

# FOR LAND'S SAKE

Volume 7, Issue 1

March 24, 2016

## 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. However, 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. & 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.



### Inside This Edition:

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| NRCS Grazing Land Management | 2     |
| The Family Corner            | 3     |
| 50 Spring Activities         | 4     |
| Atrazine Prohibition Areas   | 5     |
| Wisconsin Runoff Rules       | 6 & 7 |
| Contact Information          | 8     |
| What's Cookin'               | 8     |
| Deadlines                    | 9     |

### LCD COST SHARE SIGN-UP HAS BEEN EXTENDED

Some County Cost Share funds are still available. Please call (608) 776-3836, or stop in the office if you are interested in doing a conservation project in 2016.

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016

The annual Earth Day Celebration at Woodford Park is scheduled for Friday April 21<sup>st</sup>. Each year, NRCS, LCD, and a number of volunteers from local sportsmen's clubs and conservation groups get together and make presentations to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Lafayette County.



The kids learn about topics involving our natural resources. Topics range from soil erosion & water quality to wildlife habitat and hunting & 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, Lafayette County Land Conservation, and NRCS.

This Earth Day celebration has been taking place since 1988.

### Special points of interest:

- LCD Tree Dispersal
- Earth Day at Woodford Park
- NRCS News
- Family Fun Websites
- Atrazine Prohibition Areas
- What Farmers Need to Know
- Who We Are & How To Reach Us

Landowners interested in writing their own Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) must attend a 4 class session. New sessions will start in September. Give us a call at (608) 776-3836 ext. 124 to reserve a seat.

## NRCS NEWS:

Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS Programs (608) 776-4028 x3  
Staff: Matt Miller, Amy Schulte, Melissa Bartz

### Grazing Land Management through NRCS

NRCS can provide assistance to set up a rotational grazing plan on land that is currently in pasture and land that could be converted from cropland to pasture. A grazing specialist can do a farm walkover and write a grazing plan. A grazing plan consists of fence layout, cattle lane layout, soils and vegetation information and stocking rate calculations. The plan will specify how many paddocks are needed and how often the livestock need to be rotated. To qualify for cost sharing programs the livestock need to be moved at least once per week. Some of the cost share practices available include fencing, pasture planting, water well, cattle lane, stream crossing and an incentive payment for implementing the rotational grazing. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers cost share to get these practices installed while the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers a 5 year contract to do additional enhancements within a rotational grazing system. For more information call NRCS at (608) 776-4028 x3



*Helping People Help the Land  
An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employee*



- ❖ Cost Share for Farmstead Energy Audits Available and equipment upgrades.
- ❖ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) 5 year contract to get paid for the conservation you are already practicing - ongoing signup - CSP payments on cropland average \$20/acre. Pasture and woodland is also eligible.
- ❖ Signup for Cover Crops Cost Share, if interested see Melissa or Matt to start planning for this fall



# The Family Corner

## Springtime Fun for Your Family

### Use Nature to Make Art

Art and spring go hand in hand. Deborah Beau on [Handmade Charlotte](#) introduced us to the art of Kirsten Hiestermann (known as "Khiesti" on Instagram) that turns nature into art.

<http://www.handmadecharlotte.com/creative-world-spielkkind/>



Go outside and find whatever flowers, petals and leaves are available in your area, then replicate her designs by using simple shapes with a pen on paper .Or have your kids come up with combinations of their own. What a fantastic way to introduce multimedia in nature to kids!



### Plant Something

Our favorite idea for something to do in spring is to **plant seeds with your kids**. Planting seeds and nurturing them as they grow is a great indoor-outdoor activity for everyone.

**Start the seeds inside and transfer them outdoors when they're large enough.** Kathy James at [Nurture Store](#) shares some no-brainer tips and helpful reminders for novice gardeners or anyone who may have forgotten the basics over the winter.

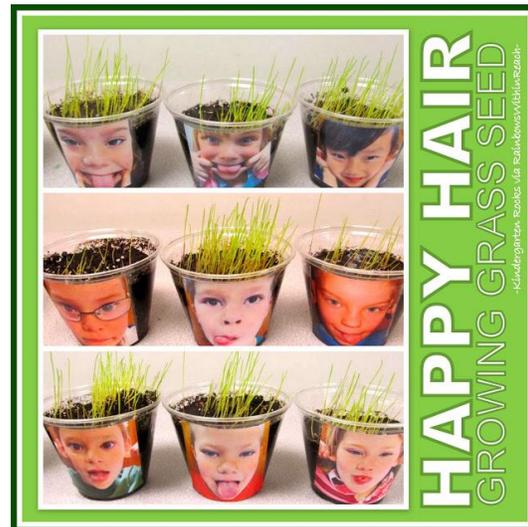


Plant seeds as an extra-special welcome to spring.

Don't limit yourself to just planting seeds. **Plant started vegetables,**

**flowers or even a tree in the ground with your kids!**

If you want something silly, check out this idea from Debbie Clement at [Rainbows Within Reach](#). She shows you how to combine a photo of your child with grass that'll certainly make your kids giggle!



# Today's Parent

## 50 fun, free spring activities

Check out these reader-approved activities that will have you and the kiddos out and about -- without breaking the bank.

- Play some baseball
- Go to the beach
- Pick some berries
- Ride a bike
- Blow some bubbles
- Watch some birds
- Collect some rocks
- Build a box car
- Window shop at a flea market
- Wash a car
- Enjoy some cherry blossoms
- Visit a conservation area
- Free some chipmunks
- Paint some birdhouses
- See some dinosaurs
- Walk the dog
- Play a game of driveway hockey
- Feed the ducks
- Visit a farmers' market
- Fly a kit
- Play hide-and-peek
- Build a fort
- Get the garden ready
- Spot some goslings
- Roll down a hill
- Go for a hike
- Play some hopscotch
- Jump some rope
- Head to your local library
- Make some maple syrup
- Take an even stroll
- Paint some rocks
- Take some photos
- Play with some toys outside
- Have a picnic
- Jump in the puddles
- Dance in the rain
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Visit a splash pad
- Have a playdate
- Climb a tree
- Spruce up the driveway
- Go snowshoeing
- Gaze up at the stars
- Go for a swing
- Play some tether ball
- Visit a petting zoo or a farm
- Dig for some worms
- Read in the sunshine
- Watch the sunset

## ATRAZINE PROHIBITION AREAS IN LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Each year this time, we want to remind you about the use of Atrazine and the prohibition areas in the County.

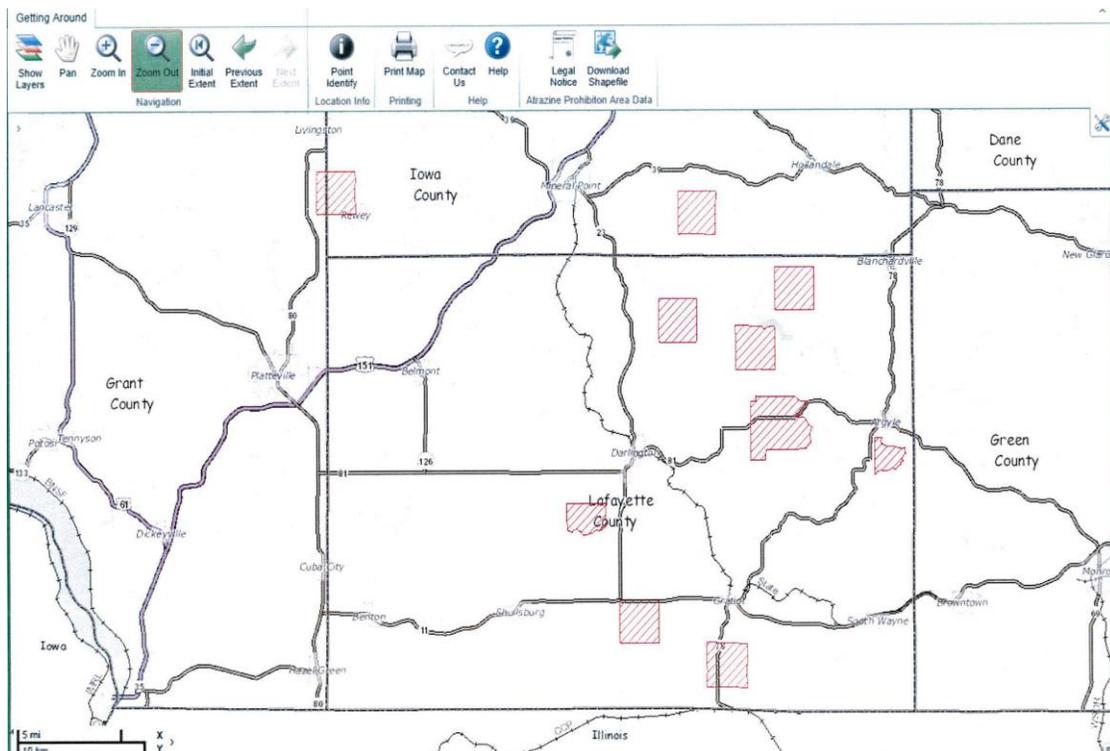
Atrazine is a herbicide (weed killer) that is used to control weeds in corn fields and other agricultural use sites. Atrazine has been in use in Wisconsin for over 50 years and can enter Wisconsin's groundwater as a result of use on farm fields or from a spill or improper disposal. Wisconsin has established 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/](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](http://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

Lafayette County Land Conservation Department  
1900 Ervin Johnson Drive  
Darlington, WI 53530-9271

Phone:  
(608) 776-3836



*Conservation & Zoning Staff:*  
Terry Loeffelholz *Conservation & Zoning Manager*  
Al Brandt *Conservation Technician*  
Roger Lange *Working Lands Initiative Specialist*  
Nikki Larson *Administrative Assistant*



## Cabbage Casserole

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ½ cabbage, medium, finely chopped | 1 pound ground beef   |
| Salt                              | Salt                  |
| ½ cup rice, uncooked              | Pepper                |
| ½ cup chopped onion               | 1 ½ cups tomato juice |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread half of the cabbage in the bottom of the roasting pan. Sprinkle with salt. Add rice, onion, and meat. Spread remaining cabbage on top. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cover with tomato juice. Bake for 1½ hours or until done.—From the kitchen of Mrs. William Miller

# Lafayette County Land Conservation Department

## What's Cookin'



### Spinach and Strawberry Salad

#### INGREDIENTS:

2 bunches spinach, rinsed and torn into bite-sized pieces  
4 cups sliced strawberries

- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon poppy seeds

#### Directions:

1. In a large bowl, toss together the spinach and strawberries.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the oil, vinegar, sugar, paprika, sesame seeds, and poppy seeds.
3. Pour over the spinach and strawberries, and toss to coat.

Prep time: 10 minutes

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED © 2016 Allrecipes.com  
Printed From Allrecipes.com 3/22/2016





# DEADLINES



- March 25 – LCD is closed for Good Friday Holiday. USDA remains open.
- April 5 – LCC Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- April 5 – VOTE – Spring Elections
- Mid-Late April - 3-Year Septic Maintenance Letters will be mailed
- April 21 - Earth Day at Woodford Park for 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Lafayette County
- April 24 – May 1 - Soil & Water Stewardship Week
- End of April/Beginning of May - Tree Dispersal
- May 2 – Tentative LCC Meeting
- May 8 – Don't forget Mother's Day!
- May 30 – USDA Service Center closed for Memorial Day
- May 31 – Last day to obtain Marketing Assistance Loan on 2015 coarse grain crops June is Invasive Species Month
- May 31 – FSA Deadline to obtain a 2015 corn or soybean loan
- June is Invasive Species Month
- *June 7 - Tentative LCC Meeting*



## Available Conservation Services & Rentals:

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

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

- June 15 – August 1 COC Nominations submitted
- June 11 - Tentative date for Lafayette County Dairy Breakfast and County Conservation Awards
- June 19 – If you remembered Mom, you'd better not forget Father's Day.
- July 4 – USDA Service Center closed for Independence Day
- July 15 – FSA Deadline to file acreage report of spring planted crops
- July 13-17 – Lafayette County Fair
- July 15 – Spring-seeded crop acreage reporting deadline
- August 1 – 2016 ARC/PLC enrollment deadline
- September 30 – MPP-Dairy Annual Sign Up
- 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

