

Ties to the Land Newsletter

October-December 2014

DIRECTORY OF AGENCIES

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

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

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

Racine County UW-Extension
209 N. Main St., Burlington, WI 53105 (262) 767-2929

Racine Kenosha Milwaukee Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
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Due to budget constraints on all agencies involved, this will be the LAST paper version of Ties to the Land. Please take the time to fill out the postcard inside to let us know how you prefer to receive our information.

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

Ties to the Land Newsletter

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JOIN THE TIES TO THE LAND PARTNERS FOR OUR 8TH ANNUAL RURAL LANDOWNERS CONFERENCE



Save the date for the 8th Annual Rural Landowners Conference, scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2014 at the Kenosha County Center in Bristol, Wisconsin. The conference will offer educational opportunities for rural landowners and small farmers as well as individuals who are considering a farm enterprise. This year's topics will include beekeeping, raising rabbits for meat, sausage making, and more! The event is sponsored by the Farm Service Agency, Kenosha and Racine County Land Conservation, Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The cost for regular registration is \$25 per person and \$15 per person for youth ages 14-18. Contact Leigh Presley, leigh.presley@ces.uwex.edu for more information. To view the Rural Landowner website and register online for the workshop, please visit <http://kenosha.uwex.edu/2014/09/08/rlowconf/>

Mailing a single issue of Ties to the Land costs about \$2,000 each year! Unless readers indicate a high demand for hard copy newsletters via this survey, hard copy mailings of the newsletter and the annual tree order forms will be discontinued.

Please take a moment to answer a short survey by going to:

https://uwex.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9MtISZHqkwIV50t

Or complete and return the postcard included in this newsletter.

Help us determine how to best deliver our content to you in the future!



Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Kenosha & Racine Counties

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

Racine County
209 N Main St.
Burlington, WI 53105
262-767-2929

FARM FRESH ATLAS APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

If you are a farmer, farmers' market, small/local business or restaurant that wants to attract more customers, then the 2015 Farm Fresh Atlas™ of Southeastern Wisconsin can be a valuable marketing tool! Farmers who sell directly to consumers, through on-farm sales, farm stands, farmers' markets, CSA's, U-Pick operations or other methods can be listed in the Atlas. Farmers' markets and any food related business that also supports farmers such as cheese factories, food co-ops, restaurants, bakeries, meat processors and others can also participate.

Applications for Atlas listings are now available at <http://www.farmfreshsewi.org/applications.htm>. Regular registration ends November 15, 2014. Final applications are due December 15th.

Atlases will be available for distribution in March 2015. 80,000 Atlases will be printed and distributed in 2015 at farmers' markets, through participating farms and businesses and through tourism and convention bureaus, public libraries, and events such as county fairs. Target counties include Dodge, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha. All farms, markets, restaurants and businesses who list in the hard copy version will also have their information on the website, which is <http://www.farmfreshsewi.org/>.





Racine County Land Conservation

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

<http://www.racineco.com/landconv/>

Land Conservation Staff:
Chad Sampson, County Conservationist
Jonathan Grove, Conservation Specialist
& Kelsey Maynard, Conservation Planner

THE CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM IS BACK!

After a brief hiatus, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is back. This program is obtainable to most Racine County landowners making it one of the most popular programs around. You can qualify if you own property along a stream, river, lake or even a wetland in certain circumstances. Depending on where your property is located you could be entitled to payments up to \$225 per acre per year through CREP for simply installing any one (or more) of the many eligible practices available on your property. Studies show that doing something as simple as adding a grassed buffer along a waterway can help filter out up to 60% of the harmful pollutants contained within runoff. If you live in Racine County and are interested in participating in this program or you are just looking for more information, call our office at 262-866-8440 and ask for Kelsey Maynard, Racine County Land Conservation, or log onto the Wi-DATCP site at: http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Land_and_Water_Conservation/CREP/. Even if you don't think you're eligible to take advantage of CREP, but are interested in knowing more about ways to preserve and enhance cropland areas where flooding, erosion or harsh soil conditions are present, we'd like to hear from you. We have many options available for farmland preservation so call now for more information.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES INCLUDE:

- Grassed Buffer/Filter Strips (CP21)
- Riparian Buffers (CP22)
- Grassed Waterways (CP8A), up to 1000 feet into cropland from the enrolled riparian buffer or filter strips may be eligible
- Wetland Restorations (CP23) in conjunction with an enrolled riparian buffer, filter strip



Racine Kenosha Milwaukee FSA Office

1012 Vine St.
Union Grove, WI 53182
262-878-3353
www.fsa.usda.gov

NEW AND REVISED PROGRAMS!

Due to the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill, there are a number of programs that have been enacted, renewed, or revamped. Please stay tuned to GovDelivery emails for additional details about these programs. If you are not receiving our GovDelivery emails, please contact Kim Iczkowski at kimberly.iczkowski@wi.usda.gov or visit our webpage at www.fsa.usda.gov and click on the RED ENVELOPE IMAGE (pictured left) in the lower right hand corner of the main FSA webpage to sign up for GovDelivery on your own. Please make sure to select Racine Kenosha Milwaukee County Newsletters.

Here are some highlights of things going on in FSA right now:

- Signup for the new Margin Protection Program for Dairy producers began September 2. **We plan to hold some informational meetings before the 2014/15 registration deadline of November 28th.** Please contact the office if you would like more information
- Letters went out to all owners and operators informing them of their acreage planting history for 2009-2013. These letters caused many questions to come into our office. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us by phone or email. **We will also be holding future meeting in regards to your options for new bases, yields, and farm programs.**

Stay tuned for more details or contact us at 262-878-3353.



Kenosha Land & Water Conservation

Dan Treloar - County Conservationist
19600 - 75th St., Suite 185-3, Bristol, WI 53104
(262) 857-1900 FAX (262) 857-1920

Website: <http://www.kenoshacounty.org/index.aspx?nid=676>

FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS

Kenosha County regulates construction and development in the floodplain to ensure that buildings will be protected from flood damage. Filling and similar projects are prohibited in the floodplain overlay district (FPO). Kenosha County Interactive mapping website at <http://wi-kenoshacounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=673> can show you where the FPO district lies on your lands.

Always check for a flood hazard before you commit yourself to buying property;

- Contact the Kenosha County Planning Division at 262-857-1895 to find out if the property is in a floodplain, if it has ever been flooded, the flood depth, if it is subject to any other hazards and what building or zoning regulations that are in effect.
- Ask the real estate agent if the property is in a floodplain, if it has ever been flooded, and if it is subject to any other hazards, such as sewer backup or subsidence.
- Ask the seller and the neighbors if the property is in a floodplain, how long they have lived there, if the property has ever been flooded, and if it is subject to any other hazards.

If a building is located in a floodplain, flood insurance will be required by most federally backed mortgage lenders. Ask an insurance agent how much a flood insurance policy would cost.

LAND AND WATER RESOURCE FUNDS AVAILABLE

Are you considering conservation this year? Some eligible practices include grassed waterways, well abandonment, barnyard runoff control, streambank stabilization, and nutrient management. Do not hesitate to apply for your cost-share funding today! Kenosha County Land Conservation may provide up to 70% of the cost of your project. Our office allocates over \$50,000 in annual grant monies to distribute to landowners for eligible conservation projects. Contact our office to apply for the program at 262-857-1900.



Racine Kenosha Milwaukee County NRCS Office

1012 Vine St., Union Grove, WI 53182
262-878-1243 x3

Website: www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov

PLAN AHEAD FOR HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAM SCREENING

The NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the primary source of financial assistance for conservation practices on working lands, including those needing county, state or federal permits. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis for funding in future fiscal years. NRCS is urging farmers to plan ahead and have their plans and permits (if required) in hand if they want to be considered high priority for conservation practice funding in the future.

NRCS recommends applicants come in early to NRCS and get started planning potential projects. NRCS can help provide information on which permits are needed for particular practices. Then, farmers will be able to contact the permitting agency earlier. Technical assistance is available from NRCS, county, state agencies, some non-profit groups, and private consultants to do the design work needed in order to get some state or local permits. Permits are commonly required for manure storage structures, erosion control structures, streambank and wetland restorations, and some other practices.

Example Screening Priorities

- High Priority = Shovel Ready Project, all planning and permits obtained
- Medium Priority = Some planning and permitting steps complete but more work to be done to be shovel ready
- Low Priority = Last minute applications or applications with very minimal planning completed