

REFERENCE DIRECTORY
FOR FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS
IN SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN

SOUTHERN DRIFTLESS GRASSLANDS

BECAUSE GRASS IS GOOD

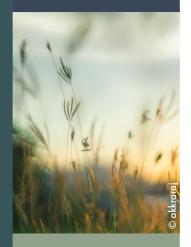
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# So you have your slice of rural heaven, what are you going to do with it?

The options may seem endless, and your list of dream projects long. Take the time to get to know your property's values – aesthetically, biologically, and practically – before making any decisions. Along the way you will get to know your property's limitations – and land stewardship needs. Both of these aspects of land – its values and its limitations, ultimately, can provide insight into the best uses of the property for the good of the land, and for you. There are numerous organizations and agencies in Southwest Wisconsin that provide resources and one-on-one technical assistance to landowners. This guide is designed to help you identify the organization, agency, and programs best suited to help you meet your goals and need.









# Grasslands

Historically, prairie grasslands covered vast portions of Southwest Wisconsin. Today, grassland habitats across our landscape include:

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) prairie, cool season grass, and pollinator plantings
- pastures, hay fields, and idle fields
- prairie and savanna remnants

These provide habitat for wildlife, slow soil erosion, and keep sediment out of our streams.

Good for our streams, good for wildlife, and good for the economy.

# Grass Management

Pasture management includes controlling brush and invasive weed species and maintaining forage quality and quantity. Grassland management can be accomplished with a variety of tools: grazing animals, annual mowing, and periodic prescribed fire. Each of these will have varying impacts on the resultant vegetation. There are many resources to guide you through the decision process of deciding which disturbance tool is best for you. Who knows? You may decide a mixture of all three is the best approach!

#### RESOURCES

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 serves farmers, ranchers and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. NRCS provides farmers, ranchers, and woodland landowners with financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground.

**County Land and Water Conservation Departments (LCDs)** provide local leadership in carrying out programs that conserve Wisconsin's land and water resources. Your county conservation department is the primary local delivery system of natural resource programs. Visit the contacts section to locate your County department contacts.

The Department of Trade, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) offers support to producers interested in incorporating grazing into their farm. Grazing maximizes use of fresh pasture and focuses on reducing production costs to improve profitability. Grazing is size neutral and flexible in each operation. https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing\_WI/GrazingDevelopment.aspx

Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship (DGA) can provide you with the tools and training you need to feel confident stepping into farm ownership. DGA partners with established grazing dairy farmers, universities, community based organizations, and other stakeholders to deliver high quality work-based training in managed-grazing dairy production in multiple states. https://www.dga-national.org/



Completely new to owning livestock?

Transitioning to a grassbased dairy operation?

Seeking to improve the condition of your existing pastures?

Here are some resources that can help.

**GrassWorks, Inc.** is a grassroots membership organization that provides leadership and education to farmers and consumers for the advancement of managed grass-based agriculture to benefit present and future generations. GrassWorks links farmers with the resources they need to be successful graziers. http://grassworks.org/

The Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers trains and empowers Wisconsin's next generation of farmers to beat the odds and make a successful and rewarding career out of farming. https://www.cias.wisc.edu/new-farmers/

**UW Extension Grazing Resources & Research website** provides access to grazing research projects, resources, contacts information for agriculture agents and announcements of local and regional events. https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/grazres/





### **Grassland Birds**

#### Bird Friendly Best Management Practices for Grasslands

SW Wisconsin is one of the best regions in the Midwest for grassland habitat. Why? Our topography, geology, and climate all lend a hand to growing healthy pastures and prairies. And that is great for grassland birds, who migrate each year back to the region to breed during the summer months. Here are some examples of best management practice guidelines to help you integrate grassland bird needs into your pasture and prairie.

#### WHAT FARMERS CAN DO

A variety of best management practices employed on a working farm can provide bird habitat.

- reducing stocking rates of grazing animals
- providing refuge areas for nesting and foraging birds
- manipulating hay harvest dates to accommodate bird activity
- keeping fence lines clear of brush and trees

#### WHAT LANDOWNERS CAN DO

More grass on the ground provides birds habitat during breeding season and migration.

- Keep grasslands clear of brush
- Plant native grass and wildflowers
- Keep cats inside. Migration is hard enough without extra predators out on the hunt!
- Protect and restore the prairie and savanna remnants on your land.



#### RESOURCES

Visit the **Wisconsin Bird Conservation Partnership** to view listing of available resources on birds in Wisconsin. www.wisconsinbirds.org

Managing Habitat for Grassland Birds: A Guide for Wisconsin (1997). David Sample and Michael Mossman. The book describes habitat requirements and landscapes for all Wisconsin grassland birds. Available through Amazon or download through Google: https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=d8bwAAAAMAAJ&hl=en&pg=GBS.PA1

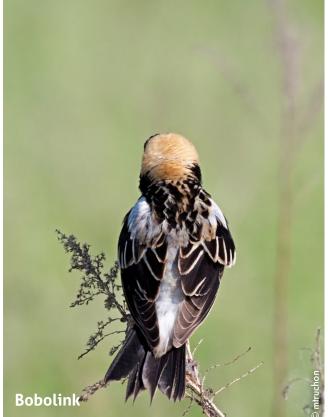
**Grassland Birds: Fostering habitats using rotational grazing.** https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/grassland-birds-fostering-habitats-using-rotational-grazing-p103 (free pdf download)

Madison Audubon Society is a local source of information for Wisconsin birds, places to bird watch, and events and opportunities to learn more, https://madisonaudubon.org/. Check out "Into the Nest" for a peek into the life of grassland birds. https://madisonaudubon.org/into-the-nest.

The Cornell Lab All About Birds website. "Learn a bird" every day! Visit the https://www.allaboutbirds. org/news/ for educational tools for youth and adults interested in birds.

Use the eBird by Cornell Lab App to record your bird sightings and share them with scientists. Real research has been done using data collected by birders.







GRASSLAND BIRDS ARE
IN DECLINE. THERE
ARE MANY THINGS
THAT FARMERS AND
LANDOWNERS CAN
DO TO SUPPORT AND
PROTECT THEM.





# HELP PROTECT AND NOT HARM.

Pollinators are everywhere around you. Some species are experiencing rapid decline in populations. Major threats to our butterflies and bees include disease, pesticides, habitat destruction, fragmentation, and degradation of remnant prairies that provide both nectar and host plants.

- Rusty-patched bumblebee - listed as federally endangered.
- Regal fritillary state listed as critically imperiled.
- Monarch butterfly on the watch for federal and state listing status.



# Pollinator Habitat Basics

Pollinators are everywhere! Pollinators are a general term for native and honey bees, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds that assist plants in pollination. They bring pollen from the male part of the flower (stamen) to the female part of the same or another flower (stigma).

There are many ways to improve habitat for pollinators in your backyard, as well as prairie, woodlands and savanna.

#### RESOURCES

Monarch Joint Venture is All about Monarchs! You will find information about monarch migration, life cycle, creating monarch habitat, resources for cost-share funding, and ways to createlocalmonarcheducational programming, just to name a few. This website is information dense! www.monarchjointventure.org

**UW Extension** shares a wealth of general information on the bumble bees found in Wisconsin at: https://wisconsinbumblebees. entomology.wisc.edu/

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides an overview of pollinators through their webpage: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/pollinators.html

Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has develop a Pollinator Protection Plan for Farms. It contains best management practices for maximizing pollinator health and pollination series on farms. Download it on-line at https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/PPPFarms.pdf

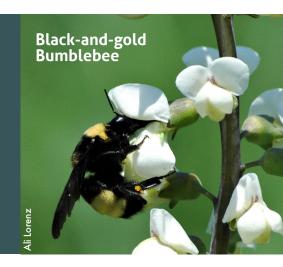
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is an international nonprofit organization that protects the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. Key program areas are: pollinator conservation, endangered species conservation, and reducing pesticide use and impacts. A valuable source of information for landowners and farmers. Pamphlets, books, technical planting guides, and personalized land planning available. www.xerces.org

#### BOOKS

Farming with Native Beneficial Insects Ecological Pest Control Solutions. Authors Eric Lee-Mäder, Jennifer Hopwood, Mace Vaughan, Scott Hoffman Black, and Lora Morandin discuss the ecology of native beneficial insects and how to increase their numbers on your farm through simple conservation strategies.

Attracting Native Pollinators, coauthored by four Xerces Society staff members Eric Mader, Matthew Shepherd, Mace Vaughan, and Scott Black in collaboration with Gretchen LeBuhn, a San Francisco State University botanist and director of the Great Sunflower Project.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PHEASANTS
FOREVER FARM BILL BIOLOGIST
OR YOUR COUNTY NRCS OFFICE
TO LEARN ABOUT COST-SHARE
PROGRAMS FOR POLLINATOR HABITAT
ON YOUR FARM AND PROPERTY.









OAK SAVANNA AND
TALLGRASS PRAIRIE ARE
TWO OF THE MOST
THREATENED PLANT
COMMUNITIES IN THE
MIDWEST AND AMONG
THE MOST THREATENED
IN THE WORLD!

# **Prairies & Savannas**

Hidden within the farmlands and hills of Southwest Wisconsin are pockets of unplowed soil that contain prairie plants (prairie) and old-growth open grown bur and/or white oak trees (savanna). Both of these habitat types are exceedingly rare and also potentially home to a variety of rare and/or endangered plants, wildlife, and insects. There are numerous organizations in the region committed to help protect these unique places through action and providing landowner resources.

#### **RESOURCES:**

Blue Mounds Area Project (BMAP) inspires, informs and empowers private landowners to enjoy, protect and restore native biodiversity and ecosystem health. Landowners are connected with community conservation resources so to better manage their properties to preserve native ecosystems. Visit www.bluemounds.org.

**Southern Driftless Grasslands** will meet with you on site to discuss habitat features, answer questions about plant and tree identification, and discuss management options and opportunities for technical and financial assistance. www.driftlessgrasslands.org

The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) work with landowners, farmers, and other organizations to save prairie and oak savanna remnants which have persisted on the land since before European settlement. TPE uses several options, including legal protection through purchase or easements, to preserve remaining native prairie and oak savanna sites. www.theprairieenthusiasts.org

# FUNDING SOURCES FOR SAVANNA AND PRAIRIE RESTORATION:

Each year, opportunities for funding through regional grant programs may be available. Visit the Southern Driftless Grasslands website, www. driftlessgrasslands.org for up to date information on special funding opportunities.

The 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. To view a series of commonly asked questions about the program and state contact information visit https://www.fws.gov/midwest/partners/.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Landowner Incentive Program 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 on private lands with a focus on the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. To learn more visit https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/LIP.html.

Land Conservation Departments (LCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or Farm Service Agencies (FSA) provide financial and technical assistance to farmers and landowners. Find your local office starting on page 14.



#### Oak Woodlands

Oak trees are keystone species of many habitats in the southern Driftless landscape. Along with the oak savanna, woodlands of tall stately white oaks and mixed oak-hardwood forests are found across our hills and valleys. Without oaks, beneficial insects, wildlife, and humans lose a valuable resource. Long live the mighty oak!

Funding woodland improvement practices can be costly and complex to execute. Often, the best place to start is the development of a forest management plan. Thankfully, there are many professionals available to help!

#### **RESOURCES:**

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 lead by the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. www.mywisconsinwoods.org

National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) provides links to habitat management guidelines and lessons in managing land for game wildlife. Practices suitable for oak woodlands and savannas are popular subjects. www.nwtf.org/conservation

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides assistance for developing a forest management plan, or Conservation Activity Plan, and for specific forestry activities that improve the condition of your forested resource through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

**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. Visit https://www.fws.gov/midwest/partners/ and view a series of commonly asked questions about the program and state contact information.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has private lands foresters that are available to answer

your questions about your woodlands, savannas and prairies and guidance developing a long-term management plan. Before you make that call, explore the WI DNR website https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ForestLandowners. You will find information on savanna and prairie restoration, why woodlands matter, the value of a forest management plan, and links to cost-share assistance and incentives for habitat management.

# WORKING WITH A LAND TRUST IS A GREAT WAY TO LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY THAT CAN BE PASSED ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS. PROTECTING LAND FROM FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IS AN OPTION AVAILABLE TO LANDOWNERS. ORGANIZATIONS EXIST TO HELP YOU EXPLORE WHAT THOSE ARE.

#### **Land Protection**

As a private landowner, you have the ability to permanently protect your property from any future subdivision or development. Land trusts work with landowners, communities and partners to explore how to achieve their conservation goals.

Land trust or Conservancy is a term used to describe organizations that, in pursuit of conservation missions, own land, hold conservation easements or both. These organizations permanently protect important natural, recreational, scenic, historic and working lands in their communities – the special places that make Wisconsin home.

Land trusts use a variety of tools to help private landowners who opt to protect the conservation values of their property. Land trusts can accept donations of land and conservation easements, and often purchase land with significant conservation and recreation value. Once a conservation project has closed, land trusts hold the perpetual responsibility to manage the lands they own and uphold the terms of any conservation easements they hold.

#### LEARN MORE

**Driftless Area Land Conservancy** is a land trust committed to maintaining and enhancing the health, diversity and beauty of Southwest Wisconsin's natural and agricultural landscape through permanent land protection and restoration, and improving people's lives by connecting them to the land and to each other. www.driftlessconservancy.org.

The Nature Conservancy - Wisconsin Chapter is committed to innovative solutions to solving Wisconsin's complex ecological challenges. Information about the Nature Conservancy's efforts to protect and steward lands in Wisconsin can be found at https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/wisconsin/.

**Groundswell Conservancy** works in several areas of the Dane County region to protect land through easements, forever. Each landscape has its own reasons about why it is important to protect. www.groundswellwisconsin.org.

The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) work with landowners, farmers, and other organizations to save prairie and oak savanna remnants which have persisted on the land since before European settlement. TPE uses several options, including legal protection through purchase or easements, to preserve remaining native prairie and oak savanna sites. www.theprairieenthusiasts.org.

**Madison Audubon Society** is a local source of information for Wisconsin birds, places to bird watch, and events and opportunities to learn more, https://madisonaudubon.org/.

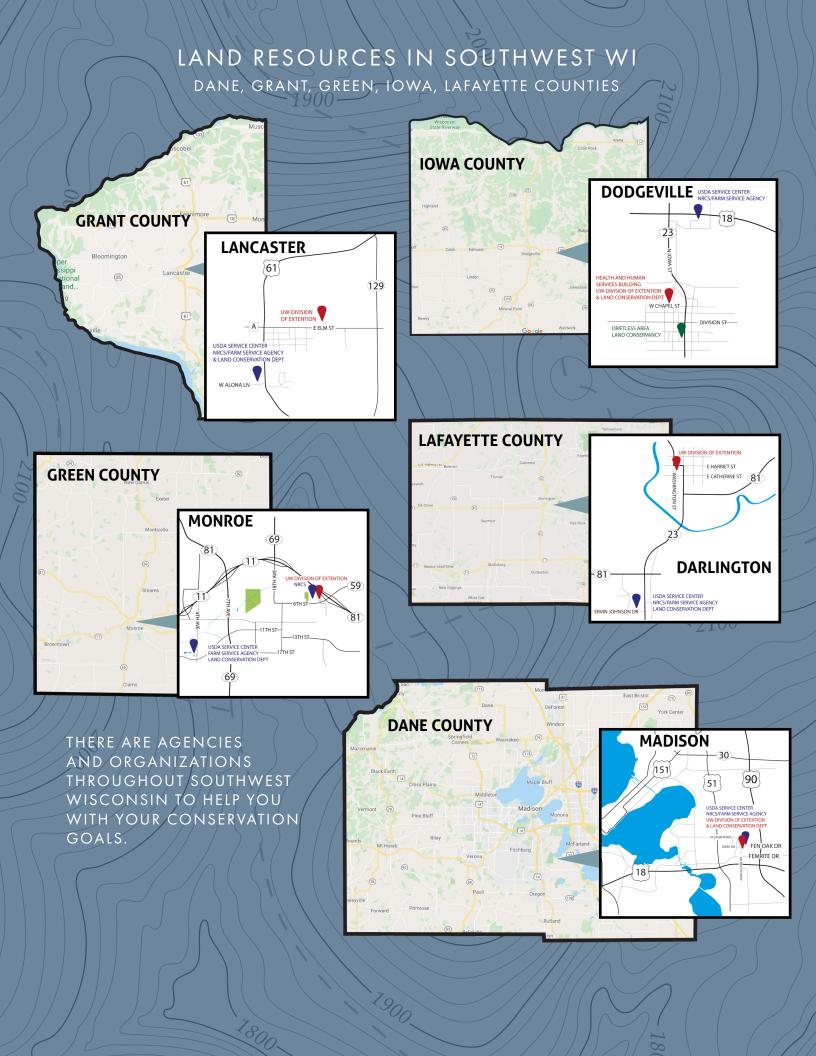
Mississippi Valley Conservancy (MVC) is a land trust preserving the bluffs, farm fields, wetlands, prairies and streams of the Driftless Area, serving the Wisconsin counties of Buffalo, Crawford, Grant, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland, Trempealeau, and Vernon. MVC also provides environmental education in efforts to enrich local communities. www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org.



# LOCATION LOCATION

REFERENCE DIRECTORY
FOR FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS

Agency and Organization Locations: a guide to financial and technical assistance for conservation practices.
Agency and Organization Locations: Regional
Agency and Organization Locations: County Offices
Agency and Organization Locations: State
Agency and Organization Locations: Farm Bill and Federal Programs



## **REGIONAL**

# WILDLIFE HABITAT AND RESTORATION MANAGEMENT

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES



### USFWS PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Through voluntary agreements we provide expert technical assistance and cost share incentives directly to private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitat.

https://www.fws.gov/midwest/partners/ Mike Engel, (608) 444-1170, mike\_engel@fws.gov

# WI DNR LANDOWNER INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The goal of the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is to help 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 on private lands - with a focus on the Driftless Area of Wisconsin.

https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/LIP.html Dawn Hinebaugh, (608)266-5243, Dawn.Hinebaugh@wisconsin.gov

#### WI DNR PRIVATE LAND CONSULTATION

We provide-walk throughs to help prioritize or identify management needs or habitat components; act as a resource via email or discuss over phone management or restoration concerns or questions.

https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/LIP.html Darcy Kind, (608) 267-9789, Darcy.Kind@wisconsin.gov

# PHEASANTS FOREVER FARM BILL BIOLOGISTS

We accelerate enrollment in USDA Farm Bill Conservation programs, like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP); provide wildlife technical assistance in USDA offices to assist the NRCS, FSA, and other conservation partners with delivering conservation programs to landowners. Biologists are available for technical assistance for any and all habitat work on private lands

Iowa, Grant and Lafayette Counties: Britta Petersen, 608-715-1736, bpetersen@pheasantsforever.org Dane and Green Counties: Gretchen Skudlarczyk (920) 605-3166, gskudlarczyk@pheasantsforever.org



#### WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

#### MY WISCONSIN WOODS

Offer services to link woodland landowners with technical assistance to enhance, improve, and protect woodland habitat.

www.mywisconsinwoods.org

## TAX LAW FORESTRY SPECIALIST

Forest specialists provide Managed Forest Law and Managed Crop Law assistance for landowners.

Lafayette, Dane, and Green Counties:

Matt Singer, (608) 482-0227, matthew.singer@wisconsin.gov

Iowa and Grant Counties: Jason Sable, (608) 219-1842, jason.sable@wisconsin.gov

#### SERVICE FORESTERS

Our foresters provide woodland walk-through, assistance with cost-sharing, forestry technical assistance, and management of Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP).

Lafayette, Dane, and Green Counties: Cody Didier, (608) 574-6868, Cody.Didier@wisconsin.gov

Iowa County: Tom Hill, (608) 574-0959, Tom.Hill@wisconsin.gov

Grant County: Brandon Sieck, (608) 963-8130, brandon.sieck@wisconsin.gov

# LOCAL LAND TRUSTS AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROTECT LAND THROUGH EASEMENTS AND EDUCATION

# ALDO LEOPOLD FOUNDATION

fosters care of the land and community through the legacy of Aldo Leopold. Explore your relationship to the land and gain an understanding of the land ethic concept.

www.aldoleopold.org

#### THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS

Protection of prairie, oak savanna, and other associated ecosystems of the Upper Midwest. Local chapters conduct land management, restoration, and outreach including field trips, work parties, and prescribed burns.

Dane County: TPE-Empire Sauk Chapter, https://www. theprairieenthusiasts.org/ empire\_sauk

Iowa and Grant Counties: TPE-Southwest Chapter, https://www. theprairieenthusiasts.org/ southwest

Lafayette and Green Counties: TPE-PRairie Bluff Chapter, https://www. theprairieenthusiasts.org/ prairie\_bluff

### BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT

We provide in person consults and site visits to our membership, share educational information on habitat restoration, and connect landowners with other community conservation resources so that they can better manage their properties to preserve native ecosystems.

Dane, Green, Iowa and Lafayette Counties:

Micah Kloppenburg, (608) 561-2627, ecologist@bluemounds.org

# WILD ONES: NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

A grassroots, chapter-based organization that promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.

www.wildones.org

### DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

Committed to maintain and enhance the health, diversity and beauty of Southwest Wisconsin's natural and agricultural landscape. Programs include conservation easements, educational events, field trips, and advocacy.

www.driftlessconservancy.org, (608) 930-3252.

# SOUTHERN DRIFTLESS GRASSLANDS

A public-private partnership committed to connecting landowners with the technical and financial assistance needed to best install, enhance, and protect grassland habitat in SW WI. Grasslands include active pasture, planted prairie, wetlands, and prairie and savanna remnants.

Cindy Becker, Coordinator (608) 930-3252 cindy@driftlessconservancy.org www.driftlessgrasslands.org

#### **COUNTY OFFICES**

#### DANE

#### **GRANT**

# FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES

#### DANE COUNTY LAND AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

5201 Fen Oak Drive, Room 208 Madison WI 53718

(608) 224-3730

lwrd@countyofdane.com https://lwrd.countyofdane.com

#### DANE COUNTY NRCS OFFICE

5201 Fen Oak Drive, Rm 208 Madison, WI 53718

(608) 224-3750, ext 3

#### DANE COUNTY FSA OFFICE

5201 Fen Oak Drive, Rm 226 Madison, WI 53718

(608) 224-3750, ext 2

fsa.madison@usda.gov

# UNIV OF WI - MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION

5201 Fen Oak Dr, Ste 138 Madison, WI 53718

(608) 224-3700

Dairy and Livestock: Maria Jose Fuenzalida fuenzalida@countyofdane.com (608) 224-3708

Organic Vegetable Educator: Claire Strader strader.claire@countyofdane.com (608) 234-1561

# GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATION, SANITATION, AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

USDA Service Center 150 W Alona Ln Lancaster, WI 53813

(608) 723-6377, ext 3

Lynda Schweikert, County Conservationist lynda.schweikert@wi.nacdnet.net

# GRANT COUNTY NRCS OFFICE

USDA Service Center 150 W Alona Ln Lancaster, WI 53813

(608) 723-6377, ext 3

### GRANT COUNTY FSA OFFICE

USDA Service Center 150 W Alona Ln Lancaster, WI 53813

(608) 723-6377, ext 2

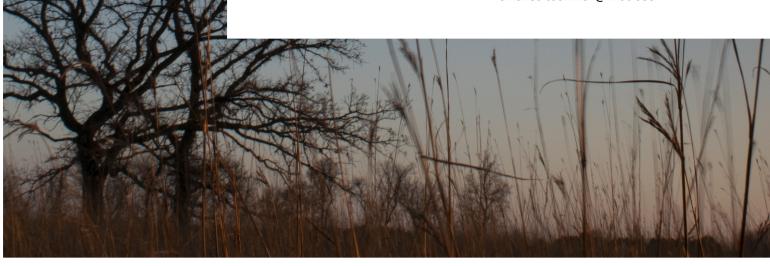
fsa.lancaster@usda.gov

## UNIV OF WI - MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION

916 E Elm Street, Suite A Lancaster, WI 53813

(608) 723-2125

Amanda Cauffman, Agriculture Educator amanda.cauffman@wisc.edu



#### GREEN IOWA LAFAYETTE

# GREEN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

1627 4th Ave West Monroe, WI 53566 (608) 325-4195, ext 3

# GREEN COUNTY NRCS OFFICE

USDA Building 1627 4th Avenue West Monroe, WI 53566 (608) 325-4195, ext 3

### GREEN COUNTY FSA OFFICE

USDA Building 1627 4th Avenue West Monroe, WI 53566

(608) 325-4195, ext 2

Marlene Rygh Marlene.Rygh@usda.gov

# UNIV OF WI - MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION

2841 6th Street Monroe, WI 53566

(608) 328-9440

Jacqui McCarville, Agricultural Educator jackie.mccarville@wisc.edu

#### IOWA COUNTY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

303 W Chapel St, Suite 2100 Dodgeville, WI 53533

(608) 930-9891

Katie Abbott, County Conservationist Katherine.Abbott@iowacounty.org

Landon Baumgartner Conservation Specialist Landon.Baumgartner@iowacounty.org

Sarah Hovis Conservation Technician Sarah.Hovis@iowacounty.org

## IOWA COUNTY NRCS OFFICE

USDA Service Center 1124 Professional Drive, Suite 100 Dodgeville, WI 53533 (608) 935-2791, ext 3

## IOWA COUNTY FSA OFFICE

USDA Service Center 1124 Professional Drive, Suite 100 Dodgeville, WI 53533 (608) 935-2791, ext 2 fsa.dodgeville@usda.gov

# UNIV OF WI - MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION

303 W Chapel St, Suite 1200 Dodgeville, WI 53533

(608) 930-9850

Gene Schriefer, Agriculture Educator gene.schriefer@wisc.edu

# LAFAYETTE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

626 Main St Darlington, WI 53530

(608) 776-3836

Terry Loeffelholz, Land Conservaiton/Planning and Zoning Manager

Max Blackbourn, Conservation Technician

Amy Schulte, Farmland Preservation Specialist

#### LAFAYETTE COUNTY NRCS OFFICE

626 Main St. Darlington, WI 53530 (608) 776-4028, ext 3

#### LAFAYETTE COUNTY FSA OFFICE

1900 Ervin Johnson Drive Darlington, WI 53530 (608) 776-4028, ext 2 fsa.darlington@usda.gov

### UNIV OF WI - MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION

627 Washington Street Darlington, WI 53530

(608) 776-4820

Josh Kamps, Agriculture Educator joshua.kamps@wisc.edu

# **STATE**

FINANCIAL AND
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE FOR
CONSERVATION
PRACTICES



State of Wisconsin Programs	<b>LIP</b> Landowner Incentive Program				
Website	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ endangeredresources/LIP.html				
Admin	Administered by DNR Natural Heritage Conservation Program				
Plan required	No plan required				
Funding & Minimum Requirements	Cost-share assistance provided to restore habitat for at-risk wildlife on private lands located in the Driftless Area of SW WI. 75% cost-share. 10 year agreement.				
Eligible Management Practices	<ul> <li>Prescribed burns</li> <li>Planting native vegetation</li> <li>Invasive species control</li> <li>Forest stand improvement</li> </ul>				

<b>MFL</b> Managed Forest Law	<b>WFLGP</b> Wisconsin Landowner Grant Program	WI DNR Stream Bank Protection Program
https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ ForestLandowners/locator/index.asp	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/ ForestLandowner.html	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/ streambank/index.html
State Program administered by DNR Forestry	State Program administered by DNR Forestry	State program administered by DNR Fisheries Program
Forest Stewardship Plan (with MFL requirements)	Forest Stewardship Plan	No plan required
Property tax incentive program. Landowner makes payment in lieu of regular property taxes in exchange for following a sustainable forest management plan. 25 or 50 year agreement. Minimum 10 contiguous acres, 80% productive forest.	Covers up to 50% of cost to implement forestry practices on 10 - 500 acres for non-industrial private woodland owners.	Easement payments for select streams within the Pecatonica River Basin are eligible. This is a voluntary program. See website for details.
Mandatory Practices must be completed during the agreement period and may include:  • Harvesting timber  • Commercial thinning  • Releasing trees from competing vegetation  • Tree planting  • Treatments to ensure adequate regeneration  • Controlling erosion  All practices must follow sustainable forestry guidance.  Non-Mandatory Practices are encouraged but not required during the agreement period. They are suggested to enhance or improve the forest or to help achieve a compatible landowner objective.	Priority 1: Plan Preparation • Tree Planting • Site preparation (planting & natural regeneration) • Planting stock/seed • Planting • Direct seeding • Tree shelters Forest Health & Improvement • Crop tree release • Crop tree pruning • Thinning • Control competition • Invasive & Insect/Disease Soil & Water Protection  Priority 2: Wetland/Riparian Protection Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Historic/Cultural /Archeological and Endangered/Threatened/Rare Enhancement & Maintenance  *currently only Priority 1 practices are funded.	DNR purchases land easements directly from willing landowners to provide public access for angling, protection of water quality, and protection of fish habitat along streams threatened by agriculture and urban runoff.  With a stream bank easement, improvement practices along the stream can include:  improvements to in-stream habitat,  fencing live-stock out of the stream corridor,  management of streamside vegetation, Stream bank easements provide public access for angling, wildlife observation and hiking.  Lafayette and Grant Counties: Bradd Simms bradd.sims@wisconsin.gov (608) 574-2604  lowa County: Justin Haglund JustinM.Haglund@wisconsin.gov (608) 341-9465

# FARM BILL & FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Federa Progran		CREP Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	<b>EQIP</b> Environmental Quality Incentive Program
Website	https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs- and-services/conservation-programs/ conservation-reserve-program/index	https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_ Services/CREP.aspx	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/ nrcs/main/wi/programs/financial/eqip/
Admin	Federal Program administered by FSA with NRCS and DNR as technical agencies.	Federal Program administered by FSA with NRCS, DNR and DATCP as technical agencies.	Federal Program administered by NRCS with NRCS and DNR Forestry as technical agencies.
Plan needed	No plan required	No plan required	Forest Stewardship Plan or EQIP CAP 106 – Forest Management prepared by Technical Service Provider  *Plan is only required for forestry practices. Wildlife practices outside of a forest environment do not require a plan.
Funding	Annual payment program based on soil rental rates and established practices.	Incentive payment program based on soil rental rates and established practices.	Cost share payments for practices installed in a 2 to 10 year contract.
Eligibility including plan needed	Maximum annual payment based on cropland rental rate and practice maintenance fee; \$50,000 maximum annual payment. Cost share maximum up to 50% to install practices.  Generally a 10-15 year contract.	Maximum annual payments are based on cropland soil rental rates and an additional incentive based on the practice cover type.  15 year contract or perpetual easement.	Maximum cost share payments set by region, may vary year to year. Flat rate payments based on 65% of actual cost Eligibility for forest practices:  Forest Stewardship Plan or EQIP CAP 106 – Forest Management prepared by Technical Service Provider  1-20 year contact
Management practices covered	<ul> <li>Cool and warm season grass establishment</li> <li>Erosion control</li> <li>Pollinator habitat</li> <li>Filter strips</li> <li>Rare and declining habitat establishment</li> <li>*Not all practices are available. Contact FSA, NRCS, or your local Farm Bill Biologist for current available practices.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cool and warm season grass establishment</li> <li>Erosion control</li> <li>Pollinator habitat</li> <li>Filter strips</li> <li>Rare and declining habitat establishment</li> <li>*Not all practices are available. Contact FSA, NRCS, or your local Farm Bill Biologist for current available practices.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Brush Management</li> <li>Critical Area Planting</li> <li>Conservation cover (pollinator habitat)</li> <li>Multi-species cover crops</li> <li>Contour buffer strips</li> <li>Early successional habitat</li> <li>Field border</li> <li>Filter strip</li> <li>Wetland restoration</li> <li>Firebreak</li> <li>Forest Management Plan</li> <li>Woody Residue Treatment</li> <li>Forest Stand Improvement</li> <li>Herbaceous Weed Control</li> <li>Prescribed Burning</li> <li>Stream Crossing</li> </ul>

<b>CSP</b> Conservation Stewardship Program	ACEP-WRE Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement	USFWS PFW US Fish and Wildlife Service: Partners for Fish and Wildlife
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ main/national/programs/financial/csp/	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/programs/easements/acep/	https://www.fws.gov/
Federal Program administered by NRCS with NRCS and DNR Forestry as technical assistance.	Federal Program administered and technical assistance by NRCS.	Federal Program administered by Fish & Wildlife Service.
Annual payments to address resource concerns, undertake additional activities and improve and maintain existing conservation systems in a 5 year contract.	No plan required	No plan required
Annual payments to address resource concerns, undertake additional activities and improve and maintain existing conservation systems in a 5yr contract.	Easement payments and cost share payments based on property valuation and length of easement. 30yr and permanent easements available.	Cost-share assistance provided to restore wildlife habitat on private lands with a 10 year agreement.
Pays participants for conservation performance—higher performance, higher payment.	Maximum payment based on agreement or easement type and restoration costs. Up to 75% restoration cost for 30yr easement, 100% for perpetual easement.*	Up to 100% cost-share.
<ul> <li>Shallow water habitat</li> <li>Wildlife friendly fencing</li> <li>Riparian buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat</li> <li>Multi-story cropping, sustainable management of non-timber forest plants</li> <li>Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat</li> <li>Creating forest openings to improve hardwood stands</li> <li>Biological suppression and other non-chemical techniques to manage brush, herbaceous weeds and invasive species</li> <li>On-Farm Pilot Projects</li> </ul>	*Also includes payment for the purchase of the easement. Must have hydrologically altered landscape to qualify (example: ditches or tile)	Restoration of  • Wetlands  • Grasslands  • Threatened and endangered species habitat  • Savanna



#### BECAUSE GRASS IS GOOD

Southern Driftless Grasslands is an active and energized public-private partnership rallying around a shared mission: to actively support land stewardship and conservation in Southwest Wisconsin, to the benefit of the health of the region's grasslands, wildlife, water, farms, and communities.

Southern Driftless Grasslands is supported through grant funding and support from the WI Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife, and Driftless Area Land Conservancy. Network programming and outreach is funded through grants, private foundations, and partnerships.

Our learning hub - www.driftlessgrasslands.org - is a resource for landowners wanting to create, steward, and protect grassland habitat on working and non-working land in Southwest Wisconsin.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.DRIFTLESSGRASSLANDS.ORG

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