

FOR LAND'S SAKE

Volume 6, Issue 2

June 19, 2015

LAFAYETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS NAMED

The 2015 Conservation Awards were presented Saturday, June 13 at the Lafayette County Dairy Breakfast. The Breakfast was held at the Kevin and Rae Ann Makos farm, 1295 County Road C, Argyle WI. Awards will be presented at 9:00 a.m.



The 2015 winners were as follows:

Conservation Farmer Award – Jon-Cin Dairy-John & Cindy Johnson

Wildlife Habitat & Community Service Award-Tanglewood Ranch, Kurt & Tammy Wedig

Soil Stewardship Innovation Award – Wilson Organic Farms

(Photos & Award write-ups continued on Pages 3-5.)

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EARTH DAY 2015 AT WOODFORD PARK

On April 23, 2015 NRCS, LCD, the area Conservation Clubs, and many enthusiastic volunteers hosted an educational Earth Day Presentation at Black Hawk Memorial Park. The 5th grade students (210 attended) from the Lafayette County schools are invited to spend the day learning about their environment, and enjoying nature. Stations this year included:

- Bat Houses and Artifacts-Arleigh Bondele
- Wildlife Calls-Steve Staver
- Woodland Survivor-Terry Loeffelholz & Nikki Larson, LCD/PZ
- Fish Management-Bradd Simms, DNR
- Fishing-Lafayette County Conservation Alliance

- Gun Safety-Fayette Sportsmen Club
- Water Quality-Roger Lange, LCD/PZ
- Trapping-Wayne Smith
- Archery-Shullsburg Conservation Club
- Soil Conservation-Matt Miller, Lexi Straka, & Ryan Gerlich, NRCS
- Forestry-Cory Secher, DNR & Al Brandt, LCD/PZ
- Sawmill-Wayne Stietz & Gratiot Sportsmen Club

Students brought a sack lunch, and the Presenters were provided a lunch, served by the Friends of Woodford Park. Milk for the presenters was provided by the Conservation & Zoning Department.



Make Every Day Earth Day!



Special points of interest:

- Conservation Award Winners
- Earth Day
- Conservation Activity Plans
- UIWEX Land Lease Forum
- Family Fun
- Clean & Renewable Energy
- Who We Are & How To Reach Us

If you want to write your own Nutrient Management Plan (NMP), sessions begin with "Taking Soil Samples" on Sept. 15, 2015. Classes will be held in the lower level of Town Bank and begin at 10:00 a.m. sharp. Mark your calendar, and give us a call at (608) 776-3836 ext. 124 to reserve a seat.

NRCS NEWS:

Conservation Activity Plans



NRCS offers federal funding for various plans or Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs). Some of the types include energy audits, forest management plans, and pollinator habitat plans. NRCS will provide financial assistance to landowners to hire a consultant to write the plan. The plan will have suggested practices that can also be cost shared. For example, a farmer hires a consultant to write an energy management plan. The plan identifies that lighting in the shop and free stall could be upgraded to LED bulbs. The farmer could sign up for financial assistance the following year to install the lighting that was recommended. That same scenario could include a hot water heater, plate cooler and ventilation fans.

We have worked with Managed Forest Law participants on new forest management plans, which are often needed to reenroll into the program.

We have many opportunities for landowners that want to plant some of their land to pollinator habitat species.

For information on any NRCS programs go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wi/home/>

Or call Melissa Bartz or Matt Miller at (608) 776-4028 x3



UWEX NEWS

Land Lease Forum: For Landowners & Renters Who are Evaluating Rental Rates & Crop Returns to Find an Acceptable Match

- Crop Returns/Land Returns: Where we are at --- Ted Bay
- Grain market Outlook --- Mike North
- Fixed & Flexible Leasing Options --- Ted Bay
- Effective Communication --- Deb Ihm
- Lunch --- Sponsored by Wisconsin Bank & Trust
- Why I went to a flexible lease --- Duane Elfering
- Discussing flexible leases with landowners --- Gene Schriefer
- Establishing a successful lease --- Steve Christianson
- Lenders perspective --- Kevin Raisbeck

Register by calling the Lafayette or Grant County UW-Extension Office (608) 776-4820 or (608) 723-2125

Full Session: July 7, 10:00 a.m. -2:15 p.m.

Belmont Convention Center

Mini Sessions: Land Leasing:

Considerations for 2016

10:00 a.m. – Noon

July 9 – Lancaster Youth & Ag Center Fairgrounds

July 14 – Darlington Town Bank

July 16 – Dickeyville Community Center (500 E. Ave.)

July 23 – Platteville WI Bank & Trust

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

July 21 – Muscoda Village Hall

2015 Conservation Award Winners



Back Row: -Wilson Organic Farms
Middle Row: -Wilson Organic Farms
Front Row: -Wilson Organic Farms; Tammy & Kurt Wedig -Tanglewood Ranch; Cindy & John Johnson-Jon-Cin Dairy; Leon Wolfe-LCC Chair; John Bartels-LCC Supervisor; and Jack Wiegel-LCC Supervisor

WILSON ORGANIC FARMS, LLC 2015 SOIL STEWARDSHIP INNOVATION LEADER AWARD



Keith, Tammy, Kim, Calvin, and Kevin Wilson are the hard working members of the Wilson Organic Farms. The farms are located in Elk Grove Township, near Cuba City. The dairy farm was homesteaded in 1848, the year Wisconsin became a State.

Soil stewardship is a family tradition. Keith's dad, Lavern Wilson, surveyed in contour strips in the 1960's. He also assisted with the surveying of the "M" at Platteville.

Other conservation practices the family has installed include:

- Spring development
- Manure storage system – 2008
- Many grassed waterways
- Nearly 21 acres is enrolled in the Conservation Enhancement Program (CREP)
- All waste oil from the farm is recycled
- All plastic silage bags are recycled through Faherty Recycling in Platteville
- All pastures are rotationally grazed

In 1995, this farm became Certified Organic. They use no herbicides and no pesticides. In addition, planting cover crops is a routine part of their farm planning. A crop rotation of corn, soybeans, and alfalfa is used effectively to suppress weed pressure, a common issue for organic farming. More recently, Keith has begun no-tilling soybeans into a rye cover crop. Keith stated that they are always experimenting and planting something green to help suppress the weeds.

Congratulations Wilson Organic Farms for your 2015 Soil Stewardship Innovation Leader Award.

2015 Conservation Award Winners (Con't.)

TANGLEWOOD RANCH Kurt and Tammy Wedig Wildlife Habitat & Community Service Award

Kurt and Tammy Wedig purchased the 455 acre property in 2000. A water level control structure was installed in an old oxbow and it was dredged out to convert it to a wildlife pond. They have constructed 2 wetland scrapes and 2 ponds for wildlife habitat.

A series of stream crossings have also been installed. They have planted thousands of trees and plant 25 acres of food plots annually. They have 21.5 acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and 224.3 acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which provides extremely valuable wildlife habitat.

They also release about 2000 Pheasants annually for sport and repopulation.

In addition to their wildlife efforts, Kurt and Tammy are also very community oriented.

They have hosted several Wounded Warrior pheasant hunts and many Dream Hunts for patients that are terminally ill.

The Tri-County Land Judging Contest, attended by over 200 High School students, was held on the property.

They have accommodated dozens of Youth Hunts for pheasant and deer. Many FFA, 4H, and Boy Scout groups have visited. There is a trap shooting range for Hunter Education. There are miles of walking trails for nature hikes available.

A group of Nuns as well as a Hispanic group have held religious retreats there. They have had guests from China, Australia, Europe, England and Mexico.

They have also provided numerous gift certificates for Day Hunts and Overnight Stays to local service and conservation organizations.



Congratulations to Kurt and Tammy Wedig for the 2015 Lafayette County Wildlife Habitat and Community Service Award.

2015 Conservation Award Winners (Con't.)

JON-CIN DAIRY

2015 Lafayette County Conservation Farmer Award

John and Cindy Johnson had been farming for 10 years prior to buying their 272 acre farm in 1994. All 182 acres of cropland meet "T", and are no-till and Contour Strips. They milk 60 – 64 dairy cows.

They have a very well maintained Diversion above the buildings. They have a barnyard runoff control system, and a push off manure collection pit. They have also done tree plantings.

They are enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program, and have a Nutrient Management Plan.

John and Cindy have a beautiful farmstead and they enjoy spending time with their grandchildren.

Congratulations to John and Cindy Johnson for their 2015 Lafayette County Conservation Farmer Award.



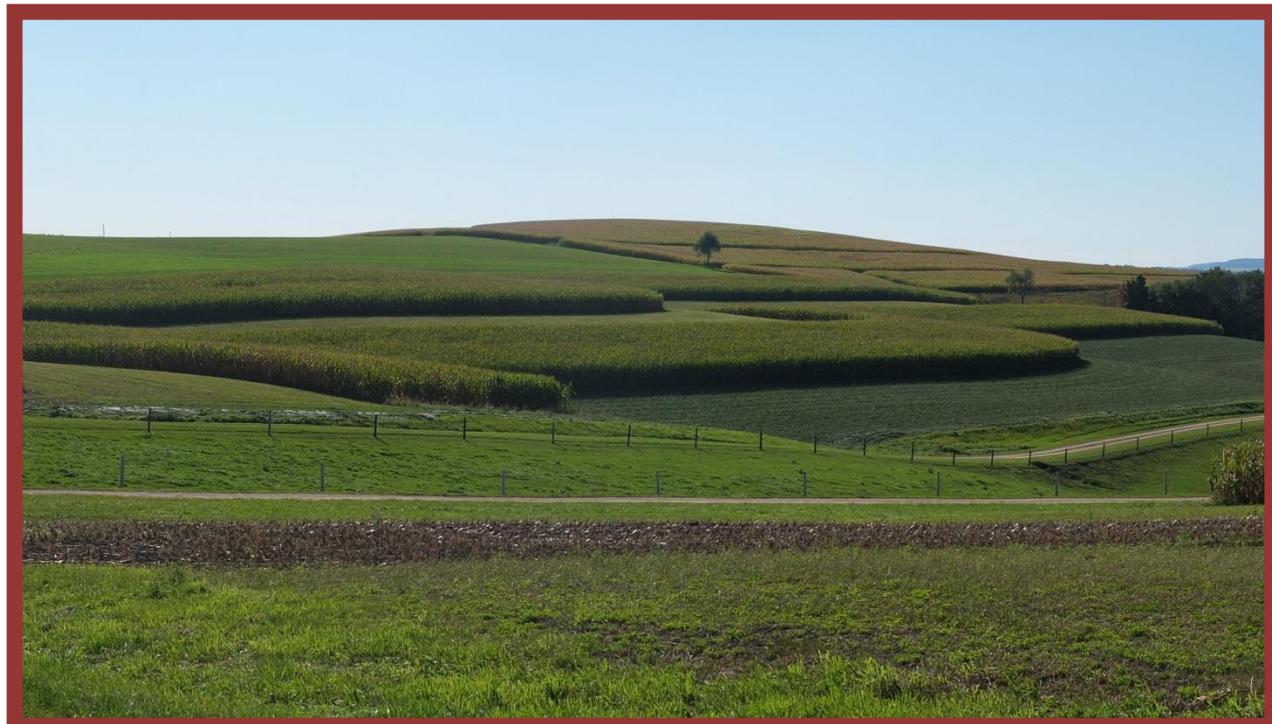
LAFAYETTE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) is developing the Lafayette County Farmland Preservation Plan for the Land Conservation Department. The Farmland Preservation Plan's main purpose is to identify and preserve prime farmland in Lafayette County. The method used to achieve this end is to study the land, resources, and economy of Lafayette County, especially as these relate to agriculture, and to suggest methods to preserve these resources for future generations. With effective implementation by local officials and citizens, this plan will be effective in guiding wise land use and development throughout Lafayette County. In the coming weeks, public meetings will be held across the County to discuss the Plan and receive public input from local officials and citizens. Public input is critical for assessing the needs of Lafayette County and developing alternatives that will meet these needs.

If you would like to receive more information during this planning process please contact Katherine Burk at (608) 342-6005 or k.burk@swwrpc.org



SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION



The Family Corner: *Summer Fun for Kids*

Check out Six Sisters Stuff for some fun ideas for the kids.

<http://www.sixsistersstuff.com/2013/05/50-outdoor-summer-activities-for-kids.html>

FRISBEE TIC-TAC-TOE



**PAINT THE
SIDEWALK WITH
WATER**



GLOW IN THE DARK BOWLING

OUTDOOR SCRABBLE



Summer Cooking for Kids

Summer is a great time to cook with kids since there is so much they can do—from shopping at the farmers' market to making no-cook dishes.

As the saying goes, it's summertime and the living is easy. And with fruits and veggies at their freshest, it's prime time for getting the kids into their food. Here's how to shop—and cook—with your kids this summer.

Posted By [Sarah Caron sarahscucinabella.com](http://www.bettycrocker.com/how-to/tipslibrary/cooking-tips/summer-cooking-with-kids)

<http://www.bettycrocker.com/how-to/tipslibrary/cooking-tips/summer-cooking-with-kids>

Let the kids help pick! When kids are involved in the decision-making for your produce, they are more likely to want to cook and eat it. Give them a budget and let them choose some fruits and veggies to take home.

Encourage them to ask questions. Most farmers are more than happy to talk about their produce. Encourage your kids to ask questions and learn more about what they see.

Talk about it. Shopping should never be a silent activity. Talk to your kids about what you are buying, how to tell if it's fresh and what you could do with it.

Visit the farms. Farmers' markets aren't the only places to get fresh produce. Farms, including pick-your-own ones, are great to visit. Kids can see where food comes from and possibly even try their hand at picking such fruits as strawberries, blueberries and peaches. Check out LocalHarvest.com to find pick-your-own farms near you.

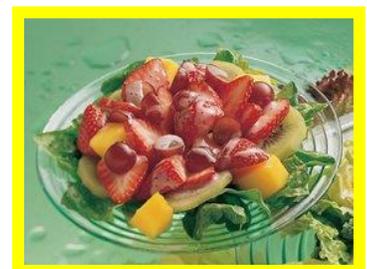
Fruit Salad with Strawberry-Poppy Seed Vinaigrette

Vinaigrette:

½ cup sliced strawberries
1 Tbls. sugar
1 Tbls. raspberry vinegar
1/3 cup Fat Free vanilla yogurt
¾ tsp. poppy seed

Salad:

4 cups loosely packed bite-size pieces of spinach
2 kiwifruit, peeled & sliced
1 mango, peeled, seeded & cut in chunks
2 cups fresh strawberries, sliced
1 cup seedless red grapes, halved



1. Blend the Vinaigrette strawberries until smooth. Add yogurt; cover & blend until smooth. Stir in poppy seed. Refrigerate until serving.
2. Assemble salad layers on 4 plates. Drizzle with vinaigrette. Serve immediately.

Clean & Renewable Energy

Have fun while you learn about clean and renewable energy sources at <http://www.fplsafetyworld.com/?ver=kkblue&utilid=fplforkids&id=16183>



Alternative Energy comes from resources like the sun (solar), the earth (geothermal), the wind (wind power), wood, agricultural crops and animal waste (biomass), landfill or methane gasses (biogas), and other sources like fuel cells. These resources are abundant and are renewable fuels. By using alternative fuel sources we can conserve our non-renewable fuel sources like natural gas and oil. By doing this we can be more energy efficient in producing electricity and heat while protecting our environment.

ENERGY WORD SCRAMBLE

Below are 9 words that have something to do with energy, but the letters are all mixed up. Unscramble the letters and write the answer in the space next to the jumbled letters. When you are done circle any words that are kinds of renew are kinds of renewable energy and write FF beside any words that are fossil fuels.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| DNMLILW | _____ | _____ |
| LCRCTEETIY | _____ | _____ |
| LOCA | _____ | _____ |
| NAGTUARASL | _____ | _____ |
| RREAWLOOPS | _____ | _____ |
| ERNGYE | _____ | _____ |
| SOLEFUSIFLS | _____ | _____ |
| RYDOH | _____ | _____ |
| THOGLAMEER | _____ | _____ |

(Answers on Page 10)

REMINDERS

Snap Plus Classes:

September 15 - Taking Soil Samples Class – Town Bank 10:00 a.m. to Noon

December 2, 2015 - Nutrient Crediting Class – UWP Farm Noon – 3:00 p.m.

December 16 & 18, 2015 – Snap+ Class – Town Bank – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Call Roger Lange (608) 776-3836 ext. 124 to reserve a seat.



Available for Conservation Services & Rentals:

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

Weigh Scales

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

If you live in an Agriculture Enterprise Area (AEA), and your current farming operation generates at least \$6K in annual income, you may be eligible for an additional WLI tax credit.

Lafayette County AEA's include

- Pecatonica AEA (townships of Blanchard, Argyle, and Lamont)
- Southwest Lead Mine Region AEA (townships of Gratiot, Monticello, Shullsburg, and Wiota)

Give Roger a call for further details and a free consultation. 608-776-3836 ext. 124



Bring Your Well Water Samples to the Fair for a Free Nitrate Test

Wednesday, July 15 – Sunday, July 19, 2015

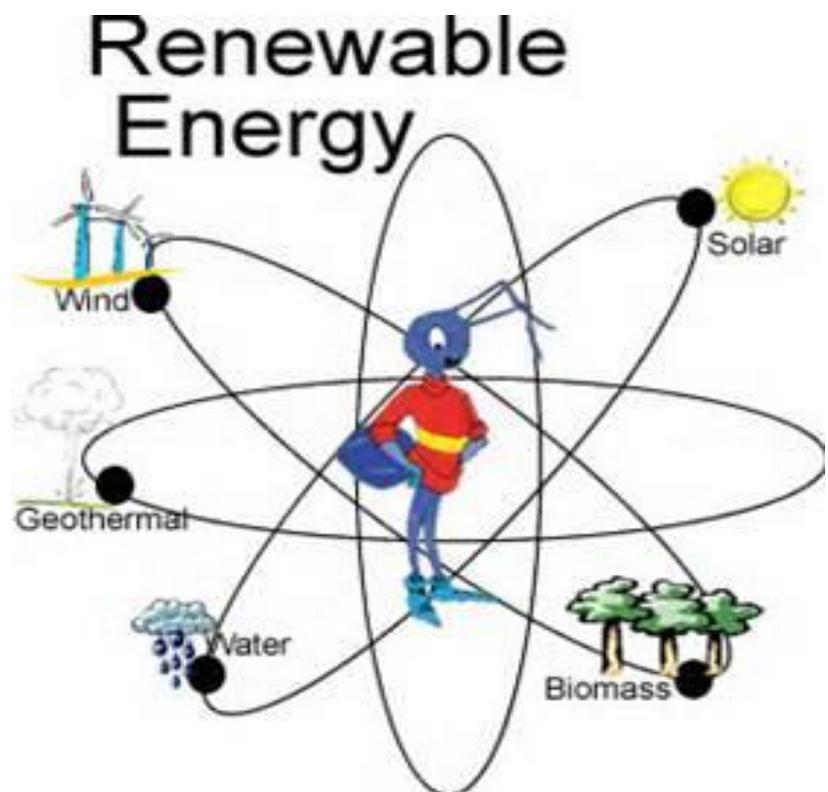
The DNR Fish Tank will be back at the Fair this year!



ENERGY WORD SCRAMBLE - ANSWERS

Below are 9 words that have something to do with energy, but the letters are all mixed up. Unscramble the letters and write the answer in the space next to the jumbled letters. When you are done circle any words that are kinds of renewable energy and write FF beside any words that are fossil fuels.

DNMLILW	<u>WINDMILL</u>	_____
LRCRTEETIY	<u>ELECTRICITY</u>	_____
LOCA	<u>COAL</u>	<u>FF</u>
NAGTUARASL	<u>NATURAL GAS</u>	<u>FF</u>
RREAWLOOPS	<u>SOLAR POWER</u>	_____
ERNGYE	<u>ENERGY</u>	_____
SOLEFUSIFLS	<u>FOSSIL FUELS</u>	<u>FF</u>
RYDOH	<u>HYDRO</u>	_____
THOGLAMEER	<u>GEOTHERMAL</u>	_____



FOR LAND'S SAKE

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 1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
 Darlington, WI 53530-9271

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To
 Subscribe:



Conservation & Zoning and Land Records Staff
 Left to Right: Roger Lange, Mary Jean Ritchie, Terry Loeffelholz, Nikki Larson, and Al Brandt

Lafayette County

Conservation & Zoning

Department



What's Cookin'

Coconut Basil
 Sweet Potato Fries



- 1/3 cup Extra Virgin Coconut Oil
- 2 Large Sweet potatoes, cut in wedges
- 1/2 cup fresh basil
 (can use dried, but use less)
- 1/2 cup dried shredded coconut

Directions:

1. Heat the coconut oil in a frying pan.
2. When pan is sizzling add the sweet potato fries, stirring until coated with oil.
3. Let cook, flipping periodically, until they are golden brown (after 3-5 minutes).
4. After the fries have browned, gradually add basil and shredded coconut. Continue cooking until desired crunchiness (or softness) is achieved.



DEADLINES

June is Invasive Species Month



- June 21 – *Don't Forget Father's Day!*
- July 3 – USDA Service Center closed for Independence Day
- July 7 LCC Committee Meeting – 9:30 a.m.
- July 11 – Deadline for Special Cover Crop Sign-Up
- July 15 – Deadline for Acreage Reporting
- July 15-19 -Lafayette County Fair
- July 23 – Tentative Planning & Zoning Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
- August 3 – Last Day to Nominate a COC member
- August 4 – Tentative LCC Meeting
- August 25-27 - Farm Technology Days
 Statz Bros., Inc. Farm in Sun Prairie
- September 7 – USDA Service Center closed for Labor Day Holiday
- September 15 – "Taking Soil Samples" session of Nutrient Management Classes.
- September 30 – 3-Year Septic Maintenance Reports Due
- September 30 - Last day to enroll in ARC/PLC programs.
- September 30 - Last day to enroll in 2016 Margin Protection Program-Dairy
- FSA Continuous Conservation Reserve program enrollment and Farm Storage Facility Loan program applications.
- Ongoing NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Signup
- Ongoing NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Signup
- USDA Open Enrollment Period for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Safety-Net Programs - Ends Sept. 30