
The Winnebago Conservationist

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Pete Van Airsdale & Dawn Banerdt-Adams Co-Editors

625 E. County Road Y, Suite 100, Oshkosh, WI. 54901-8131 (920)-232-1950 or 727-8642

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Our mission is to provide competent, professional services in the planning, design and implementation of programs and projects that help protect, restore, and sustain the natural resources of Winnebago County and the region.

The Winnebago Conservationist

provides up-to-date details about land and water resource management issues that are of interest to people throughout Winnebago County. We trust this information will be useful to you. If you, or other people you know, did not receive this newsletter directly, but would like to be placed on our mailing list, please call our office. We will be happy to include you in the next mailing.

Tons to Be Saved After First Year of County's Water Quality Program

Pete Van Airsdale, LWCD Director

Winnebago County's new Water Quality Improvement Program just wrapped up its first year of service. The Land Conservation Committee approved cost-share agreements with 22 landowners throughout the county who are intent on putting conservation practices on their farms that will stop, or significantly reduce nonpoint pollution sources and, thus, help improve the quality of our local water resources. Approved last November by the Winnebago County Board, the County funded Water Quality Improvement Program began operating in April of this year. It is administered by the Land and Water Conservation Department. The Program includes a \$100,000 annual allocation to help landowners with the cost of installing effective pollution abatement practices on priority sites. Those Practices are designed to prevent sediments, nutrients, and other pollutant sources from being washed into surface waters throughout our county.

What's included in the 21 Cost Share Agreements approved in 1998?

- 1,180 acres of reduced tillage for sediment erosion control on cropland.
- 2,250 feet of grassed waterway for cropland gully erosion control. (Approx. 1.3 acres)
- 4,955 feet of rock riprap for shoreline and streambank erosion control.

Although most of these projects are planned for installation in 1999, 355 acres of reduced tillage in the Town of Black Wolf, and 900 feet of rock riprap along the Wolf River, near Orihula, were installed during 1998. If all of the projects are completed by year's end 1999, it is estimated that **over 1,000 tons of sediment and nearly 1,400 lbs. of phosphorus** will be kept from being washed into our creeks, lakes and rivers each and every year those pollution control practices are in place. That's a great start by any measure, and the long-term benefits of sustaining cropland productivity, and protecting wildlife habitat are invaluable.

The County Water Quality Improvement Program offers cost sharing assistance on eligible sites at a **70%** rate, with a maximum allowable cost share payment of **\$20,000**. Practices eligible for cost sharing include:

- | |
|---|
| ⇒ Agricultural Sediment Basins |
| ⇒ Barnyard Runoff Control Systems |
| ⇒ Critical Area Stabilization |
| ⇒ Conservation or Reduced Tillage |
| ⇒ Field diversions |
| ⇒ Grassed Waterways |
| ⇒ Grade Stabilization Structures |
| ⇒ Nutrient Management |
| ⇒ Shoreline and Streambank Buffers |
| ⇒ Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization |
| ⇒ Wetland Restoration |

If you are interested in receiving cost sharing assistance through this Program, contact the Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department for specific program details on eligibility. LWCD technicians will be happy to set up an appointment with you to make an on-site eligibility determination. Call us at (920) 232-1950 or (920) 727-8642.

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We Need Your Help With The Livestock Waste Management Ordinance Revision

Tom Davies, LWCD Agronomist

Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department, with the guidance of the Land Conservation Committee, and the help of citizens of Winnebago County, neighboring counties, University of Wisconsin Extension, and related industry professionals, will begin the process of updating the Livestock Waste Management Ordinance.

The current ordinance deals mainly with the location, design, construction, operation and maintenance of livestock waste storage facilities.

With your help, we will address fine-tuning the existing guidelines and expanding the ordinance to deal with animal lots and the actual application of livestock waste and other nutrients to agricultural lands. This direction reduces the need to have regulations based on animal numbers, and puts the emphasis on proper application of livestock waste and other nutrients.

We will be organizing a Citizens Advisory Committee that will represent each township to help us develop a comprehensive livestock waste management ordinance.

Committee Commitment

- ◆ Meet 3 or 4 times through the winter months or as need dictates.
- ◆ Identify criteria and provide recommendations for ordinance development.
- ◆ Complete task by mid to late March and start with public hearings.

If you have questions or comments pertaining to the ordinance, or would like to participate on the advisory committee, please contact the Winnebago County LWCD at (920)-232-1950, or (920)-727-8642.

Working together, we can assure the protection of our valuable soil and water resources and provide safety for the people of Winnebago County.

Winnebago County Land & Water Resource Management Plan – Locally Led Decision Making

Pete Van Airsdale, LWCD Director

Winnebago County, in accordance with Chapter 92.10 (revised by Act 27, 1997-1999 Budget Bill), has developed a County Land & Water Resource Management Plan. This is a working document that –

- ✓ Is developed around concerns and recommendations from involved citizens, organizations, governmental units, and agencies throughout Winnebago County and the Fox-Wolf River Basin.
- ✓ Identifies priorities, needs, and objectives for specific goals for reducing sources of nonpoint pollution to the Winnebago System.
- ✓ Increases efficient use of funding for the adaptation of Best Management Practices at priority locations throughout the county.
- ✓ Provides a mechanism to ensure that the Plan objectives contribute toward achievement of basin-wide natural resource management goals and objectives.

The Land and Water Resource Management Plan was developed through the recommendations and guidance of many Winnebago County citizens representing agriculture, urban areas, municipalities, contractor and development related businesses, sporting/conservation clubs, boaters, and county, regional, state and federal cooperating agencies. This Plan reinforces Winnebago County's continued commitment to:

- ✓ Provide technical and financial assistance for the implementation of cost-effective Best management Practices at priority sites in order to reach the greatest pollutant load reduction for the dollars spent.
- ✓ Integrate Land and Water Conservation Department services with state and federal agencies to increase effective program delivery to the public.
- ✓ Aggressively pursue any and all applicable financial resources that will support this Plan.
- ✓ Strengthen working relationships with landowners, conservation groups, contractors, cooperating agencies, and units of government in an on-going effort to achieve mutual goals of natural resource improvement and protection in Winnebago County and throughout the Fox-Wolf River Basin.

The Winnebago County Land and Water Resource Management Plan is a work in progress, based on a locally led, collaborative effort that needs landowner participation and overall input from many people in order to be successful. Winnebago County, as the local leading unit of government, is in this effort for the long haul. If you would like a copy of the County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, or want more information about it, please call our office at (920) 232-1950 or (920) 727-8642.

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1998 Progress Report:

Brad Robole, ARD Project Manager

Arrowhead River, Rat River and Daggets Creek Priority Watershed



Introduction

1998 was another productive year for the Arrowhead River, Rat River and Daggets Creek Priority Watershed Project. Table 1 shows the practices that were installed this year.

Table 1: ARD 1998 Practice Installation

PRACTICE	NUMBER INSTALLED
High Residue Management	7,400+ Acres
Nutrient and Pest Management	2,100 + Acres
Barnyard Runoff Control	3 Systems
Manure Storage	2 Facilities
Grassed Waterway	2,100 Feet

Budget Concerns

Initially the project was only going to be allowed to reimburse participants a total of \$104,632 in 1998. This would not have covered the need for high residue management and nutrient/pest management. However, watershed participants throughout the state successfully lobbied their local legislators, and an additional \$850,000 was appropriated statewide.

While this amount was inadequate to cover every project's projected shortfall, Winnebago County received \$135,134 additional cost-share dollars, which increased the total to \$239,766. With this amount of cost-sharing available, participants were encouraged to install their conservation practices if at all possible, and they responded.

Participants Who Installed Practices in 1998

High Residue Management

David Allen, Todd Allen, Don Bartlett, Marvin Becker, Bob Beiser, Carl Borchert, Jack Borchert, Sherman Brazee, Robert Breaker, Alan Davey, Todd Devens, George Dodd, Tom Eckstein, Ed Walter Farms, Jeff Erickson, Will Grotjan, Robert Herrmann, Tom Herrmann, Albert Ihrig, Kuehl Farms, Don Kunde, John Kunde, Mark Kunde, Dan Olson, Les Ory, Overtons' Farm, Gerald Peterson, Jeff Posselt, Doug Reese, Les Romberg, Gary Rubbert, Jim Salm, Keith Salm, Mike Schlimm, Jay Schmoker, Jerry Schmoker, Neil Schonscheck, Roger Seelow, Jim Selle, Lee Selle, Don Sleik, Steinacker Farms, Jim Thompson, George Tipler, Valley Creek Farms, Dave Weyland, Dale Wilde, Dave Wilde, and Jack Zeller.

Nutrient & Pest Management

Bob Beiser, Olson Farms, Neil Schonscheck, Don Sleik, Valley Creek Farms

Manure Storage Facility

Overtons' Farm, Allen Oberstadt

Barnyard Runoff Control

Dennis & Dorothy Ewald, Roger Seelow

So What?

Table 2 shows the estimated sediment and phosphorus reductions associated with the practices installed by landowners in 1998. While these reductions may not be significant enough to expect immediate water quality improvements, it is another positive step towards the reduction goals established for the project.

Table 2: 1998 Pollutant Load Reductions

PRACTICE	Sediment Reduction	Phosphorus Reduction
High Residue Management	1,850 Tons	2,775 Lbs
Nutrient and Pest Management	-	300.0 Lbs
Barnyard Runoff Control	-	301.7 Lbs
Manure Storage	-	-
Grassed Waterway	61 Tons	91.5 Lbs
TOTALS	1,911 Tons	3,468.2 Lbs

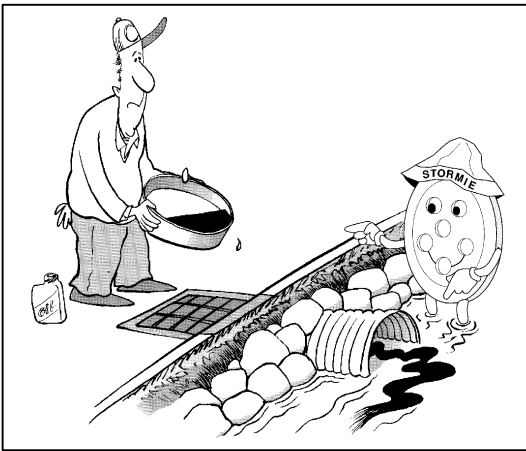
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Storm Sewers Where Does the Flow Go?

Brad Robole, ARD Project Manager

If you look in the street outside of your home or office, you will probably find storm sewer inlets. Did you ever wonder where they go?

A common misconception about storm sewers is that they go to a wastewater treatment plant. This is not the case. Storm sewers transport stormwater (rain and melting snow) to the nearest river, lake, stream or wetland.



With thousands of storm sewer inlets around town, stormwater is a major contributor to water pollution in urban areas. Although each storm sewer inlet only contributes a small amount of pollutants, when added together, pollution concentrations often exceed the limits established for industries and wastewater treatment plants.

Stormwater often contains materials found on city streets such as soil, lawn fertilizers and pesticides, leaves, grass clippings, antifreeze, gasoline, oil, and pet wastes. When these materials enter lakes and streams, they become pollutants that can:

- ◆ Contribute to algae blooms
- ◆ Lower dissolved oxygen levels, which lead to fish kills
- ◆ Cloud the water so much, that plants can't receive the sunlight they need to grow

What Can You Do To Help?

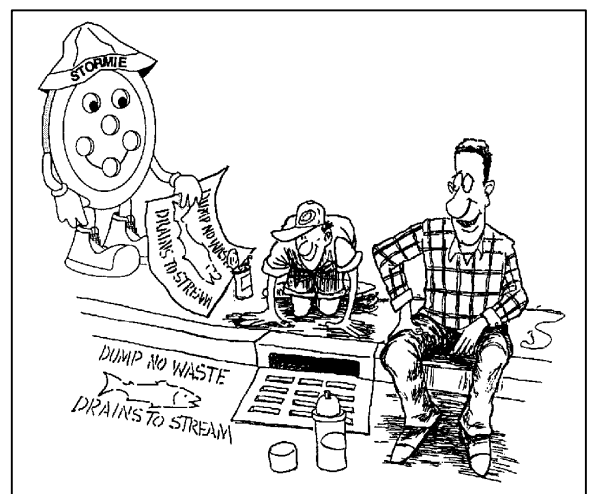
Anyone can help reduce the amount of pollutants reaching our storm sewers. Listed below are five actions you can do at home to help accomplish this:

1. Don't allow soil, leaves or grass clippings to accumulate on your driveway, sidewalk or in the street.
2. Do not use the storm sewer for disposing of motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, paints, solvents, or other materials.
3. Dispose of pet wastes by flushing them or by burial.
4. Minimize your use of deicing materials on sidewalks and driveways.
5. Organize a storm drain-stenciling program in your neighborhood.

Storm Drain Stenciling

Storm drain stenciling is a good way to educate your community about stormwater pollution. The Land & Water Conservation Department has a supply of stencils that are available to anyone who would like to use them. Please call 232-1950 for more details.

(The Spring of '99 issue will contain more information about starting a storm drain stenciling program in your neighborhood.)



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Planning For Conservation

Keith D. Schroeder, Conservation Technician

Spring will be here sooner than we think. That's why **now is the best time to plan for next year's conservation needs.**

By planning ahead, you can install conservation practices you want during the favorable times of the year. Some of the engineering practices that you might want to consider are grassed waterways, diversions, wetland restorations, barnyard runoff projects, shoreline protection, and manure storage facilities. A few non-engineering practices to consider are tree planting, conservation tillage, and rotational grazing.

Once you determine which conservation practices you need, you'll then have to decide how to get them installed. The Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) can provide you with the necessary technical assistance to survey, design, and supervise the installation of your conservation practice. The sooner you notify our office, the sooner we can provide the necessary time needed for your conservation project.

Some conservation practices might be eligible for cost share assistance. In order to receive cost share funds, the project will need an approved design.

If you are planning to install a conservation practice and would like technical assistance, or if you would like to know if you are eligible for cost share assistance, contact the LWCD office at (920)-232-1950 or (920)-727-8642. We will be happy to assist you.

Winnebago County Speaking/Poster Conservation Contest Winners

Dawn Banerdt-Adams, LWCD Secretary

Students from all over Winnebago County participated in the 41st annual Conservation Speaking and Poster contest. The first place contestants from each division then progressed to a nine-county area contest, held in Waupaca County.

The local conservation speaking and poster contests were held on October 15, 1998 at the Winnebago County J.P. Coughlin Building.

Speaking contest winners in the County contest are as follows:

Senior Division (Grades 9-12)

1st: Tammy Gillespie-Winneconne High School

2nd: Rob Flegner-Winneconne High School
3rd: Diane Lee-Oshkosh West High School

Junior Division (Grades 7-8)

1st: Nicole Mader-Maplewood Middle School, Menasha

Elementary Division (Grades 5-6)

1st: Justie Krueger-Maplewood Middle School, Menasha

2nd: Peter Andrews-Roosevelt Elementary, Neenah

3rd: Brianna Bonetti-Spring Road Elementary, Neenah

3rd: Sara Woldt-Maplewood Middle School, Menasha

(*Note*-There was a tie for third place)

Poster contest winners in the county contest are as follows:

Primary Division (Grades K-1)

1st: Jordy Cammarota-Coolidge Elementary, Neenah

2nd: Jamie Nagel-Clayton Elementary, Neenah

3rd: Megan Miner-Coolidge Elementary, Neenah

Elementary Division (Grades 2-3)

1st: Mathew Franke-Coolidge Elementary, Neenah

2nd: Michael Miner-Coolidge Elementary, Neenah

3rd: Calli Micale-Coolidge Elementary, Neenah

Middle Division (Grades 4-6)

1st: Kristina Vanesky-Sunset Elementary, Oshkosh

2nd: Maranda Franke-Coolidge Elementary, Neenah

3rd: Lizzy Slivinsky-Coolidge Elementary, Neenah

Junior Division (Grades 7-9)

1st: Emily MacDonald-Neenah High School

2nd: Melody Goodnature-Oshkosh North High School

3rd: Katherine Groh-Menasha High School

Senior Division (Grades 10-12)

1st: Kelly Ash-Oshkosh North High School

2nd: Rachael Paulsen-Oshkosh North High School

3rd: Amber Jensen-Oshkosh West High School

The Area Conservation Speaking/Poster contest was held October 23, 1998 in New London. Winnebago County did well in the competition. In the area speaking contest, Junior Division (Grades 7-8), Nicole Mader-Maplewood Middle School, Menasha, tied for third place. In the Elementary Division (Grades 5-6), Justie Krueger-Maplewood Middle School, Menasha, took second place. In the area poster contest, Primary Division (Grades K-1), Jordy Cammarota-Coolidge Elementary School, Neenah, took third place. In the Elementary Division (Grades 2-3), Mathew Franke-Coolidge Elementary School, Neenah, took second place. In the Middle Division (Grades 4-6), Kristina Vanesky-Sunset Elementary School, Oshkosh, took second place. In the Junior Division (Grades 7-9), Emily MacDonald-Neenah High School, took third place. In the Senior Division, Kelly Ash-Oshkosh North High School, took third place.

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Hello From The New Geographic Information Systems Manager

Jennifer J. Reek, GIS Manager

My name is Jennifer Reek, and I have replaced Eric Venden as the Land and Water Conservation Department GIS Manager. My background includes over 6 years experience working with the GIS (geographic information system) within both the Environmental and Community Assistance Division at the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Also, recently I received my Master in Urban Planning, and a Certificate in GIS. I am very pleased to be working here at Winnebago County and look forward to assisting you in your mapping and planning needs.

A Map Is Worth A Thousand Words

Jennifer J. Reek, GIS Manager

A map of your property showing the parcel with roads, waterways, wetlands, buildings, crop field boundaries, soils, and topography can help in farm or shoreline planning. A table can be produced of soil types and acreage within each field. The topography would show the drainage patterns using 2' contours. For riparian owners, the maps can help with site plans for shoreline plantings. Ortho-photography is also available as a background. Please give me a call at (920)-232-1950, (920)-727-8642; or stop in at my office at the Land and Water Conservation Department for more information and a pricing schedule.

Conservation Tillage Program Sign-up Continues

Greg Baneck, Watershed Project Manager

As of July 14, 1998, any farmer with eligible acreage in the Fond du Lac River / Winnebago West or the Pine/Willow/Poygan South Watersheds may sign-up for Conservation Tillage through the Priority Watershed Program.

Through the Watershed Program, operators can receive \$15.00/acre on eligible fields for leaving 30% residue after planting. That's right, \$15.00 /acre! There's no catch! Both lands that you own or operate may be eligible for the program.

The money is meant to help offset the cost of any new equipment needed to convert your tillage system over to high residue management which, in turn, reduces the amount of soil leaving your fields and entering area waterways.

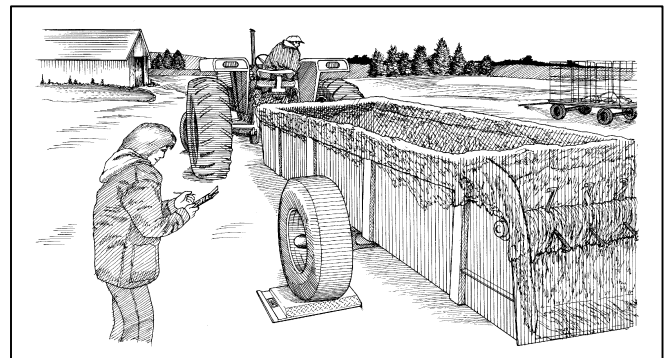
Once acreage is signed-up, it is eligible for 6 years. Years where you may fall short and not hit 30%, you simply do not receive a payment, there's no penalty other than it counts as one of your six years of eligibility.

To find out if you have eligible acreage, give us a call at (920) 232-1950, or (920) 727-8642, and ask for Greg Baneck or Tom Davies. You'll be glad that you did!

Get Help Building Your Nutrient Management Plan

Tom Davies, LWCD Agronomist

The foundation of any good cropping plan is an accurate and current soil test of the cropland in the plan. Producers with livestock in Winnebago County that would like to begin doing Nutrient Management Planning, or are currently practicing Nutrient Management may be eligible for cost-sharing to off-set some of the expense of Soil Testing. The Wisconsin Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP), working through Winnebago County, has appropriated funds to help cost-share soil tests taken for the purpose of nutrient management planning. The funds will cover 50% of the lab fee for approximately 3,000 acres of soil tests taken on a five-acre basis, or about 600 soil samples.



Winnebago County may also have funds available through our local water quality program to help with the cost of soil testing and nutrient management plan writing. If you would like more information about Nutrient Management Plans and the Soil Testing

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program, please call Tom Davies at (920) 232-1950, or (920) 727-8642.

Riparian Owners Opinion Survey Results – An Eye Opener

Pete Van Airsdale, LWCD Director

In early 1998, the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department initiated a public opinion survey of riparian property owners on the Winnebago Pool (lakes Butte des Morts, Winneconne, Poygan, and the Fox & Wolf Rivers). The main purpose of the survey was to learn about the concerns and opinions that riparian property owners have regarding:

- 1) The extent and cause of shoreline and streambank erosion on their lands;
- 2) Financial resources to provide shoreline and streambank protection;
- 3) The extent and type of help that local, state and federal agencies and units of government should offer riparian owners in dealing with shoreline and streambank erosion problems.

The survey was conducted by Professor Tony Gabriel, Geography Dept., University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Of 660 surveys distributed, 463 were returned. A few key points from the survey responses indicate that:

- 1) Problems related to shoreline and streambank erosion and fluctuating water levels are extremely evident throughout Winnebago County;
- 2) The majority of riparian owners prefer the government to use the dams at Neenah and Menasha to regulate water levels on the Winnebago Pool;
- 3) The majority of riparian owners did not know about the existence of many programs, including the availability of technical and financial assistance to combat erosion problems.

At a minimum, the Riparian Owners survey points out the fact that local, state and federal agencies and units of government must improve communications to increase the awareness and understanding about the availability of existing services, and how the Winnebago System is impacted by natural and manmade forces.

The County Land and Water Conservation Department will use the survey results to improve delivery of

services, particularly in the area of information and education, to increase awareness of technical and financial assistance that is available through the county. Copies of the Riparian Owners Opinion Survey are available from the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Nat'l Wild Turkey Federation – Wildlife Management Bulletins for Sale

An excellent series of 14 different wildlife habitat management bulletins, written for landowners and crammed with a wealth of 'how-to' information, are for sale through the Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department. Published by the Nat'l Wild Turkey Federation, Inc., the Land & Water Conservation Dept. purchased a limited quantity with the help of a generous donation from the Fox Valley Chapter of NWTF. Some of the key titles included in the series are: ***Managing for Timber & Wildlife Diversity; Managing Streamside Zones for Wildlife; Planting Bareroot Tree and Shrub Seedlings; Planting legumes for Wildlife; Regional Recommendations for Planting for Wild Turkey; Rights of Way for Wildlife; Roads for Wildlife; Spring Seep Management for Wildlife; Wildlife Habitat Development on Reclaimed Lands.***

The bulletins sell for \$0.45 each or \$5.75 per set of 14. Stop in to make your purchase, or call (920)-232-1950, or (920)-727-8642 to place an order. All proceeds will be used to make continued purchases to ensure a



constant supply.

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Brad Robole – ARD Project Manager
Keith Schroeder – Conservation Technician