

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 in Room 200, Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, WI.

Present: Supervisor Tom Friberg, Supervisor Dave Landwehr, Supervisor Amanda Chu
Excused: Chair Norb Dantine, Vice Chair/Citizen Member Stan Kaczmarek, Supervisor Ray Suennen
Also Present: County Conservationist Mike Mushinski

I. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Amanda Chu at 5:30 pm.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Friberg, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of October 19, 2021.

A change was made in the list of attendees.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Friberg to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public

Land and Water Conservation

1. Budget Status Financial Report for November 2021 – Unaudited.

County Conservationist Mike Mushinski informed they were doing very well at the end of 2021. Revenues were higher than expenses. Chu requested to see the percent of budget to actual through the year.

Motion made by Supervisor Friberg, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Director's Report.

a. Lower Fox River Reginal Coordination Update from Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance.

Jessica Schultz, Executive Director and Katie Woodrow, Lower Fox Program Director at Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance were present to talk about one of the big initiatives they're working on in collaboration with Brown County in the lower Fox.

Schultz provided a handout (attached) explaining who Fox-Wolf was and what they do as an organization. She noted, Fox Wolf was working to protect and restore the waterways and their watershed was large. It's an organization not only working in the lower Fox River but upstream to try and make improvements to see the impacts down below. Everything that happens in the entire basin is impacting the water quality in Brown County and the Bay of Green Bay. Schultz thanked Brown County for their partnership for many years.

Woodrow spoke to the planning efforts for the lower Fox River and their agricultural efforts. She

referenced the 2022 Annual Workplan, which was provided in the agenda packet material, and noted they know what needs to get done and how it's going to happen. She walked through the plan to show how they were making progress. Regional coordination was a piece of that, when they all work together, they can reach that goal together. They also connect agencies with grant opportunities. She further spoke to building support for recovery efforts through public outreach and engagement, advance recovery through implementation, and show progress toward set targets through tracking and reporting.

Landwehr stated they did a great job and established themselves as the main entity around cleaning up of the Fox. Land Con speaks high of the organization and thanked Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance.

Responding to Chu's question regarding stakeholders, Schultz informed their water quality goals are big if they want to meet the targets the DNR has set, they will need the majority of landowners to be on board with making small changes on their property if they're urban residence or large changes if they're rural agricultural landowners. Executive Streckenbach added they added \$10,000 to the Land Conservation budget for cost sharing and to incentivize landowners to put in best practices. There was a request with the ARPA funds to do work upstream to reduce the amount of water going in that has an impact on tributaries. Schultz stated there were a lot of resources available for conservation and the more they can capitalize on those while available, the better off they will be. They're seeing more investment into conservation and more landowners excited, have more interest but there will be more need for cost share. They are also seeing more people willing to do conservation for less cost share. The reality, it was a lot of work, a big price tag and they need a lot of people in support.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Friberg to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

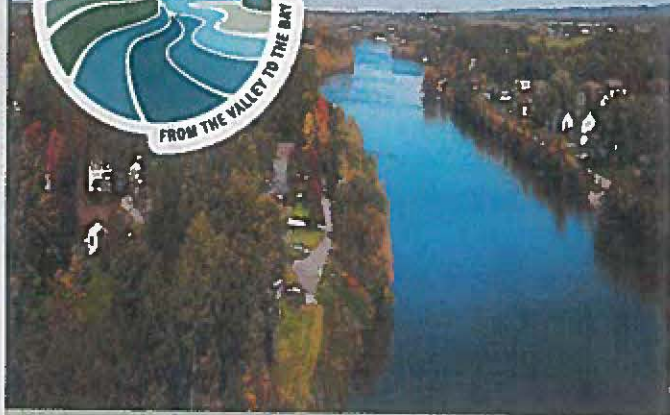
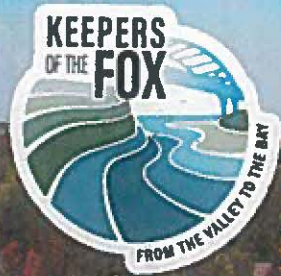
3. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.

4. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Friberg to adjourn at 5:51 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein
Legislative Specialist



Working cooperatively to protect, sustain, and restore the water resources of the Lower Fox River watershed



PARTNER IN AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION
Reduce runoff and nutrient pollution



CONNECT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS
Keep work progressing toward water quality



ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY
Provide outreach and education throughout the watershed

2



THINGS YOU CAN DO

to get involved and
make a difference!

1.

Sweep it up
Grass clippings and leaves in
the street allow nutrients to
run into the storm drains



2.

Try a rain barrel
Rain barrels conserve
water when used for
gardens and catch
pollution from rooftops

3.

Follow us on Facebook
Stay up to date on
opportunities for you
to volunteer, act, or
advocate for clean water



4.

Volunteer for a Clean Up
Join over 1000 volunteers
at over 60 sites to remove
garbage and debris from our
watershed during Fox-Wolf's
annual clean up

5.

**Become a member of Fox-Wolf
Watershed Alliance!**
Your membership ensures we are
working on your behalf daily. Our
continued success depends on financial
support from members like you!

**USE YOUR
PHONE'S CAMERA
TO SCAN ME OR
VISIT FWWW.ORG
TO BECOME A
MEMBER!**





FOX - WOLF

WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Mission: To protect and restore the water resources of the Fox-Wolf River Basin.

We advance our mission by:

- Engaging the community where they are to inspire behavior change needed to improve water quality.
- Securing resources for conservation implementation.
- Building partner capacity.
- Filling needs and gaps with leadership, implementation management or boots on the ground.
- Using science based critical analysis to determine what needs to be fixed to heal what is broken.



Regional Recovery Initiatives - Branded, localized efforts working towards watershed recovery



Support provided by WDNR, Brown & Outagamie Counties & Oneida Nation



Support provided by WDNR, Calumet, Fond du Lac & Winnebago Counties

- Create plans needed to build support for recovery effort.
- Launch public outreach campaign to build community support.
- Seek funding for implementation.
- Build partner capacity.
- Ensure needed monitoring/tracking is happening in order to show progress.
- Report progress toward goals.
- Engage elected officials and decision makers at all levels.

Recovery Support Programs - Topical support programs cover more than one recovery area or offers support to partners or watershed residents Basin wide.



Urban Stormwater
 Northeast WI Stormwater Consortium (NEWS) - Communities working together to cost effectively meet regulatory requirements
 Public education campaign - Renew our Waters.
 K-12 education, exhibiting, training for municipal staff



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
 Prevent the spread of AIS through outreach, monitoring and region-wide coordination.
 Monitoring, Adopt-a-launch, Clean Boats, Clean Waters educators, Outreach.
 Supported by WDNR through county allocation grant.



Trash Free Waters
 Reduce the amount of trash on our landscape and in our waterways through targeted campaigns, cleanup events and outreach.
 Supported through donations/sponsorship.



Agriculture
 Building upon our ag work with Outagamie & Brown Counties, Regenerative Ag Specialist will transfer lessons learned to counties & farmers up stream. Infrastructure will be built for agri-business to donate to soil health initiatives and receive progress reports.
 Supported by NFWF & General Mills

Basin Buzz

Your local source for soil health and conservation farming Winter 2022

REGISTER TODAY
FREE FOR FARMERS!

2022 LOWER FOX FARMER ROUNDTABLE The Economics of Carbon

February 17, 2022

10:00am—4:00pm

Van Abel's of Hollandtown

8108 County Trunk Hwy D, Kaukauna

REGISTRATION INCLUDES

- ⇒ Keynote presentation by Keith Berns
- ⇒ Farmer panel: planting green & equipment set up for no till
- ⇒ Hot lunch buffet
- ⇒ Breakout sessions on soil health topics
 - ⇒ New cover crop species
 - ⇒ Low-disturbance manure application
 - ⇒ Interseeding success stories
 - ⇒ Research updates
- ⇒ Networking happy hour



REGISTER ONLINE
www.FWWA.org/LFRfarm

OR CONTACT KATIE@FWWA.ORG
Registration closes Jan 31

KEYNOTE SPEAKER KEITH BERNS combines over 20 years of no-till farming with 10 years of teaching. In addition to no-tilling 2,500 acres in Nebraska, he also co-owns and operates Green Cover Seed, one of the major crop seed providers in the US. In his keynote, Keith will present on "Carbonomics," how a carbon-rich, healthy soil mirrors a healthy economy.

Thank you to our sponsors and planning partners!



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Calumet
County



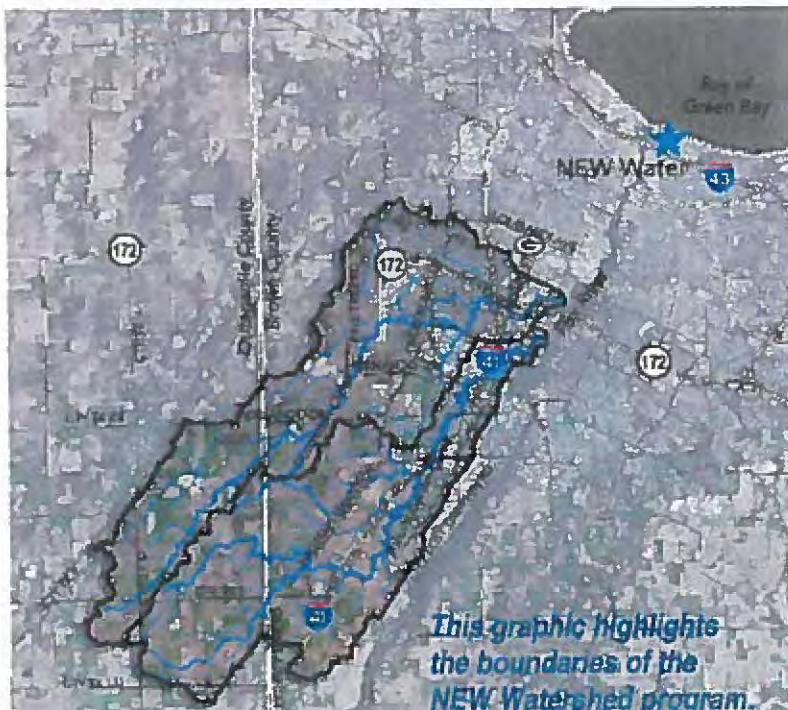
TILTH
AGRONOMY



A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO IMPROVING THE REGION'S WATER QUALITY

Improving impaired waterways of Green Bay through a regional approach is now part of a new, large-scale water quality improvement program that was publicly launched on October 20, 2021 by NEW Water, the brand of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District.

The NEW Watershed Program in Ashwaubenon Creek and Dutchman Creek is a long-term adaptive management strategy to address area water quality concerns while providing a cost-effective, alternative compliance option for NEW Water's wastewater discharge permit with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).



Conditionally approved by the WDNR in December of 2020, the program's adaptive management plan follows on the success of a pilot project in the Silver Creek watershed. The NEW Watershed Program involves collaborating with landowners, farmers, the land conservation offices in Outagamie and Brown counties, private agronomists, universities and non-governmental entities for a common goal: to improve area water quality. It also includes collaborative efforts with community leaders and residents in urban settings to implement initiatives to reduce the amount of phosphorous and sediment from entering area waterways or the sewer system.

Leading up to the public launch, more than 6,000 acres of field walks were conducted in fall 2020 to identify resource concerns and areas where best management practices could be implemented. The team then developed a prioritization plan and an implementation tracking and verification strategy.

Beginning last fall, and continuing throughout this year, the Program team has worked with farmers/growers in the Program area to implement best management practices including rotational grazing, planting cover crops, practicing no-till and the installation of several buffers/filter strips. The team will continue this collaborative effort in the coming years, including working with community leaders and area residents on strategic urban efforts.



NEW Water's Watershed Specialist, Ben Young, conducts watershed sampling for watershed quality tracking.



Aerial photograph in the Program watersheds features different implementations of best management practices.

Working together will make a difference in our water quality because, ultimately, it's up to all of us to improve and preserve our precious water resources.

To learn more about this Program and how you may get involved, please visit the NEW Watershed Program website at: <https://www.newwater.us/programs/watershed>.

“The NEW Watershed Program works with each landowner to understand their concerns and find a way to work together to meet their goals, for their land, while also meeting water quality program goals. Agriculture, utilities, industry, and urban centers can all co-exist if we are thoughtful and open to understanding the watershed we all share.”

**~ Erin Houghton,
NEW Watershed
Program Manager**

2



Be a part of the solution... Sign the Clean Water Pledge

Join your fellow farmers who have planted cover crops to protect their valuable topsoil, to keep nutrients on the land, & to protect our streams, rivers, and lakes.

Photo Credit: Gregg Bay, Metropolitan Sewerage District, New Water

What does the pledge include?

1. A commitment to try cover crops on your land.
2. Display a **free** field sign demonstrating your commitment to protect our shared waters.
3. Your name listed on different media sources that highlight farmers' commitment to water quality in the Lower Fox Watershed. Media outlets may include newsletters, newspapers, and/or social media.

Thank you to the Lower Fox Farmers who have signed the pledge!

David Bougie, Bougie Farm

Dan Brick, Brickstead Dairy

Brian Horn, Hornstead Dairy, LLC.

Tim Krueger, Krueger Century Farms

John Leich

Donald Micke

Tom Perock, Elm Row Farms

Leon Sprangers, Sprangers Family Dairy, LLC.

Mark and Joe Van Asten, Neighborhood Dairy, LLC.

Mike Van Asten

John and Barb Van Deurzen, Van's Sturdy Oak Acres

Robert Van De Loo, Bob Van De Loo & Sons

Nick Van Gheem, Nick Van Gheem Farms, LLC.

Paul Van Gheem, Van Gheem Family Farm, LLC.

Craig Van Handel, Van Handel Dairy Farm, Inc.

Derek Van De Hey, New Horizons Dairy

Matt & Nick VanWycken, VanWycken Farms

Tom & Bill VandeWettering, VandeWettering Farms

Dale & Mark Verhasselt, R & E Farms, Inc.

Daryl Woldt, Woldt Farms, LLC

Farmer Spotlight!



Tim Krueger from Krueger Century Farm is finding new ways to adopt conservation practices on the farm. Being hold and moving forward have allowed Tim to limit inputs, while maintaining similar yields.

- Coming soon -
Rotational Grazing
for Clean Water
signs!

Want to sign the
pledge? Contact:
Whitney Prestby,
Fox Demo Farms
whitney.prestby@wisc.edu
or reach out to your
county or NRCS
office.

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WHY DEMONSTRATION FARMS?

Demonstration farms showcase the effectiveness and adaptability of a variety of soil health and conservation farming practices on fields here in Northeast Wisconsin. Demo farmers share the technologies, equipment, and techniques that they have used to reduced sediment and phosphorus loss. The Demo Farm Network provides an opportunity to share successes and challenges with neighboring producers.

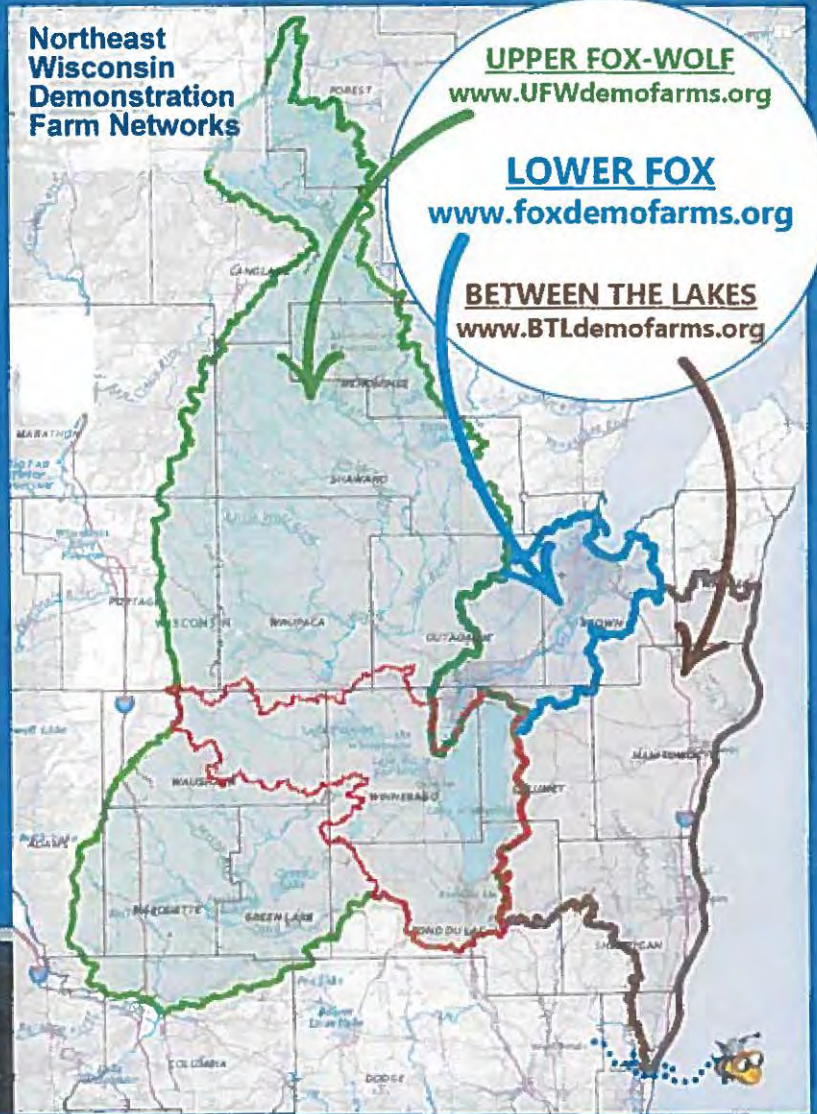


**TO FIND OUT ABOUT
FIELD DAYS AND
OTHER EVENTS, JOIN
THE LOWER FOX
DEMONSTRATION
FARMS NETWORK
TEXT LIST!**

**To JOIN, TEXT:
FoxDEMOFARMS
TO 88202**



**AND FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK:
FACEBOOK.COM/FOXDEMOFARMS**



SIGN UP NOW FOR 2022-2023 CONSERVATION FUNDS & ASSISTANCE

Do you have soil or water conservation projects in need of financial or technical help? If so, there are several different opportunities for obtaining cost-share for conservation projects in Brown, Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago counties.

Funding can assist to install a variety of practices including:

- Cropland practices such as grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, filter strips, cover crops
- Nutrient management planning with soil testing
- Barnyard work, manure storage and other farmstead practices

**Contact your Land Conservation
Department to determine if funding
is available for your project.**

- Brown County LWCD: (920) 391-4621**
- Calumet County LWCD: (920) 849-1442**
- Outagamie County LCD: (920) 832-5073**
- Winnebago County LWCD: (920) 232-1950**
- Outagamie County NRCS: (920) 793-1575**
- Brown County NRCS: (920) 884-9210**
- Winnebago County NRCS: (920) 424-0329**
- Calumet County NRCS: (920) 849-1444**

Riparian buffers reduce erosion and protect from runoff

Brown County Success from the Field

Innovative Farmer Has Sights Set on Soil Health



Background

Pat Kane is a seventh generation dairy farmer at Kane Dairy LLC, in Denmark, Wisconsin. His family has been in the business of dairy farming since the early 1800s when the original farmstead was purchased just across the road from the present-day farm. Like many other dairy farms, they have seen substantial growth. In 1988 they milked 60 cows—today that number is 800. With a land base of about 2,800 acres, they can grow all of the forage for their animals, which also includes heifers raised on-site. Pat has slowly been taking over the farm from his father's management and has progressively tried new field techniques with the goal of reducing labor, inputs and improving the soil.

Highlights

For Pat, the thought of building healthy soils began four years ago after talking with Brown County Land and Water Conservation and participating in field days. No-till and cover crops made economic sense to Pat, who stated that the practices "require less man power and save fuel." Really the biggest hurdle was the uncertainty behind implementing new practices. Together with his dad and NRCS Soil Conservationist Julie Hager, Pat applied to implement a no-till and cover crop system through EQIP. His conservation plan was approved and with assistance from the NRCS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, he implemented several hundred acres of cover crops and no-till.

So far, the benefits of no-till and cover crops have not gone unnoticed by Pat on the farm, or by members of the conservation community. In fact, Kane Dairy was one of the farms featured during the latest Save the Bay Farm Field Day. One of the greatest benefits Pat has observed is the ability to get manure out on the fields in summer. Not being limited to when manure can be applied has allowed their manure pit to sit below 40% capacity. In years before no-till and cover cropping, capacity this time of year was roughly 75%. This is a tremendous burden lifted off a busy dairy in the fall.

Generally, larger farms struggle to seed all of their cover crops in time given various limitations; however, Pat has solved this problem by being innovative with the equipment he uses, namely a vertical tillage unit (see picture). Pat expressed that



Pat Kane of Kane Dairy LLC, next to his vertical till cover crop seeder that allows for quick and efficient planting of cover crops on several hundred acres in variable conditions.

the vertical till has been great for wetter conditions and has nowhere near the soil compaction that a traditional horizontal tillage unit has. Only one tillage tool can be found on the farm with no field cultivator or chisel used for the last three years.

Future Plans

Looking ahead to the future of the dairy farm, Pat hopes to have all open acres covered and use less herbicide and fertilizer. He is encouraged by other farms in the country that have been able to reduce their fertilizer program by getting their soils built up through a regimen similar to his farm's. He hopes, with the continuation of cocktail mix forages and in season application of manure, that this will be a real possibility in the years to come. He also plans to upgrade his cover crop seeder to allow for even more efficiency with an upgraded seed flow unit and toolbar. Next year he also plans to interseed more cover crops between corn silage. Each year continues to bring new lessons and new successes! NRCS looks forward to continuing to work with Pat to meet his conservation goals.



WHAT IS SOIL HEALTH?

According to NRCS: Soil health is the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans.

Farmers use soil health practices to manage their soils so they are sustainable for future generations. Soil health farming practices result in win-win scenarios for lakes, rivers, and farmers. Farmers have found that when they commit to using soil health practices multiple years in a row, they see worthwhile improvements to their soils and the farm's bottom line.

5 PRINCIPLES OF soil health¹:

1	MINIMIZE SOIL DISTURBANCES	Reduce erosion, decrease ponding and crusting, and retain organic matter. Practices* : no-till planting and low disturbance manure injection.
2	MAXIMIZE SOIL COVER	Reduce erosion, regulate evaporation and soil temperature, suppress weeds, habitat. Practices* : cover crops, interseeding, planting green, roller crimper, crop mixes
3	INCREASE BIODIVERSITY	Improve nutrient cycling, nutrient uptake, capture carbon, break down organic matter Practices* : diverse cover crop mixes, pollinator habitat, interseeding
4	INTEGRATE LIVESTOCK	Reduce animal feed costs, weed management, balance carbon/nitrogen ratio. Practices* : grazing cover crops, using dairy manure for fertilizer
5	CONTINUOUS LIVING ROOTS	Improve infiltration, higher yield, less erosion, fewer weeds, conserve soil moisture Practices* : Overwintering cover crops, interseeding, planting green, frost seeding

1 NRCS website. *Examples of practices. All practices may vary by location.



SOIL HEALTH = SOIL QUALITY

Farmers are encouraging other farmers through demonstration fields to adopt soil health practices throughout the Fox-Wolf Basin. Field signs, like the one shown below, are popping up across the region. They help bring attention to fields where farming practices reduce sediment and nutrient runoff while improving soil quality.

SOIL HEALTH

IN PROGRESS

WWW.SOILHEALTHINPROGRESS.ORG

WWW.SOILHEALTHINPROGRESS.ORG

READY TO EXPLORE COVER CROPS?

Cover crops can be used year-round to ensure your fields have continuous living roots.

Cover crops can be established through many different application methods. The most common are drilling in cover crops or broadcasting seed after harvesting crops in the fall. Aerial applications and no-till drills also work well. A newer concept to this area is interseeding cover crops into standing crops. This allows for earlier establishment and more cover crop growth in the fall.

For help with cover crops, contact your county's



Considerations when choosing Cover Crop Species:

Seeding Date: Select species such as radish and oats have better establishment when planted early. Winter Rye and Triticale can be planted until late in the Fall.

Termination: Some species winter kill, while others will need to be sprayed or tilled in spring.

Manure Management: Manure can be applied to cover crops by using a vertical tillage injector or by applying manure and planting cover crops after.

Seeding Mixes: There is an added benefit to soil health when two or more species are mixed together. Common mixes are radishes and oats, clover and radish, and hairy

2

Basin Buzz

Your local source for soil health and conservation farming Winter 2022

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FREE FOR FARMERS!

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