



# 2024 Program and Partner Directory

**Southern Driftless Grasslands** supports collaborative conservation at the grassroots level - because grass is good. The partnership assists landowners of working and non-working lands to create, steward and protect grassland, prairie and savanna habitat in Southwest Wisconsin. [driftlessgrasslands.org](http://driftlessgrasslands.org)



# CONSERVATION ON WORKING LANDS: NETWORKS AND RESOURCES

## National Audubon Society Conservation Ranching Initiative

This market-based conservation approach offers incentives for good grassland stewardship through a certification label on beef products. For the first time, consumers can contribute to grassland conservation efforts by selectively purchasing beef from Audubon-certified farms and ranches.

[audubon.org/our-work/prairies-and-forests/ranching](https://audubon.org/our-work/prairies-and-forests/ranching)

### Wisconsin Contact:

Ashly Steinke, [ashly.steinke@audubon.org](mailto:ashly.steinke@audubon.org)



**GrassWorks, Inc.** links farmers with the resources they need to be successful graziers. [grassworks.org](https://grassworks.org)

**Grasslands 2.0** is a collaborative group of producers, researchers, and public and private sector folks working to develop pathways for producers to achieve increased profitability, production stability, and nutrient and water efficiency, while improving water quality, soil health, biodiversity, and climate resiliency through grassland-based agriculture. [grasslandag.org](https://grasslandag.org)

**MARBLESEED** (formerly Midwest Organic Sustainable and Organic Education Service - MOSES) supports the Midwest's regenerative and organic farmers with farmer-led events and educational resources. [marbleseed.org](https://marbleseed.org)

**Wisconsin Farmers Union** is a member-driven organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement. [wisconsinfarmersunion.com](https://wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

**Wisconsin Women in Conservation (WiWC)** brings together WI women landowners to connect and learn about conservation practices, resources, and funding opportunities. Their motto? Nurturing Land. Nurturing Ourselves. Working together for a brighter future. [wiwic.org](https://wiwic.org)

## Watershed Associations

Watershed groups connect the people who live, work, and play within a watershed with information directly related to that watershed's health, history, and natural resources.

A number of watershed associations call southwest Wisconsin home.

### Iowa County Uplands Watershed Group

A community of farmers, landowners, and resource specialists focused on improving farming practices to reduce soil and nutrient loss through polluted farm runoff in this hilly part of the state.

Email: [canderas@michaelfields.org](mailto:canderas@michaelfields.org)  
[uplandswatershedgroup.com](https://uplandswatershedgroup.com)

### Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance

A community of farmers and friends of agriculture working together to protect and improve water quality and the environment

Email: [LafayetteAgStewardship@gmail.com](mailto:LafayetteAgStewardship@gmail.com)  
[lafayetteagstewardship.org](https://lafayetteagstewardship.org)

### Pecatonica Pride Watershed Association

[facebook.com/pecatonicapride](https://facebook.com/pecatonicapride)

### Upper Sugar River Watershed Association

Regional support and leadership promoting resource improvement through strategic partnerships that benefit the watershed's land, water and people.

Email: [info@uppersugar.org](mailto:info@uppersugar.org)  
[uppersugar.org](https://uppersugar.org)



## County Land and Water Conservation Departments

County Land and Water Conservation Departments (LCDs) are the primary local delivery system of natural resource programs. Example programs include precision agriculture analysis, farmland preservation tax credits, cover crop incentives, transition to rotational grazing incentives.

### DANE COUNTY LAND & WATER RESOURCES

#### DEPARTMENT

5201 Fen Oak Drive, Room 208  
Madison, WI 53718

Land Conservation Division

- Curt Diehl, (608) 228-1587; [diehl@countyofdane.com](mailto:diehl@countyofdane.com)
- Katie Nicholas, (608) 228-6219  
[nicholas.katie@countyofdane.com](mailto:nicholas.katie@countyofdane.com)

[lwr.d.countyofdane.com/What-We-Do/agriculture/Conservation-Funding-Opportunities](http://lwr.d.countyofdane.com/What-We-Do/agriculture/Conservation-Funding-Opportunities)

### GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATION, SANITATION, & ZONING DEPARTMENT

150 W Alona Lane  
Lancaster, WI 53813  
General phone: (608) 723-6377, ext. 3  
[co.grant.wi.gov](http://co.grant.wi.gov)

Lynda Schweikert, County Conservationist  
[lynda.schweikert@wi.nacdn.net](mailto:lynda.schweikert@wi.nacdn.net)

### GREEN COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

1627 4th Ave West  
Monroe, WI 53566  
General Phone: (608) 325-4195  
[greencountylwcd.com](http://greencountylwcd.com)

### IOWA COUNTY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

303 W Chapel St, Suite 2100  
Dodgeville, WI 53533  
General phone: (608) 930-9892  
[iowacounty.org/departments/LandConservation](http://iowacounty.org/departments/LandConservation)

Katie Abbott, County Conservationist  
[katherine.abbott@iowacounty.org](mailto:katherine.abbott@iowacounty.org)

### LAFAYETTE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, PLANNING, & ZONING DEPARTMENT

700 Main St.  
Darlington, WI 53530  
General phone: (608) 776-3836  
[lafayettecountywi.org/lcpz/page/land-conservation](http://lafayettecountywi.org/lcpz/page/land-conservation)

Erica Sauer, Conservation, Planning & Zoning Manager  
[erica.sauer@lafayettecountywi.org](mailto:erica.sauer@lafayettecountywi.org)

**Precision Ag Specialists** use farm specific data to identify where management changes and conservation programs can improve the profitability of low-yielding areas. Changes implemented as a result of this analysis are beneficial for wildlife habitat, building soil health, increasing water quality, and improving sustainability. Contact your county land department to learn more.

**Department of Trade, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)** offers technical assistance and financial support through grants to producers interested in incorporating grazing into their farm operations.  
[datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing\\_WI/GrazingDevelopment](http://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/GrazingDevelopment)

#### UW Extension

The Extension Agriculture Institute is your connection to the latest University of Wisconsin-Madison research in five program areas; Agriculture Water Quality, Crops and Soils, Dairy and Livestock, Farm Management, and Horticulture. Browse subjects and locate your local agriculture educator by program and county.

[extension.wisc.edu/agriculture](http://extension.wisc.edu/agriculture)  
[goodideafarm.org](http://goodideafarm.org)





# CONSERVATION ON WORKING LANDS: TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**USDA - Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** are two federal agencies that work with farmers to implement conservation practices through local offices and contacts.

**FSA** supports agricultural producers and other private landowners by offering a variety of farm loans, price supports, and disaster relief and conservation programs.

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** is a land conservation program administered by FSA. In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are from 10 to 15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

The General CRP sign-up is open annually during announced enrollment periods. Offers for CRP contracts are ranked according to a system called the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov) for details.

The Continuous CRP sign-up is open throughout most of the year, with a deadline normally in mid-September. The Continuous sign-up allows environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices to be enrolled at any time and is not subject to competitive bidding. Visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov) for details.

## **Examples of enrollment opportunities include:**

- **Monarch SAFE** aims to increase habitat for pollinators and Monarch Butterflies through creation and restoration of habitats that include targeted and secondary plant species.
- **Southwest WI Grassland Area SAFE** goal is to restore and maintain grassland and prairie habitat for bird species of greatest conservation need in WI.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program** agreements are designed to address water quality issues in specific geographic areas. Practices that can be utilized include riparian buffers, filter strips, and pollinator plantings.



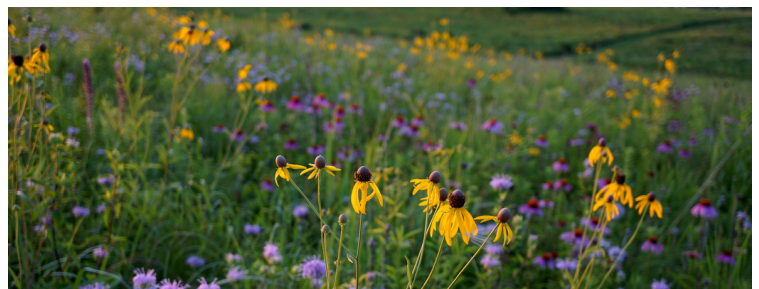
**NRCS** has a focus on working with landowners on private lands to conserve natural resources. NRCS provides farmers, ranchers, and woodland landowners with financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground. Examples include reducing erosion, conserving and protection water, and restoring and creating wildlife habitat.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** is a program run by NRCS to provide financial and technical assistance to deliver environmental benefits such as improved water quality, increased soil health, reduced erosion, or improved and created wildlife habitat. This program offers private landowners the chance to voluntarily implement conservation practices and NRCS co-invests in these practices with you. If a project is funded, it results in a one-time payment to help implement your chosen practice.

## **Examples of practices commonly used in WI include:**

- Wildlife Habitat Planting
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Brush Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Filter Strips
- Field Borders

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** is a program run by NRCS to help agricultural producers and private landowners maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and then further adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. This program is best suited for operations that are actively participating in conservation efforts but would like to expand them further. Financial assistance is provided to maintain those existing efforts and also to include additional activities.



## How do I enroll?

For all program questions and inquiries, it is recommended to stop by or make an appointment with your local FSA office. As part of the application process you will need to provide:

- An official tax ID (SSN or employer ID)
- A property deed or lease agreement to show control of the property AND
- A Farm and Tract number (if you don't have one, you can get one from FSA)

## FSA AND NRCS OFFICE CONTACTS & LOCATIONS

### DANE COUNTY SERVICE CENTER

5201 Fen Oak Drive  
Madison, WI 53718

#### Dane County FSA

(608) 224-3767  
[fsa.madison@usda.gov](mailto:fsa.madison@usda.gov)

#### Dane County NRCS

(608) 224-3750  
Tonya Pautzke - [tonya.pautzke@usda.gov](mailto:tonya.pautzke@usda.gov)

### GRANT COUNTY SERVICE CENTER

150 W Alona Lane  
Lancaster, WI 53813

#### Grant County FSA

(608) 723-7697  
[fsa.lancaster@usda.gov](mailto:fsa.lancaster@usda.gov)

#### Grant County NRCS

(608) 723-6377  
Mike Adams - [michael.adams2@usda.gov](mailto:michael.adams2@usda.gov)

### GREEN COUNTY SERVICE CENTER

1627 4th Ave W  
Monroe, WI 53566

#### Green County FSA

(608) 325-4195, ext. 2  
[fsa.monroe@usda.gov](mailto:fsa.monroe@usda.gov)

#### Green County NRCS

(608) 325-4195, ext. 3  
Jason Thomas - [jason.thomas@usda.gov](mailto:jason.thomas@usda.gov)

### IOWA COUNTY USDA SERVICE CENTER

1124 Professional Drive, Suite 100  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

#### Iowa County FSA

(608) 935-2791, ext. 2  
[fsa.dodgeville@usda.gov](mailto:fsa.dodgeville@usda.gov)

#### Iowa County NRCS

(608) 935-2791  
Matt Miller - [matthew.miller2@usda.gov](mailto:matthew.miller2@usda.gov)

### LAFAYETTE COUNTY SERVICE OFFICE

1900 Ervin Johnson Drive  
Darlington, WI 53530

#### Lafayette County FSA

(608) 776-4028, ext. 2  
[fsa.darlington@usda.gov](mailto:fsa.darlington@usda.gov)

#### Lafayette County NRCS

(608) 776-4028, ext. 3  
Jason Thomas - [jason.thomas@usda.gov](mailto:jason.thomas@usda.gov)

## Here to Help!

**Pheasant Forever (PF) Farm Bill Biologists** provide wildlife technical assistance in USDA offices and are available for technical assistance for any and all habitat work on private lands.

#### Iowa, Grant & Lafayette Counties:

Britta Petersen  
(608) 715-1736 • [bpetersen@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:bpetersen@pheasantsforever.org)

#### Dane & Green Counties:

Rocco Delmedico  
(608) 504-2013 • [rdelmedico@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:rdelmedico@pheasantsforever.org)

**National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf)** Foresters are available to help landowners navigate NRCS technical assistance programs to implement forestry improvements on private lands. [nwtf.org/conservation](http://nwtf.org/conservation)

#### Dane, Green, Grant, Iowa, & Lafayette Counties:

Rachel Martin  
(608) 408-9153 • [rmartin@NWTf.net](mailto:rmartin@NWTf.net)

# WILDLIFE, HABITAT RESTORATION, & FORESTRY: LEARNING RESOURCES

**Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance (formerly Madison Audubon)** works to protect and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife through land acquisition and management, education, and advocacy.

[swibirds.org](http://swibirds.org)

**Blue Mounds Area Project (BMAP)** connects landowners with community conservation resources to better manage their properties to preserve native ecosystems. The BMAP community is an especially valuable resource for landowners new to land ownership and prairie and savanna restoration. [bluemounds.org](http://bluemounds.org)

**My Wisconsin Woods** connects Wisconsin woodland owners to the information, services, and trained professionals to help them take care of their woods. My Wisconsin Woods is a partnership of public agencies and private organizations led by the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the WDNR. [mywisconsinwoods.org](http://mywisconsinwoods.org)

**Natural Resources Foundation (NRF)** provides field trips showcasing Wisconsin's wonders across the state. Field Trips are led by expert naturalists and offer unique opportunities for all ages to explore Wisconsin's lands, waters and wildlife by foot, bike, and boat. Membership and trip fees apply. [wisconservation.org/field-trips](http://wisconservation.org/field-trips)

**The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE)** is committed to the protection and restoration of remnant prairie and savanna habitat. Local chapters host activities, events, and field workshops. [theprairieenthusiasts.org](http://theprairieenthusiasts.org)

- Dane County: TPE - Empire Sauk Chapter
- Iowa and Grant Counties: TPE - Southwest Chapter
- Lafayette and Green Counties: TPE - Prairie Bluff Chapter

**Southern Driftless Grasslands (SDG)** supports the creation, enhancement, and restoration of grassland, prairie, and savanna through direct technical assistance and linking landowners with financial assistance offered by conservation partners. [driftlessgrasslands.org](http://driftlessgrasslands.org)

(608) 930-3252

[sdgintern@driftlessconservancy.org](mailto:sdgintern@driftlessconservancy.org)



TPE burn training at Pleasant Bluff. Credit: Gabe Erickson

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) website is a web of learning opportunities. From wildlife to native plants and natural communities, it is a great place to start.**

[dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat)

[dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/EndangeredResources](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/EndangeredResources)

**Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council** promotes the safe and effective use of prescribed fire in WI. Resources at [prescribedfire.org/learn/](http://prescribedfire.org/learn/) are geared for landowners interested in integrating prescribed burning into their restoration and management efforts.

**Wisconsin Society of Ornithology (WSO)** promotes the enjoyment, study, and conservation of Wisconsin's birds. WSO welcomes all birders, no matter your skill level (!) and offers opportunities for the study and enjoyment of birds through on-line resources, field events, gatherings, and community. [wsobirds.org](http://wsobirds.org)

**Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA)** provides science-based programs, education, and advocacy for wetlands and their associated ecosystems.

[wisconsinwetlands.org/for-landowners](http://wisconsinwetlands.org/for-landowners)

**The Xerces Society** provides region-specific collections of publications, native seed vendors, and other resources to aid in planning, establishing, restoring, and maintaining pollinator habitat, as well as materials to help you learn about the various invertebrates you might encounter.

[xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/great-lakes](http://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/great-lakes)



**Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)** has a focus on working with landowners on private lands to conserve natural resources. As mentioned previously, NRCS works with farmers and ranchers, yes, but NRCS also works with rural landowners of non-working lands.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** is a program run by NRCS to provide financial and technical assistance to deliver environmental benefits such as improved water quality, increased soil health, reduced erosion, or improved and created wildlife habitat. This program offers private landowners the chance to voluntarily implement conservation practices and NRCS co-invests in these practices with you. If a project is funded, it results in a one-time payment to help implement your chosen practice.

Examples of practices commonly used in WI include:

- Wildlife Habitat Planting
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Brush Management

Check out the information on pages 4 and 5 for more details about NRCS and folks to contact. Just remember, EQIP is available for landowners of working and non-working lands. You don't have to own a farm to enroll!

## US Fish and Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat. A series of commonly asked questions about the program and state contact information are found at [fws.gov/midwest/partners](https://fws.gov/midwest/partners)

## WI Southwest and South Central Region

Mike Engel, Private Lands Biologist  
(608) 444-1170 • [mike\\_engel@fws.gov](mailto:mike_engel@fws.gov)

Note: PFW cost-share applications reviewed on a rolling basis.

**Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP)** funding is available for forest landowners owning more than 10 contiguous acres. WFLGP funding can only be cost-shared for non-commercial practices. A Forest Management Plan must be in place. Forest and savanna restoration practices can be covered by this program. **Note:** Also apply to have a forest management plan prepared through the WFLGP program. The next deadline for applications is November 1.  
[dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/ForestLandowner.html](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/ForestLandowner.html)

**WDNR Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)** helps private landowners create and manage habitat for species that are rare or declining. The program provides management advice, assistance with management plans and cost-share funding to individuals and organizations.

[dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/LIP](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/LIP)

## Contacts:

Dawn Hinebaugh, Conservation Biologist and LIP Coordinator, [dawn.hinebaugh@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dawn.hinebaugh@wisconsin.gov)

Darcy Kind, LIP Biologist [darcy.kind@wisconsin.gov](mailto:darcy.kind@wisconsin.gov)

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Service Foresters** provide woodland walk-through, assistance with cost sharing, forestry technical assistance, and management of Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP).

[dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ForestLandowners](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ForestLandowners)

## Dane and Green Counties

Nicholas Koltz, DNR Service Forester  
(608) 295-049 • [nicholas.koltz@wisconsin.gov](mailto:nicholas.koltz@wisconsin.gov)

## Grant County

Trevor Hamdorf, DNR Service Forester  
(715) 492-0595 • [trevor.damdorf@wisconsin.gov](mailto:trevor.damdorf@wisconsin.gov)

## Iowa and Lafayette Counties

Ross DeWitt, DNR Service Forester  
(608) 516-1311 • [ross.dewitt@wisconsin.gov](mailto:ross.dewitt@wisconsin.gov)