

# Ties to the Land Newsletter



## Fall/Winter 2019

### DIRECTORY OF AGENCIES

**Racine Kenosha Milwaukee Farm Service Agency (FSA)**  
1012 Vine St., Union Grove, WI 53182 (262) 878-3353 x 2

**Racine Kenosha Milwaukee Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**  
1012 Vine St., Union Grove, WI 53182 (262) 878-1243 x 3

**Extension Kenosha County**  
19600 75th St., Suite 2, Bristol, WI 53104 (262) 857-1945

**Extension Racine County**  
1072 Milwaukee Avenue, Burlington, WI 53105 (262) 767-2929

**Racine County Land Conservation Division**  
14200 Washington Ave. Sturtevant, WI 53177 (262) 886-8440

**Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation**  
19600 75th St., Suite 185-3, Bristol, WI 53104 (262) 857-1900

*These agencies are EEO/AA employers, providing equal opportunity in employment and programming.*



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Extension Racine County  
1072 Milwaukee Avenue  
Burlington, WI 53105  
262-767-2929  
[racine.extension.wisc.edu](http://racine.extension.wisc.edu)

Extension Kenosha County  
19600 75th Street, Suite 2  
Bristol, WI 53104  
262-857-1945  
[kenosha.extension.wisc.edu](http://kenosha.extension.wisc.edu)

### **SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 21 FARM SUCCESSION PROGRAM**

Extension is hosting a farm succession program on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at the Walworth County Government Center in Elkhorn. The program will address estate planning, retirement planning, long-term care insurance, tax considerations for farm transitions, and more. Registration information will be posted soon at [kenosha.extension.wisc.edu](http://kenosha.extension.wisc.edu). Contact Extension for more information.

### **SAVE THE DATE: PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING FEBRUARY 6 & 12**

Private pesticide applicator training and test sessions will be held on February 6 at the Walworth County Government Center in Elkhorn and February 12 at the Kenosha County Center in Bristol. These sessions are for applicators who purchase or apply Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) on property they or their employer own or operate. Upon successful completion of the course, applicators will receive a license good for 5 years. Applicators whose licenses have expired will be notified. Registration is required. More information available at [kenosha.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-training/](http://kenosha.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/pesticide-applicator-training/).

### **RESILIENT FARMS CONFERENCE—DECEMBER 12, 2019 AT KALAHARI IN WISCONSIN DELLS**

Join Compeer Financial and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension for a one-day conference bringing together farmers and experts to explore and develop innovative business ideas to help you create more resiliency on the farm. Conference registration includes choice of breakout sessions, consulting and networking opportunities, exhibitor hall and conference meals. Visit [Compeer.com/resilientfarms](http://Compeer.com/resilientfarms) to register.

### **YOUTH TRACTOR SAFETY**

Does your son or daughter work on a farm or operate a tractor on public roads? If so, consider enrolling them in the 2020 Youth Tractor Safety Program. Extension's annual program is tentatively scheduled for the week of June 15, 2020 at Burlington High School. The program is open to youth ages 12 to 16 and includes both classroom and hands-on driving instruction. Upon completion, youth will receive a certification allowing them to legally operate machinery on public roads and on farms not owned by a parent/guardian. To receive a notification when registration for the 2020 program opens, please contact Extension Kenosha County.



2019 Tractor Safety Participants

### **FARMLAND RENTAL UPDATE**

New county cash rent estimates have been released by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service September issue of the *Wisconsin Farm Reporter*. These figures provide some local context, but there are more factors to consider when establishing a rental rate, such as the lessee's costs of production and landowner cost of ownership and desired return on equity. Features of the land to be rented, such as soil quality, productivity, field location and accessibility, and field size are other factors to consider. If you have questions about farmland rental, contact your local extension office.

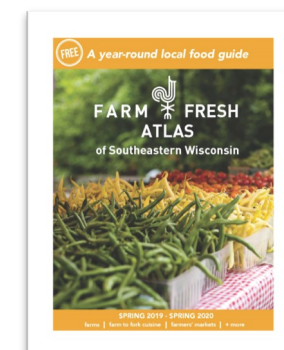
County	Non-Irrigated Cropland		Pasture	
	2017	2019	2017	2019
	<i>Dollars per acre</i>			
Kenosha	139.00	153.00	—	—
Ozaukee	—	—	82.00	—
Racine	128.00	128.00	32.50	52.00
Walworth	184.00	185.00	32.50	—
Washington	108.00	112.00	—	—
Waukesha	128.00	118.00	51.50	40.00
Combined counties <sup>1</sup>	95.50	99.00	72.00	51.50
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>135.00</b>	<b>136.00</b>	<b>54.00</b>	<b>49.50</b>

### **WISCONSIN FARM ACCOUNT AND RECORD BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR 2020**

A limited supply of farm financial record books are available for purchase at the Extension Kenosha County office. If you would like to purchase a book, please contact Extension Kenosha County at 262-857-1948. Record books are \$6 each.

### **LIST YOUR FARM OR BUSINESS IN THE 2020 FARM FRESH ATLAS OF SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN**

The Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeastern Wisconsin is a regional guide to local food, farms, and farmers markets. Over 30,000 copies of the Atlas are distributed annually throughout the area. Even more consumers are reached through a statewide website, [www.farmfreshatlas.org](http://www.farmfreshatlas.org). The Atlas is now accepting applications for the 2020 issue. Visit [farmfreshatlas.org/sign-up](http://farmfreshatlas.org/sign-up) or email [farmfreshsewi@gmail.com](mailto:farmfreshsewi@gmail.com) for more information.



TIES TO THE LAND NEWSLETTER  
 RACINE KENOSHA MILWAUKEE FARM SERVICE  
 AGENCY  
 1012 VINE ST.  
 UNION GROVE, WI 53182



## Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation

Mark Jenks - County Conservationist  
19600 75th Street, Suite 185-3, Bristol, WI 53104  
262-857-1900  
[www.kenoshacounty.org/656](http://www.kenoshacounty.org/656)

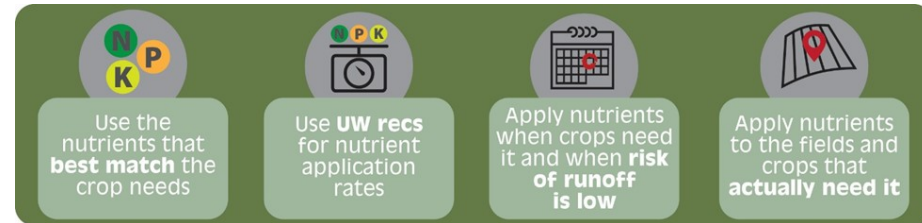
### WISCONSIN NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Implementing a nutrient management plan (NMP) is one of the best practices farmers can use to protect their soil and water resources and farm profitability. NMPs account for all Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (N-P-K) nutrients applied to fields over the crop rotation. In Wisconsin, most NMPs are prepared using the SnapPlus software (available for free at [snapplus.wisc.edu](http://snapplus.wisc.edu)) which utilizes the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 590 Nutrient Management Standard and the University of Wisconsin fertilizer recommendations to apply plant nutrients at economic optimum rates and reduce nutrient losses to the environment.

Some reasons to have a NMP include:

- To know what nutrients crops actually need, avoiding nutrient over-application
- To use on-farm nutrients first, such as legume nitrogen and manure, before purchasing commercial fertilizer
- To improve soil stability, structure, and water holding capacity
- To improve surface and ground water quality

If you'd like to learn more about the SnapPlus software or how to go about developing a nutrient management plan for your farm, contact Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation at 262-857-1900.



**USDA**  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

### Racine Kenosha Milwaukee NRCS Office

1012 Vine Street, Union Grove, WI 53182  
262-878-1243 x 3  
[www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov)

### FY2020 EQIP AND CSP SIGNUP

EQIP is the primary program available to farmers for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 110 basic conservation practices. Last year, Wisconsin received about \$35 million in funds for EQIP practices. By getting applications in early, we have time to visit individual farms to help plan all practices needed and offer advice. All eligible applications received by the batching deadline will be evaluated, prioritized and ranked for funding in 2020. If you are interested in practices that may require permits, such as manure storage or streambank restoration, begin planning and seeking permits as soon as possible. Applicants with shovel-ready projects (designs completed and permit applications submitted) will receive higher priority.

#### EQIP Special Initiatives

- Honey Bee/Pollinator
- Soil Health
- Organic Transition
- Energy
- High Tunnels
- Conservation Activity Plans

CSP— Our Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop yields, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you schedule timely planting of cover crops, develop a grazing plan that will improve your forage base, implement no-till to reduce erosion or manage forested areas in a way that benefits wildlife habitat. If you are already taking steps to improve the condition of your crop or forest land, chances are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals.

**Farmers and landowners may contact NRCS at 262-878-1243 x 3 to get started on eligibility & planning.**



14200 Washington Avenue  
Sturtevant, WI 53177  
262-886-8440

[www.racinecounty.com/government/public-works-and-development-services/land-conservation](http://www.racinecounty.com/government/public-works-and-development-services/land-conservation)

## Racine County Land Conservation

Chad Sampson, County Conservationist  
Jonathan Grove, Conservation Specialist  
Allison Hamm, Conservation Planner

### WATERSHED PROTECTION COMMITTEE OF RACINE COUNTY (WPCR): LEADING EFFORTS IN EROSION CONTROL AND WATER QUALITY

The WPCR is a team of local farmers who lead efforts in erosion control, water quality improvement, and provide information to farmers and rural landowners regarding the use of conservation practices. These practices include grassed buffers, cover crops and no till to promote soil health.

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the WPCR hosted a field day at the Beck Grain Farm in Waterford. The field day included three sites to learn about soil health. The first was a soil pit to show root depth, soil structure, and earthworm activity in a no-till/cover crop system. The second site was a field planted to a 13 species cover crop mix for the purpose of erosion control, weed control, water infiltration and a nitrogen credit for next year's corn. At the final site, we viewed a corn field that was planted green into cereal rye. Anthony Beck talked about his planter along with challenges and successes he has experienced with no-till planting into cover crops.



Soil Pit Demonstration at the WPCR Summer Field Day



WPCR members include: Tom Greil (Chairman), Anthony Beck, Brian Gunderson, John Holloway, Chuck Mealy, Adam Lasch, John Kojis, Mike Stever, Randy Newholm, Jon Bird, John Vyvyan, Alvin Wilks, and John Napientek.

**USDA**  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency

### Racine Kenosha Milwaukee FSA Office

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262-878-3353  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Wisconsin/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Wisconsin/)

### MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS (MALs) ARE AVAILABLE FOR 2019 CROPS

9 month commodity loans (MALs) provide low cost financing and marketing assistance for commodities such as feed grains, soybeans, wheat, wool and honey, just to name a few. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are low.

### MARKET FACILITATION PROGRAM

The sign-up period for MFP is now open and runs through December 6, 2019, with information and instructions provided at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/mfp). MFP provides payments to 2019 planted acreage of cover crops, non-specialty and specialty crops, dairy, and hogs to producers who have been significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. Eligible producers should contact either of our office as soon as possible, but no later than December 6th. Contact us in the FSA Office in Union Grove at 262-878-3353 or the FSA Office in Elkhorn at 262-723-3216 for more information.

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY INFORMATION VIA TEXT

Receive text message alerts from FSA while on the go. Signup to receive informational texts on your phone. Join by simply texting [WIRacine](http://WIRacine) to [372669](http://372669) and/or [WIWalworth](http://WIWalworth) to [372669](http://372669). No more than 2 texts will be sent per month.

### 2019 AND 2020 ENROLLMENT FOR AGRICULTURE RISK COVERAGE AND PRICE LOSS COVERAGE PROGRAMS

Sign-up for the 2019 crop year ends March 15, 2020, and the 2020 crop year deadline is June 30, 2020. You can enroll in either or both years. ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price falls below the reference price. Contact the Union Grove or Elkhorn office to learn more about your options.