forester in Darlington at 608-776-3064. Or, you can go to the WI-DNR web site and type in "Managed Forest Law" in the search box. The private forester that you hire has a JUNE 1ST 2014 DEADLINE to submit your plan to the DNR forester. The land would then be enrolled January 1ST, 2015. However, you should act now as many private foresters may be booked up and not taking on any new customers.

Think Spring
Matt Singer
WI-DNR Forester, Darlington



ATRAZINE PROHIBITION AREAS IN LAFAYETTE COUNTY

As spring fieldwork is beginning, we want to remind you about the use of Atrazine and the prohibition areas in the County.

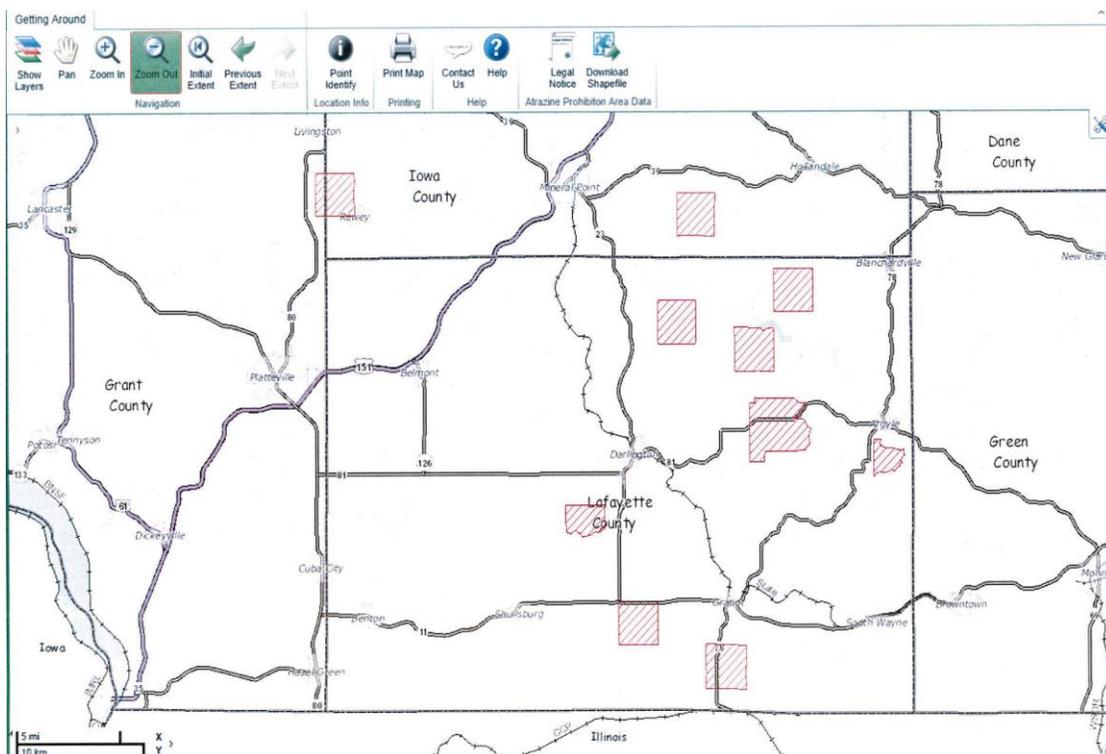
Atrazine is a herbicide (weed killer) that is used to control weeds in corn fields and other agricultural use sites. Atrazine has been in use in Wisconsin for over 50 years and can enter Wisconsin's groundwater as a result of use on farm fields or from a spill or improper disposal. Wisconsin has established a groundwater enforcement standard for atrazine and its three chlorinated metabolites of 3 parts per billion. People who drink water containing atrazine in excess of this level for many years could experience problems with their cardiovascular system, reproductive difficulties, and other health problems. The EPA is also concerned that atrazine may be an endocrine disruptor, which can cause unintentional hormone-like activity in the body. EPA classifies atrazine as "not likely to be carcinogenic" to humans. Drinking water that contains atrazine at low levels will not cause immediate sickness or health problems.

A more detailed view of the eight Lafayette County Prohibition sites can be found at the following link

http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Water_Quality/Atrazine/Atrazine_Prohibition_Areas/

The WI Department of Agriculture has county maps showing exact boundaries of prohibitions areas, or you can contact pesticide dealers or county extension agents.

Map of Lafayette County Atrazine Prohibition Areas
(See Below)



Wisconsin's **Runoff** Rules

what farmers need to know

Farms, like all major industries, must follow environmental requirements to control runoff from fields, pastures and livestock facilities. Otherwise this pollution can harm our lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater.

Wisconsin adopted administrative rules in 2002 (NR 151), with revisions effective in 2011 that set statewide performance standards and prohibitions for all Wisconsin farms. All farmers must comply with these standards and prohibitions. Cost-share funding may be available to assist with compliance. Some state and local programs may require compliance whether or not cost-share funds are available.

This fact sheet explains the basic information that farmers need to know about these rules and how to comply with them. It is recommended that farmers contact their county land conservation staff for further details on these rules and their impact on farm operations.

Agricultural Standards and Prohibitions:

ALL FARMERS MUST:

- *Meet tolerable soil loss ("T") on cropped fields and pastures.*
- *Annually develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) designed to keep nutrients and sediment from entering lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater. Farmers may hire a certified crop advisor or prepare their own NMP if they have received proper training.*
- *Use the phosphorous index (P1) standard to ensure that their NMP adequately controls phosphorous runoff over the accounting period.*
- *Avoid tilling within 5 feet of the edge of the bank of surface waters. This setback may be extended up to 20 feet to ensure bank integrity and prevent soil deposition.*

Additional Standards

FARMERS WITH LIVESTOCK MUST:

- *Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure from entering lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater.*
- *Limit access or otherwise manage livestock along lakes, streams and wetlands to maintain vegetative cover and prevent erosion.*
- *Prevent significant discharges of process wastewater (milkhouse waste, feed leachate, etc.) into lakes, streams, wetlands, or groundwater.*

FARMERS WHO HAVE, OR PLAN TO BUILD, MANURE STORAGE STRUCTURES MUST:

- *Maintain structures to prevent overflow and maintain contents at or below the specified margin of safety.*
- *Repair or upgrade any failing or leaking structures to prevent negative impacts to public health, aquatic life and groundwater.*
- *Close idle structures according to accepted standards.*
- *Meet technical standards for newly constructed or significantly altered structures.*

FARMERS WITH LAND IN A WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA (300 feet from streams, 1,000 feet from a lake, or in areas susceptible to groundwater contamination) MUST:

- *Avoid stacking manure in unconfined piles.*
- *Divert clean water away from feedlots, manure storage areas, and barnyards located within this area*

Farmland Preservation Tax Credit:

A farmer must comply with applicable state standards to receive the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit, even if cost sharing is not available. Farmers may be considered in compliance by entering into a schedule of compliance.

This requirement applies to farmers whose land is located in a certified farmland preservation zoning district (i.e. exclusive agriculture), or for farmers who signed a farmland preservation agreement after standards were in effect for that county. Farmers should contact their county land conservation staff for more information regarding applicable standards and compliance documentation.

Implementation and Financial Assistance:

Under DNR rules, a landowner is normally entitled to cost sharing if the landowner is required to implement best management practices on "existing cropland" or an "existing" livestock facility or operation in order to comply with a DNR performance standard. Cropland or livestock facilities brought into service after the effective date of the standard are considered "new" and must meet standards and prohibitions without cost-share funding. Farmers with existing cropland or livestock facilities may be eligible for state or federal cost sharing and are encouraged to contact their county land conservation staff or USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office for information about current funding sources, rates and practices eligible for cost sharing.

Farmers also should work with their land conservation staff to determine how these performance standards and prohibitions may affect their participation in various federal, state and local programs, such as Farmland Preservation. You can find a directory of land conservation offices and related agencies at <http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment> under "Land and Water Conservation."

Permits and Licensing:

Farmers may be required to meet NR 151 Standards in order to obtain local and state permits. For livestock siting and manure storage ordinance permits, for example, nutrient management plans and other requirements may be imposed on livestock operations without providing cost sharing. Contact your local officials for additional information.

Farmers with 1,000 or more animal units must operate under a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit and do not qualify for state cost sharing to meet permit requirements. Contact your DNR Service Center for more information about WPDES permits.

For more information about runoff management in Wisconsin and topics found in this brochure please visit:

runoffinfo.uwex.edu

Excerpt from DNR Publication No. WT 756 REV 1/13

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), in cooperation with: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX), County Land Conservation Departments (LCD).

The cooperating agencies are EEO/Affirmative Action employers and provide equal opportunities in employment and programs including Title IX and ADA requirements. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment programs, services and functions, under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape etc.) upon request. Please call 608/267-7494 for more information..

FOR LAND'S SAKE

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Back Row: Terry Loeffelholz, Roger Lange, Al Brandt, Ryan Gerlich
 Front Row: Nikki Larson, Mary Jean Ritchie, Gary Bald-retired,
 Melissa Bartz, Amy Schulte. Missing from the Picture is Matt Miller-
 new NRCS Technician



What's Cookin'



Easy Fruit Salad

- 1 box Instant Vanilla pudding
- 1 large can crushed pineapple
- 1 medium container of Cool Whip
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1-1/2 cups raspberries

1. Mix dry pudding and can of crushed pineapple
2. Fold in Cool Whip
3. Stir in berries. Vary the amount of berries to your preference. If the berries are frozen it will look yellow.
4. Stir again just before serving. It will turn pink (purple if you use more blueberries).



DEADLINES



- March 6 – Public Jurisdictional Meeting at Talmer Bank 10:00 - Noon
- March 10-16 Groundwater Awareness Week
- March 14 – LCC Meeting at 10:00
- March 29 – LCD is closed for Good Friday Holiday
- April 2 – Tentative LCC/P&Z Meeting
- April 19 - Earth Day at Woodford Park for 5th graders in Lafayette County
- End of April/Beginning of May - Tree Dispersal



- April 28 – May 5 - Soil & Water Stewardship Week
- May 7 – Tentative LCC/P&Z Meeting
- May 12 – Don't forget Mother's Day!
- May 27 – USDA Service Center closed for Memorial Day
- Ongoing NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Signup
- Ongoing NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Signup
- June is Invasive Species Month