



2023 Directory of Conservation Partners and Programs

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Educational Resources - Learn from peers, learn from mentors

Prairie and Savanna Restoration and Forest Management

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 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).

- All members can sign up for a property visit with the BMAP Ecologist to discuss land stewardship specific to their needs and land. Contact [**info@bluemounds.org**](mailto:info@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)

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

TPE Landowner Services Coordinator is available to help identify, conduct ecological assessments of, and provide restoration or reconstruction guidance for prairie, oak savanna (opening, woodland, barrens), sedge meadow, and fen communities on TPE landowners' properties. Dan Carter, Landowner Services Coordinator

- (319) 321-6513
- [**dcarter@theprairieenthusiasts.org**](mailto:dcarter@theprairieenthusiasts.org)

Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education, and advocacy. Learn more about the prairie communities found in wetlands and how to care for them. [**wisconsinwetlands.org/for-landowners/**](http://wisconsinwetlands.org/for-landowners/)

Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council has a simple and very important mission: to promote the safe and effective use of prescribed fire in WI. Fire is an essential tool to restore Wisconsin's fire-adapted systems, and these systems dominate our Southwest WI landscape. Resources at [**prescribedfire.org/learn/**](http://prescribedfire.org/learn/) are geared for landowners interested in integrating prescribed burning into their restoration and management efforts.



Cathy Bleser



Contributed



Elizabeth Baartz

Educational Resources - Learn from peers, learn from mentors

Wildlife Identification and Habitat Needs

Madison Audubon works to restore and manage over 2,000 acres of native habitats for the benefit of birds, other native wildlife, and people. Education programs, citizen science, events, advocacy, and internships create opportunities for all to get involved. Learn more at madisonaudubon.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/

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/

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. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat>
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/EndangeredResources>

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

Xerces' Wisconsin Pollinator Conservation Specialist provides technical assistance to agricultural producers, land stewards, and community groups interested in creating and protecting pollinator habitat.

Micah Kloppenburg, Wisconsin Pollinator Conservation Specialist

- micah.kloppenburg@xerces.org

Did you know? The resources provided throughout this directory have been scoured for material applicable to our habitats and wildlife in southwest Wisconsin and uploaded to the SDG website for your convenience.

Visit
driftlessgrasslands.org.
It's your one-stop shop.



Educational Resources - Learn from peers, learn from mentors

Prescribed Grazing Practices

Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship (DGA) provides the tools and training needed 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. ***Dga-national.org***

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

Wisconsin Women in Conservation (WiWC) is a state wide collaborative effort to bring together WI women landowners to connect and learn about conservation practices, resources, and funding opportunities. The motto? Nurturing Land. Nurturing Ourselves. Working together for a brighter future.
wiwic.org

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. ***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***

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.
fji.extension.wisc.edu/grazers

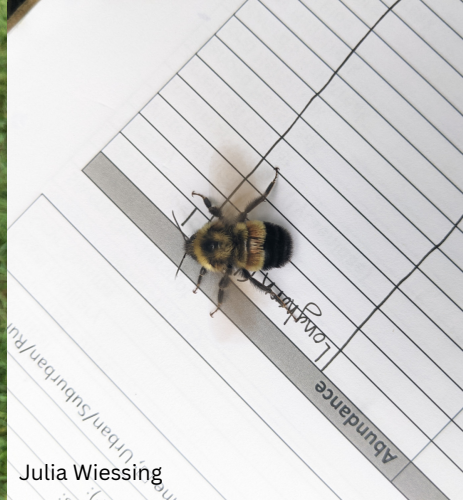
Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers trains and empowers Wisconsin's next generation of farmers to beat the odds and make a successful and rewarding career out of farming.
cias.wisc.edu/new-farmers



April Prussia



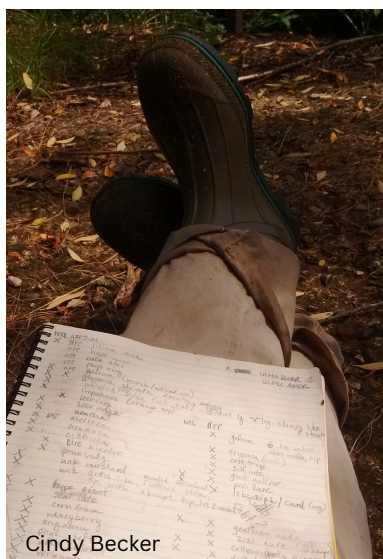
Terry Bouvier



Julia Wiessing

Educational Resources - Learn from peers, learn from mentors

Get Involved in Citizen Science



Cindy Becker

Citizen-based monitoring leads to high quality scientific data, and offers rewarding and educational outdoor opportunities for volunteers!

WDNR Citizen based Monitoring Programs

Volunteers are an integral part of the WDNR' approach to monitoring hundreds of species and habitats in forests, grasslands, wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams throughout the state.

A sample of DNR Projects are listed here, with many others to choose from!

- WI Frog and Toad Survey
- Snapshot Wisconsin
- WI Bumble Bee Brigade
- WI Breeding Bird Atlas II
- WI e-Bird Portal

dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/citizenMonitoring

Watershed Associations 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. All of these groups are involved in citizen science projects of various kinds.

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.

canderas@michaelfields.org

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

LafayetteAgStewardship@gmail.com

lafayetteagstewardship.org/

Pecatonica Pride Watershed Association

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.

info@uppersugar.org

uppersugar.org

Technical and Financial Assistance

Wildlife Habitat

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

Dane, Green, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette Counties:

Rachel Martin

(608) 408-9153

Rmartin@NWTF.net

Pheasant Forever (PF) Farm Bill Biologists

accelerate enrollment in USDA Farm Bill Conservation programs, like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Biologists provide wildlife technical assistance in USDA offices to assist the NRCS, FSA, and other conservation partners deliver 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:

Position open. Contact Britta Petersen.

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

Cindy Becker, Coordinator

(608) 930-3252

cindy@driftlessconservancy.org

Pollinator Habitat Improvement Program

SDG is accepting applications for pollinator habitat enhancement, improvement, and/or creation on private lands. Qualifying projects provide connectivity between existing protected lands and/or identify as remnant prairie or savanna.

- Funded by the Natural Resources Foundation of WI Pollinator Protection Fund

Prairie Savanna Project

Get involved!

SDG is on a mission to verify the locations, quality, and restoration potential of prairie and savanna remnants in southern Driftless Wisconsin.

Do you have a prairie or savanna remnant on your property? Do you know of a site on a nearby property or roadside? We want to know!

Volunteer your time to help with surveys and assessment.

Contact Cindy Becker, SDG Project Manager
608-425-0464; cindy@driftlessconservancy.org

Technical and Financial Assistance

Wildlife Habitat

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

Dane and Green Counties

Nicholas Koltz, DNR Service Forester
(608) 295-0497; nicholas.koltz@wisconsin.gov

Grant County

Trevor Hamdorf, DNR Service Forester
(715) 492-0595; trevor.damdorf@wisconsin.gov

Iowa and Lafayette Counties

Ross DeWitt, DNR Service Forester
(608) 516-1311; ross.dewitt@wisconsin.gov

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

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

WI Southwest and South Central Region

Mike Engel, Private Lands Biologist
(608) 444-1170, mike_engel@fws.gov

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

WDNR Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

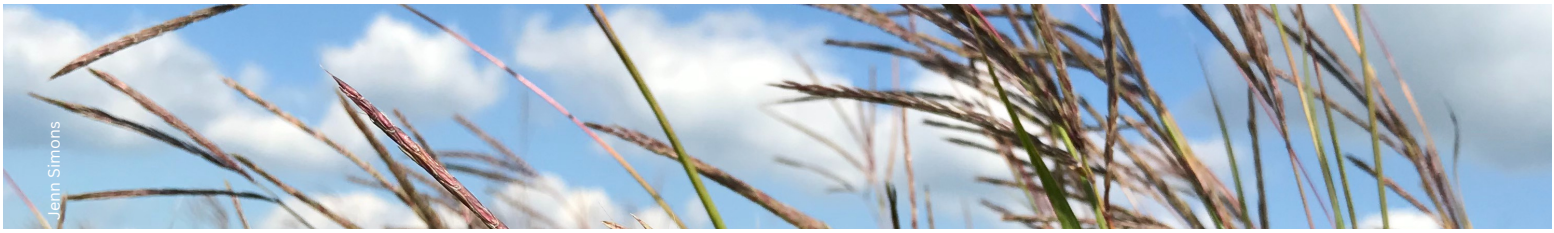
helps private landowners create and manage habitat for species that are rare or declining. The program provides management advice, assistance with management plans and cost-share funding to individuals and organizations.

dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/LIP

Contacts:

Dawn Hinebaugh, Conservation Biologist and LIP Coordinator, Dawn.Hinebaugh@wisconsin.gov

Darcy Kind, LIP Biologist
Darcy.Kind@wisconsin.gov



Technical and Financial Assistance

Conservation Practices on Working Lands

County Land and Water Conservation Departments

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. Example programs include precision agriculture analysis, farmland preservation tax credits, cover crop incentives, transition to rotational grazing incentives.

DANE COUNTY LAND AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

5201 Fen Oak Drive, Room 208
Madison, WI 53718

Land Conservation Division

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

lwr.dane.wi.gov/What-We-Do/agriculture/Conservation-Funding-Opportunities

GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATION, SANITATION, AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

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

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

GREEN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

1627 4th Ave West
Monroe, WI 53566
General Phone: (608) 325-4195
greencountywcd.com

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

IOWA COUNTY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

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

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

LAFAYETTE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

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

Erica Sauer, Conservation, Planning & Zoning Manager
erica.sauer@lafayettecountywi.org



Conservation Practices on Working Lands

Farm Bill Programs

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 www.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.

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.

How do I enroll?

For all program questions and inquiries, it is recommended to stop by or make an appointment with your local NRCS office and work with the staff to see what programs or assistance fits best for you and your land.

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)**



Conservation Practices on Working Lands

Farm Bill Programs

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.

Enrollment period now open!

Driftless Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

The project provides Driftless Area landowners with conservation planning services and direct financial support for the following EQIP practices:

- Prescribed grazing, including pasture seeding, fencing, lanes, and water lines.
- Oak savanna restoration, including brush management, invasive species control, and prescribed burning.
- Agroforestry, including alley cropping and silvopasture.
- Prairie buffers and borders, both in-field and edge-of-field.

Contact your local NRCS office or your PF Farm Bill Biologist to learn more. Applications are invited on a continuous basis and are ranked and awarded one to two times per year.



Technical and Financial Assistance

FSA and NRCS office contacts and locations

DANE COUNTY SERVICE CENTER

5201 Fen Oak Drive
Madison WI 53718

Dane County FSA
(608) 224-3767
fsa.madison@usda.gov

Dane County NRCS
(608) 224-3750
Twyla Kite
Twyla.kite@usda.gov

GRANT COUNTY SERVICE CENTER

150 W Alona Lane
Lancaster, WI 53813

Grant County FSA
(608) 723-7697
fsa.lancaster@usda.gov

Grant County NRCS
(608) 723-6377
Joe Schmelz
joe.schmelz@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

Green County NRCS
(608) 325-4195, ext. 3
Jason Thomas
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

Iowa County NRCS
(608) 935-2791
Andy Walsh
andy.walsh@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

Lafayette County NRCS
(608) 776-4028, ext. 3
Jason Thomas
jason.thomas@usda.gov



Southern Driftless Grasslands

is a partnership that envisions Southwest Wisconsin to be a place rich with healthy grasslands, successful working farms, clear flowing streams, diverse wildlife and people who value and enjoy this landscape.

The partnership assists landowners of working and non-working lands to create, steward and protect grassland, prairie and savanna habitat in Southwest Wisconsin.

Collaborative conservation at the grassroots level – because grass is good.

driftlessgrasslands.org