



*Helping People
Help the Land*

**Wisconsin
State Outreach Report
FY2010**

January, 2011

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State Outreach Activities

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC), received the USDA Honor Award in 2010. The 11-member tribal organization was recognized for exemplary service and achievement during the 62nd annual Honor Awards ceremony in Washington, DC, in August.

Council President Jonathan Pyatskowitz, of the Menominee nation, accepted the award on the council's behalf.

WTCAC, formed in 2001, provides a forum for Wisconsin's 11 American Indian tribes to identify and solve critical natural resource and agricultural issues on tribal lands. Projects include restorations of wild rice beds, coaster brook trout habitat, pine barrens, prairies, peatlands, streambanks, lakeshores, wetlands and forests. Other projects include the protection of burial mounds, establishment of community gardens and the launching of invasive species



campaigns to protect sensitive lands. WTCAC has become the voice for conservation for Wisconsin tribes, working at the state and federal levels to sustain and protect natural resources on tribal lands. By working together, over \$2 million in funding for tribal conservation work has been secured through USDA Farm Bill Programs.

Outreach to Wisconsin Women Farmers

NRCS is working with UW Madison researchers on results obtained from a recently concluded study assessing Effective Outreach methods for Wisconsin's Women Farmers, by Sharon Lezberg, Ph.D., and Astrid Newenhouse, Ph.D. with the Environmental Resources Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Outreach with Women and Hispanic Farmers on Compensation for Past Discrimination

Wisconsin NRCS hosted a meeting of stakeholders to share information about the recently completed legal action for Women and Hispanic farmers. USDA Deputy Secretary Merrigan led the meeting on Sept. 29, 2010 attended by 25 interested parties.

National and International Urban Ag Conference, sponsored by Growing Power, Sept. 10-12, 2010, Milwaukee. NRCS participated with FSA and RD to present a workshop and exhibit at the 3 day international conference, focusing on programs and assistance to help small, beginning and non-traditional farmers.

Exhibits at 52 Conferences and Educational Events, including Women in Farming Conference and numerous events attracting small and beginning farmers.

- Value Added Conference-River Country RC&D
- Cranberry School
- WCPA Conference
- International Mink Show
- Value Added Conference
- Jobs Forum-EauClaire
- WOWRA Conference Soils info
- Wisconsin Woodland Owners
- Career Fair Stevens Point
- Grazing Conference
- MOSES Organic Conference
- Ag Showcase Fond du Lac
- WALCE
- Federal Women's Program
- SWCS Conference
- Career Fair- Eau Claire
- Grazing Workshop-Spooner
- Prairie Chicken Festival
- Land Stewardship Conference-Prentice
- Careers Fair-River Falls
- Career Fair-Tribal
- Oneida Kids Day
- Earth Day-Monona Terrace
- Career Fair-Oshkosh
- Career Fair-Pierce Co
- Dairy Breakfast-Monroe Co.
- Dairy Breakfast- Eau Claire Co.
- FFA Conference-Earth Team
- Marathon Co. Fair
- Forestry Symposium
- Conservation Observance Day
- Lakefest-Lac du Flambeau
- Dairy Breakfast-Shawano
- Energy Fair-Bertjens
- Iowa Co Fair
- Barron Co Fair
- LaCrosse Co Fair
- Farm Technology Days
- Columbia Co. Fair
- Pepin Co. Fair
- Buffalo Co Fair
- Cranberry Growers Annual Meeting
- Juneau Co Fair
- Grant Co. Fair
- Sheep and Wool Festival

- Urban and Small Farm Conference-Growing Power
- Jefferson Co. Small Animal Grazing Show
- Farm City Days-Menomonie
- World Dairy Expo
- Dideon Energy Fair
- Grazing Exhibit-World Dairy Expo
- National NRCS 75th Anniversary Celebration

Programs - EQIP

- Seasonal High Tunnel Systems for Crops (Hoop Houses) were offered for the first time, resulting in many new NRCS customers. Press releases, training sessions, and outreach led to WI topping the nation in the number of structures funded. Several contracts were in urban areas typically not reached with NRCS programs and there was higher utilization by Socially Disadvantaged groups than with other EQIP practices.
- Historically underserved groups received higher payment rates in EQIP in 2010. In total, HU participants received 219 contracts worth \$3,428,270 in 2010.
- Press releases, radio interviews, and web sites were utilized to promote the program.
- An Organic Initiative was offered and \$1.1 M in contracts were funded. Producers participating included those already certified organic and those transitioning to organic. Training and information was provided to NRCS staff and partners. Press releases and the Wisconsin NRCS web site were utilized in announcing the sign-up.
- Statewide guidance on Local Working Groups was developed and utilized, resulting in more consistent and inclusive LWG meetings.
- Throughout the year program staff consulted frequently with the State Technical Committee on program practices, funding, and policy.

WHIP

- Program staff worked with the Wildlife Subcommittee of the State Technical Committee to identify priority habitats for the FY09 program. The 2008 Farm Bill called for only private land to be eligible for WHIP and thus private landowners were targeted. Training and information was provided to NRCS staff and partners. A press release and the Wisconsin NRCS web site were utilized in announcing the sign-up.
- Press releases, radio interviews, and web sites were utilized to promote the program.

MRBI

Southwest Badger RC&D, Town & Country RC&D, State and Area Office staff collaborated to conduct three informational meetings for conservation partners interested in the FY2010 Request for Proposals for the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative. Two proposals were selected for funding, in Dane and Walworth Counties.

Conservation Stewardship Program

State, Area, and Field Office staff collaborated to conduct an informational meeting for agricultural producers in the Fox Valley Area to provide information regarding the 2010-2 Conservation Stewardship Program sign-up.

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)

The CCPI, through EQIP and WHIP, allowed non-federal partners to work with private landowners to target local resource concerns. Program staff worked with three in-state projects that targeted nutrients and a multi-state project that improved stream and riparian area habitat in the Driftless Area.

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC)

Program staff participated in several WTCAC meetings. Policy and practice needs to better assist the tribal nations' unique conservation needs were also identified and developed.

Engineering

Scott Mueller, Asst. State Engineer, is working with four UW-Madison Biological Systems Engineering (previously known as Agricultural Engineering) students since June 2010. Scott met with them once a week during the fall semester as they worked on their senior design project. The four students, 2 male and 2 female, are designing a wetland restoration in Rock County. The four students do not have a farm background. They are from Philadelphia, PA; Sun Prairie, WI; Highland, WI; and the Milwaukee, WI area. The project has introduced them to NRCS staff, wetland restoration, and engineering design. The completed project will include a design report and construction drawings.

Resources – Forestry

Numerous presentations to diverse groups on NRCS Forestry Assistance.

- Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) - Blackhawk Chapter,
- Cooperating/Consulting Foresters,
- SE WWOA
- Joint Forestry Meeting with local Foresters in Southwest WI.
- Governor's Council on Forestry
- Wisconsin Tree Farm Field Day
- Lac De Flambeau-BIA,
- American Forest Foundation
- September article in Timber Management Publication,
- Conservation Activity Plan Training for Foresters
- Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association.

Soils

NRCS Soils staff assisted UW Soil scientists in identifying suitable sites for community gardens in downtown Milwaukee. Walnut Way, an urban agriculture and environmental center, is working to establish gardens on vacant lots as teaching and food production enterprises. Using

NRCS ground penetrating radar, and eletro-magnetic induction meters, soil scientists checked sites for suitability, however due to the clayey soils and deep level disturbances, very little useful information was gained.

Adolfo Diaz, GIS Specialist, assisted the NRCS National Office in conducting a focus group on conservation careers at Madison Memorial High School in September. The focus group was part of a national series to assess NRCS and conservation as a career choice among urban and diverse high school students. Adolfo also presented at an elementary school in Madison, sharing soils and GIS concepts with urban and minority children at Lincoln Elementary.

NORTHWEST AREA

Altoona Field Office

- **5 Minutes of Fame (WAXX Radio):** On a monthly basis, NRCS staff meet with a local radio personality and give an interview about local conservation activities and efforts. These radio station broadcasts can be heard in the NW, NE and SW areas of WI.
- **Rural Living Days:** Annual program held at a local Nature Preserve where NRCS was invited to present on Soil and way to improve Soil Quality. Also we spoke about the programs NRCS has to offer private landowners. Unfortunately the event was cancelled this past year.
- **Farm City Day:** Annual program intending to promote the diversity of agriculture in the Chippewa Valley. The event was focused on Agri-tourism this year. The event featured narrated tours of vegetable production, sheep shearing, and wool spinning. The event was a success with over 500 people attending the day.
- **Agribusiness Committee:** Assists in planning the local “dairy breakfast” for Eau Claire County. The event was a success, despite the inclement weather which yielded 2 plus inches of rain the morning of the event. The conservation tent had about 3000 people pass through and learn how to help the land.
- **Youth Leadership Eau Claire:** Local NRCS staff led a tour of local agricultural operations to 24 high school students from 5 high schools. Students toured a dairy facility which utilized waste to produce electricity for over 600 homes. The students then toured a local CSA where small scale food production was discussed. The afternoon brought a twist to ag production, where forest products were discussed. The afternoon was culminated by a demonstration of conservation practices and how they helped control erosion.
- **FFA Farm City Day:** Local FFA chapter has an ag day at the high school and brings in elementary school students in to educate and promote agriculture. The event is

also visited by local high school students interested in ag and ag careers. Photo: Zenik Crespo, Soil Conservationist and Shaunna Repking, Soil Scientist teaching students about soil. They also completed in a local tradition of corn shucking, it looks like they made a mess!

- Cluster A -Career Fair: Local NRCS Conservation and Soils Staff met and discussed careers in NRCS with high school students within a 5 county area of Eau Claire. We interacted on a one on one level as well as gave brief presentations to groups of students. During the day middle school students were allowed to walk the area and discuss careers with staff. About 1200 students attended the event.
- UWEC-CVTC: CVTC Ag teachers asked local experts to assist in educating students on soil erosion and soil quality. Staff attended class and presented the RUSLE2 program. Students then learned firsthand how to calculate soil erosion.
- Symposium at UWEC: NRCS participated on a panel discussion of the agriculture after a viewing of Dirt: The Movie. The panel addressed issues of soil erosion and how the agriculture industries are addressing it. The local experts also addressed the sustainability of the farm industry today.



Ashland Field Office

Forest Program Promotion

Ashland Field office partnered with the Lake Superior Basin Educator in April 2010 to promote NRCS forest programs and technical assistance available. The focus of the presentations was to highlight forestry programs and practices available to private forest landowners. A series of three night meetings were held across the region to meet with forest land owners and discuss forest management options. NRCS staff provided a presentation on the latest information for participants to consider Forestry management within the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program. Meetings were held in Iron County - Court House, Douglas County - Solon Springs Community Center and for Ashland and Bayfield Counties at the Great Lakes Visitor Center. In total, over 90 private forest landowners participated. Partners from the

county Land Conservation Districts and the local Wisconsin DNR presented their programs and discussed interagency cooperation. As a result of these meetings, we have seen increased interest in forest practices. Local Technical Service Providers have been getting the word out as well to promote forest stewardship

Grazing Promotion

Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D has hired a Grazing Specialist promote managed grazing across the northland. Douglas County held a grazing field day in August to promote management, grass finished beef and the no-till drill for forage management.

Attendees were able to walk well managed pastures and observe conservation practices available



through agency programs. Partners from University research farm in Spooner attended to discuss livestock gains on grazed forage. Local extension agent discussed forage identification and the NRCS staff discussed program assistance available to assist in making management changes on the operation. Local Grass finished beef was sampled to the delight of all in attendance.

Bad River Tribe

Bad River Band of Chippewa used the EQIP program to carry out invasive weed control on narrow leaf cattail in the rice production grounds of the Bad River sloughs. They physically removed small pockets of narrow leaf cattail and reseeded rice into the newly established bedding areas. This management technique is difficult to apply due to the volume of vegetative material harvest during the removal process. Small sites were selected as it was felt the management could get control with rice planting following the removal. Larger beds are too big for hand removal and are being monitored for possible chemical treatment in the future. The volume of biomass is creating a disposal concern which is now being discussed for future treatments.

Balsam Lake

- NRCS helped conduct the Tri-County High School Soil Judging Contest, with 100 students in competition

- Farm Tech Days – worked NRCS exhibit (prior to the rainout!)
- Polk County Fair tent –4000 people in attendance
- Numerous news releases and news letters

Black River Falls Field Office

- Assisted Ho-Chunk Nation with technical assistance on a failed grade stabilization structure
- DC gave presentation to Western Technical College Farm Class about NRCS programs. Consisted of 25 people total. 7 were women and 12 beginning farmers.
- DC and Farm Bill Biologist (JD Armstrong) gave presentation to Black River Falls charter school called BRAGS. Talked about native prairie plants/establishment. Answered other questions about programs and other things involved with establishing prairies.
- 2 Beginning Farmers signed up and were awarded CSP contracts.
- Had 2 Amish producers sign up for EQIP
- Worked with UW-Extension to host a Soil Quality Field Day. Roughly 25 people attended with NRCS, LCD and UW-Extension staff along with local landowners.
- Completed second contribution agreement with LCD
- Submitted newspaper articles announcing program signups to, two newspapers.

Chippewa Falls Field Office

- NRCS presentation on CSP at Farmers Union Meeting, 12 farmers in attendance, March 2010
- Joint NRCS, FSA, and FSA-Farm Loan meetings Bloomer and Boyd, WI 26 farmers in attendance, detailed information handed out on EQIP and CSP, March 2010
- Apple Growers Association Meeting, Chippewa Falls, WI, NRCS gave updates on Pest Management Plans and EQIP, 14 producers in attendance, March 2010
- UW Ext. and NRCS field day for stalk testing, 9 farmers in attendance along with 13 agency staff to learn about this new CSP activity, Sept. 2010

Durand Field Office

- Conducted field day at Maxville Alternative School with about 20 students present. Reviewed farming conservation practices, soils, forestry, and native plants.
- Gave presentation to six 11th and 12th grade girl scouts on NRCS careers and showed them the type of projects NRCS employees work on day to day.

- Worked with two beginning farmers with EQIP program applications. These turned into funded contracts.

Ladysmith Field Office

- Ladysmith FO had many articles in the area newspapers and on the radio.
- FO worked extensively with the LCO tribe. They signed 10 EQIP and WHIP contracts.
- LCO completed many practices on the new and on their old contracts. Many contracts were completed.
- A grazing conference was held in Ladysmith in March, targeting an audience of beginning farmers and limited resource farmers.
- Material on NRCS programs was displayed at the Rusk Co. fair in August.
- Material on seasonal high tunnels was distributed at the Ladysmith and Hayward farmers markets,

Medford Field Office

During the spring of 2010 the NRCS Medford FO staff along with Taylor County Land Conservation Department and Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D grazing specialist (Bob Brandt) provided technical and financial assistance to the last known farm family (Harry Jascor) in Wisconsin that are deaf. Through the use of an interpreter, lip reading, pen and paper and various signs and gestures a conservation plan was developed consisting of prescribed grazing, grassed waterway, heavy use area protection, pasture and hayland planting, fencing, pipelines, animal trails and walkways, roof runoff, underground outlet, stream crossing, and water facilities. All practices were installed or started in 2010 which was a remarkable feat considering the very wet weather that occurred this past summer. The Jascors farm 120 acres of land with 18-20 dairy cows and 18 heifers and utilize 54 acres for an intensive rotational grazing system. The Jascors love farming and don't plan to retire any time soon.

Menomonie Field Office

Dunn County NRCS at Farm City Days! Farm-City Day is an educational, interactive one-day event on a working farm, which is intended to educate our community on where

and how our food is produced. The event took place September 18 at Govin's Meats and Berries in Dunn County. Tammy Pellet and Brunilda Velez from Dunn County participated. They had educational information available from many different topics including Pollinator Habitat, Backyard Conservation and Soils. The kids had the opportunity to do an interactive activity where they learned about soils and its different profiles/colors. They used different color sand to build their own Soil Profile. Attached see pictures for the event.





Neillsville Field Office

Display and brochures were provided to FSA to make available at the Neillsville Horse Auction, and June dairy breakfasts. This event is attended by many Amish and Mennonite producers.

Continue to offer technical assistance EQIP contracts to Amish, Mennonite, limited resource and beginning farmers. Continue to have beginning farmer EQIP applicants this year, along with 2 women owner/operator/decision maker contracts. One woman beginning farmer application is pending for 2011. 2 Pasture walks that were attended

also serve as outreach to Amish and Mennonite, and traditionally underserved producers. Continue to provide soils and soil information to new producers in the county. Wetland and highly erodible determinations were completed on 10 Amish and Mennonite producers, and conservation plans were developed on highly erodible land for those producers. The new FSA conservation loan program was administered to a Mennonite producer who installed a manure storage structure.

Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D

Bob Brandt, a Grazing Specialist with the Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D in Medford facilitated a pasture walk near Colby. Winds were gusting to 50 mph and it was spitting rain, but one after another farmers pulled into the drive.

A third of the 45 event participants were Amish and many of them had to hitch up a horse to make it to the event. Over the past few years Bob Brandt has developed a reputation for providing dependable and applicable technical advice that meets the needs of a wide variety of livestock producers. He is currently assisting eight Amish livestock producers to implement managed grazing. Most of these clients are dairy producers. Bob Brandt melds NRCS standards, client cultural norms, and his 30 years of experience as a dairy farmer to help dairy and beef producers improve profitability and protect area streams.

Across Wisconsin, RC&D Council and LCD grazing specialists work closely with the NRCS Field Office staffs, local grazing networks, UW Extension and System specialists, local ag businesses, Land Conservation Departments, and the Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection, to provide managed grazing assistance to hundreds of livestock producers in Wisconsin.

Spooner Field Office

Outreach events for Burnett and Washburn Counties:

- Attended WTCAC meetings held at Lac Du Flambeau, La Courte Oreilles, Ho-Chunk, Madison, St Croix and Menominee.
- Met and worked with St Croix staff on 2010 EQIP and WHIP applications.
- Certified completion of 12 acres of prescribed burning for a WHIP contract.
- Certified completion of 27 Wood Duck Nesting Boxes for a WHIP contract.
- NRCS technical staff worked with the St Croix on certifying of 180 linear feet of Shoreline Stabilization on Big Sand Lake.
- Met with St Croix in winter and discussed status of EQIP and WHIP contract obligations.
- Met in winter with tribal staff and fall with tribal and NRCS state office staff to discuss potential fish rearing pond project.

- With FSA CED information given to 3 farmers markets in area in regards to EQIP/Hoop Houses.

Whitehall Field Office

- worked with two Amish landowners on EQIP applications
- worked with two disabled landowners on EQIP applications

NORTHEAST AREA

Appleton Area Office

- Staffed the NRCS exhibit at the FFA Life/Work Expo in Madison July 16, 2010, focusing on NRCS careers and Earth Team.
- Mailed pollinator posters to 20 local Middle and High Schools
- assisted two female land owners in doing soil investigations this year for the WRP program
- assisted Appleton Field Office with the Outagamie County 46th Annual Conservation Field Days
- Adam Abel, Soil Conservationist, assisted a local elementary student, who produced a ppt, “Oliver Lathrop Meets Adam Abel” about his visit with Adam. Here’s a slide:

Meet Adam Abel...

- Adam is a Soil Conservationist at the NRCS.
- I met Adam after school on Friday to learn about what information the NRCS has on Rocks and Minerals.
- Adam told me they don’t deal with rocks and minerals too often... they work with soil!



Appleton Field Office

- FO staff attended the Oneida Nation school program at the Oneida Nation Farm on April 15, 2010. FSA and NRCS set up an information booth for the students (along with the FFA) to provide information to students on NRCS careers, volunteer opportunities, and the FSA youth loan program. Approximately 30 Native American students participate in the event.
- A multi agency effort, organized by the LCD involving DNR, NRCS, DATCP, UW-Ext and the private sector, to educate 4th and 5th graders from 15 Outagamie County schools. The 46th Annual Conservation Field Days was a huge success with approximately 900 students attending the 3-day event on September 21-23, 2010. Public and private schools in the county are invited to attend, including the Oneida Nation and Parochial schools. The Field Days offers an outdoor teaching/learning environment with 9 different stations setup throughout a working farm. The students rotate to all the stations throughout the day to learn about soils (at the soils pit), geology (at the on-site quarry), forestry, wildlife, recycling, and farm practices. Although the Oneida schools did not attend the event, other minority groups were represented with approximately 2% being African American, 5% Hispanic and 5% Hmong.
- Field office staff also assisted with the Winnebago County Youth Fields days.
- Presented NRCS program information to approximately 18 women in attendance at the Heart of the Farm Women's Conference, held in Neenah, WI on March 5, 2010. The UW Extension is a major organizer of the event. FSA and the NRCS Field Office of Outagamie County combined efforts to set up a booth for the 1 day conference.

Golden Sands RC&D

Golden Sands co-sponsored or assisted in numerous outreach events in 2010. Participant diversity was noted at each of these events, including Hmong, Asian, and/or Hispanic attendees.

- Prairie Chicken Festival 2010 – an estimated 200 people attended this one day celebration of grasslands.
- Fern Island Invasive Species Work Party – 100 people participated in this two day event in Wausau to remove invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn from Fern Island Park.
- Agro-forestry demonstrations – Led 5 tours this summer, which involved over 120 participants.
- Aquatic Invasive Species Education – 6 workshops and training sessions were conducted for over 80 lake enthusiasts in 2010

- Little Plover River Appreciation Day – 150 5th graders attended this field day to learn about groundwater
- Groundwater Infiltrates Waupaca and Waushara County Schools – over 200 5th graders received classroom education about groundwater
- Pasture Walks – 5 pasture walks were organized by our Grazing Specialist. 75 people attended

Lumberjack RC&D

The Lumberjack RC&D Council supported several multi-county outreach projects including:

Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC)-Educational Outreach Campaign: WRISC is a multi-county (Florence, Forest & Marinette Co.'s, WI) and multi-state (Dickinson & Menominee Co.'s, MI) effort to develop a Cooperative Weed Management Area to aid in preventing the spread of non-native invasive species. A limited-term WRISC project coordinator, funded by the Lumberjack Council, developed the coalition's website, the WRISC informational brochure, a mobile display and several other forms of informational materials. In addition, the coordinator conducted an invasive species mapping day, organized two invasive species educational events, and set up displays at three county fairs.

Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Species Partnership (WHIP): WHIP is a multi-county (Oneida & Vilas Co.'s, WI) effort to provide terrestrial invasives species information and management services to area citizens. Various forms of invasives information were developed and distributed through newspaper articles, radio broadcasts and at environmental educational sessions. Over 100 participants including high school students were involved in training sessions and community events held during 2010.

Tri-County Approach to Aquatic Invasives Management: This is a three-year multi-county (Forest, Langlade, & Lincoln Co.'s, WI) aquatic invasive species prevention program. This past summer a partnership was formed between Lincoln County, Lumberjack RC&D Council, UW-Stevens Point-Treehaven Campus and local lake associations to provide public awareness and monitoring of boat landings to aid in the prevention of the spread of aquatic invasive species. Nineteen seasonal jobs were created for college summer camp students which resulted in inspections being conducted at 76 boat landings with over 1500 citizens served.

Sustainable Forestry Conference VI: The annual conference on sustainable forestry issues continues to be a sell-out success with participants attending from throughout northeastern Wisconsin and northern Michigan. This year presentations by eight forest industry professionals captured the interest of over 125 participants. Conference participant exit surveys were again very favorable and supported the need to continue this type of educational program.

Marinette Field office

- List of emails for customers: farmers, consultants, etc. Communicating in a new way to our customers.
- Mentoring Training for WI NRCS Employees includes new Asian, and Latino employees.
- Timber Meeting with Farm Service Agency to forestry consultants, landowners, and loggers.
- Post Cards sent out for each program signup.
- Newspaper Articles – Ag Energy
- Farm Visit to Bryan Nowak, Beginning Farmer
- Mailing of Pasture Walks, NWTC Organic Course to farmers
- Email pasture walks or other pertinent info. to grazers or potential grazers.
- Pollinator Habitat hooking up Robert Johnson with Mike Wolf researcher
- UW Stevens Point work with professors on student internship for disabled veteran
- UW Marinette work with hiring intermittent employee
- Coleman and Lena Future Farmers of America classes to let them know I am available for mentoring or internships for the students.

Oconto Field Office

Oconto County NRCS staff, Jeff Maroszek and Chris Stephenson spoke at the Oconto River Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited's July meeting. They gave a presentation on the work that NRCS has done in other parts of the state, improving stream banks for fish habitat. The Oconto River Watershed Chapter has worked with landowners in the past restoring stream habitat. This presentation made the 25 attendees aware of NRCS and what their role could be as a potential partner. Jeff also used this time as an opportunity to discuss other landowner programs available through NRCS including WHIP, Continuous CRP, and WRP. RESULT: In FY2011 Oconto County will have their first WHIP application in recent years.

District Conservationist Jeff Maroszek hosted an NRCS program informational meeting for local agronomist. The five agronomists that attended the session were able to ask questions directly in a group setting regarding changes to EQIP, the new CSP, and requirements associated with each program. Agronomists spend countless hours talking one-on-one with farmers where they can tell them about NRCS programs. RESULT: Having local agronomists onboard with promoting EQIP and CSP helped increase the number of contracts received in Oconto County by 150% in 2010 compared to 2009.

Soil Conservationist Chris Stephenson updated the office Civil Rights Folder. In order to reach underserved farmers, those groups need to be identified. RESULT: Chris' investigation into minority groups in the county will help identify future outreach opportunities to pursue.

Oconto field office made a special emphasis to promote programs to all underserved groups. RESULT: In the 2010 EQIP signup, three female producers were awarded EQIP contracts. In addition, one certified Beginning Farmer was awarded an Organic Initiative contract.

Oshkosh Field Office

On Earth Day, April 22nd, Merrie's son came to work for "Take your Son/Daughter to Work" day. We planted Canada Blue Joint Grass as part of a Plant Materials Study at a WRP site. Deb Potts, Pat Lake and Greg Rebman also helped with the planting.

NRCS had a display area and fielded questions from 8th grade students from April 28-30th. Students from Oshkosh area schools visited the Coughlin Building to learn about Careers in Conservation. The building houses WI-DNR, UWEXT, County LWCD and County Parks Dept. in addition to NRCS and FSA.

May 4th and 5th we hosted the "Soil Profile" area at Conservation Field Days. 250 area 4th and 5th grade students learned about how soil is formed, why soil is important, soil texture and finally got to make their own soil profiles. It was a good day, but very WINDY.



Patrick Lake assisted our UW-Extension Agronomist with the layout of our Community Garden at Sherman Road. This year NRCS and FSA had a "People's Garden" plot and planned to donate the harvest to local food pantries. We finally got our sign from Washington at the end of August. Unfortunately our plot was very wet and we did not produce much. There's always next year!

Merrie assisted a smaller, non-traditional farmer with ideas for promoting their grass-fed beef, chickens, turkeys, and pigs by marketing value-added products. The farmer worked with his butcher to package smaller quantities of meat into a "Variety box" for urban consumers. 10# and 25# boxes were decided upon. Each included a variety of cuts of meat, recipes and tips on cooking with grass-fed beef. This is in line with the "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative. This same farmer will be hosting a "pasture walk" on October 2, 2010.



Thank you
for participating
and getting involved!



Rhineland Field Office

- Lakes Fest in Lac du Flambeau - NRCS booth featured soils data and NRCS program information. It was very well attended. (Side note – Ryan Bevernitz and Tom Melnarik entered the canoe race and took second.)
- CSP meeting was held at Treehaven and another outreach event in Florence
- Field office staff have been working to include tribal hatchery practices in upcoming EQIP and WHIP cookbooks, participating in a number of meetings with tribal reps and state office staff to work out details.
- SCT Tom Melnarik attend AIANEA conference in South Dakota in 2010 to get a better understanding of how NRCS can work with Tribes and to more effectively communicate with Native Tribes.
- Recruitment - Native American summer student employee was stationed in Rhineland; field office staff provided hands-on work experience geared to encourage careers with NRCS.

Rhineland MLRA Office

- Presentation to University of Wisconsin soils students Soil Scientist as a career and the process of mapping soils. The Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) was also discussed and how students could get involved if they were interested in jobs with the NRCS.
- Lac du Flambeau Lakes Fest Ryan Bevernitz and Sam Lawien attended the annual “Lakes Fest” at the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation. This event was aimed at educating attendees about the different organizations and agencies that work with natural resources, as well as, showcase the culture of the tribe. The Rhineland Soil Survey booth displayed a large map of the MLRA showing the area the office covers. Web Soil Survey and other soil digital product information was handed out to those who were interested. Many attendees expressed interest in the soil survey program and asked questions pertaining to personal gardens and wildlife plots.
- Trees for Tomorrow - Scott Eversoll, Sam Lawien, and Ryan Bevernitz gave a short presentation to high school students on basic soil properties and what a Soil Scientist does. This was followed by field demonstrations which gave students a chance to auger holes and get their hands dirty. The students who expressed interest in soils were provided with information on schools and organizations.
- Florence County Career Day - Ryan Bevernitz gave a presentation to a class of Florence County high school students on careers in natural resources. A career profile described to students what a soil scientist does, what type of education is needed, and organizations to get involved with if they are interested. Students were also given an introduction to soils and had a chance to auger holes and texture soil.
- Chequamegon-Nicolet field trip - Mark Krupinski gave a description of the soils and landscapes to a group of UW-Stevens Point students
- Soil-landform presentation in Polk County for a joint tour of MAPSS and WSPSS
- Sampling with UW-Madison and WGNHS - Mark Krupinski did soil pedon description and sampling with UW-Madison and WGNHS in Calumet County

Shawano Field Office

Outreach through Education

NRCS partnered with Shawano County and Lumberjack RC&D to put on a Well Water Testing Educational Program in February 2010. NRCS provided information and entertained questions on conservation programs and well abandonment. The program had 52 participants from Shawano County that represented both the agricultural and non-agricultural setting.

Teamed up with Waupaca County NRCS and set-up the NRCS career booth at the Clintonville Career Fair, April 2010. This annual event invites 8th graders from Shawano, Waupaca, and Menominee counties to explore career opportunities. This year's event was attended by approximately 900 students.

NRCS provided training for AgVentures staff covering slope determinations and other conservation field skills – September 2010.

New and Beginning Farmers

Developed three 2010 EQIP contracts with Beginning Farmer certification.

Developed two 2010 CSP contracts with Beginning Farmer certification.

Wausau Field Office

The Wausau NRCS staff constructed two permanent trellises. One was constructed at the office building as a demonstration project in conjunction with *The Peoples Garden* initiative. Several varieties of vegetables including Bitter Melon, and Chinese Red Noodle Bean were planted. These vegetables are common in the Hmong diet. Over 55 lbs. of produce was donated to The Neighbors Place food pantry from the trellis.



KaYing Vang, Tess Radke, Russ Biebl, Melissa Knipfel, & Amy Neigum



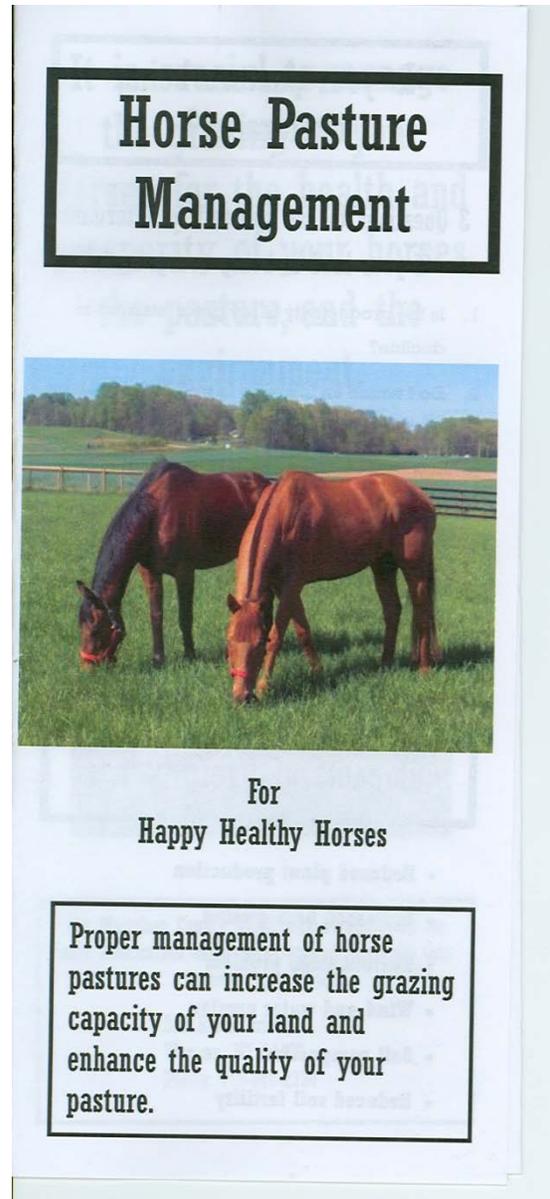
The other trellis was constructed on a farm where Hmong have their gardens. Ka Ying Vang has reported that the trellis was successful at that location also.

Trellis Construction April 2010



Office trellis

Tess Radke, an Earth Team volunteer, completed an outreach effort that contacted 4H clubs in Marathon County involved with horses. She developed a brochure titled “*Horse Pasture Management*”. She mailed out a packet to each club that contained the brochure; a publication from Missouri titled “*Pasture Management Guide for Horse Owners*” and a survey card about pasture walks. Packets were sent to 51 4-H leaders in the county.



Horse Pasture Management



**For
Happy Healthy Horses**

Proper management of horse pastures can increase the grazing capacity of your land and enhance the quality of your pasture.

SOUTHWEST AREA

Onalaska Field office

Ho Chunk Nation Liaison, Greg Yakle and NRCS field staff from Sparta developed one new EQIP application and contract in 2010. The EQIP contract featured a field windbreak and shelterbelt to reduce wind erosion, conserve energy, and provide wildlife habitat.

Ho-Chunk DNR leaders met with field staff from the Mauston, Sparta, Viroqua, and Onalaska Field offices in September to review progress on existing WHIP and EQIP contracts. During the construction season, 6 EQIP and WHIP contracts were completed. Prescribed burning, streambank protection, stream habitat improvement, rotational grazing, forest stand improvement, gully control structural practices were all completed.

The Whirling Thunder Ranch in Monroe County is now raising Belted Galloway cattle. The NRCS Liaison and Sparta FO Technician met the ranch manager in late summer to review improving grazing productivity through brush management, fencing, water access sites, and pasture planting. Progress was reviewed and plans were developed for further improvement of natural resources on the ranch.

Onalaska MLRA Office

Farm Technology Days

MLRA Soil Scientists worked with NW Area Staff during the 2010 Farm Technology Days in Pierce County. Kevin Traastad (MLRA Leader), Donna Ferren Guy (MLRA Project Soil Scientist), and MLRA Soil Scientists Shaunna Repking and Mike England worked at the Soil Pit exhibit. They prepared exhibits for the pit and answered the questions visitors to the Soil Pit had. They also helped younger visitors create their own mini-monoliths to take home. Kevin Traastad worked with Tim Miland (NW Area ARSS), and Todd Mau (Buffalo County DC) to make the Land Judging Competition a success.

Canon Envirothon

MLRA Soil Scientists worked with NE Area staff at the 2010 Canon Envirothon at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES). Phil Meyer (NE Area ARSS) was Station Captain for the Soils Station at the Competition. Shaunna Repking acted as back-up Station Captain and Donna Ferren Guy and Sam Lawien acted as Moderators. Students from across the state of Wisconsin competed in the areas of Soils, Water, Wildlife, and Forestry for a chance to compete at the national Canon Envirothon event.

Farm City Days

Shaunna Repking worked with NW Area Staff Members Zenik Crespo and John Sippl at the Farm City Days Career Fair in Eau Claire, WI. She shared her experiences as a Soil Scientist and informed students of the various educational and career opportunities in the Soil Science field.

La Crosse Interstate Fair

Shaunna Repking and Mike England set-up a booth at the La Crosse Interstate Fair to inform visitors about Web Soil Survey as well as introduce visitors to the MRLA Soil Survey Office Staff. They used the Web Soil Survey display currently available from the USDA-NRCS State Office as well as displays they created to show visitors a variety of custom maps and reports from La Crosse County that could be created using Web Soil Survey.

Land Judging

Donna Ferren Guy and Shaunna Repking provided assistance as official judges during a Land Judging Competition in Trempealeau County.

Dodgeville Field Office

- Completed EQIP contracts with 8 beginning farmers and 1 socially disadvantaged producer.
- Completed technical assistance site visit for 2 additional socially disadvantaged producers.
- Gave tour to 100 Highland School District 6-8 graders on stream restoration.
- Presented at Conservation Observance Day to over 200 Iowa Co. 3rd graders.
- Provided tour of stream restoration to UW Platteville Reclamation Club

Darlington Field Office

- Amish Producers: Staked out 2 waterways, and assisted 4 producers with developing conservation plans
- Hispanic Community: Posted Spanish CSP and Informational Watershed posters in 2 local Hispanic grocery stores
- Female: Worked with female producers to get 2 CSP contracts awarded, processed 3 EQIP applications, and a CRP renewal.
- Organized, trained, and interacted with the summer kids for the NRCS Pioneer Production Challenge of which a mix of ethnicities were present.

Mauston Field Office

- Mauston continues to work with a disabled landowner in Wonewoc Twp. Landowner is paralyzed and confined to a wheel-chair. Has an EQIP contract written for brush management. Continue to go to his farm and perform walkovers for confirmation of practice application and answer any questions he has.
- Juneau County's CRP signup offered our office opportunities to outreach to 3 disabled landowners, two confined to wheel chairs and one that was functionally deaf.

For the two confined to wheelchairs, the DC made extra efforts to visit them at home when it was hard for them to make it into the office. The DC took the deaf landowner's folder home with him in order to call around 6:00 pm a couple nights and talk to the wife when she was home from work.

- Mauston continues the tradition of working with area schools at the elementary and high school levels on conservation education. The county con and soil conservationist presented soil and water quality info to Mauston 6th graders, which some of the students were minorities. The county con, county technician and soil conservationist also taught water quality on a trout stream to a Mauston high school wildlife class.

Monroe Field Office

Outreach mailing was done to all Mennonite producers in Green County.

Lancaster Field Office

- We have several contracts with an Amish producer, Dan Hershberger. He has 2 EQIP and 2 CSP contracts, both beginning farmer.
- Published articles in a variety of publications regarding NRCS programs

Viroqua Field Office

- Two meetings with Ho Chunk members regarding ongoing WHIP and EQIP contracts.
- Continued work with over one dozen female program contract holders
- Technical assistance with 4 Amish producers
- Identified 3 new Hispanic producers and one now has an active EQIP contract.
- Two radio interviews in which the Beginning Farmer and Limited Resource Producer category was discussed.

SOUTHEAST AREA

Elkhorn Field Office

As part of our outreach activities, the following events were conducted in FY-10. Most outreach activities were sponsored cooperatively with other agencies including UWEX, DNR, FSA, and LCD.

- Beginning Farmer Workshop presentation on EQIP to state line Illinois and Wisconsin Beginning Farmers, Nathan Fikkert, Soil Conservationist (Saturday Feb 6, 2010)
- Delavan Lake Watershed Initiative (MRBI) Sent approx. 300 direct postcards to notify and encourage all watershed owners and operators to participate in the program.
- Walworth County Dairy Breakfast – distribute MRBI and NRCS outreach materials
- 2010 Prairie Walk- approx 80 attendees, hosted by Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy with special program on “raptor education by Diane Moller from Hoo’s Woods Raptor Center
- Seasonal High Tunnel Workshop, August, 2010, “Growing Systems under High Tunnels Workshop” at VDB Farms Walworth Co. Special EQIP update by Brian Briski, ARC
- Turtle Creek Resource Fair, Darien Public Library, Darien, WI NRCS Presentation regarding programs/ info. Sept. 7, 2010
- NRCS also serves on technical advisory committee for Southeast grazing network. The following seminars/walks were completed in FY-20010 through the network:
- Winter Seminar-“Animal Health on Pastures, Factors Affecting the Sensory Properties and Quality of Meat And an Introduction to Holistic Mgmt.” Feb, 2010, Oconomowoc Lake Club NRCS presented topic on “Opportunities for Grazers in Federal Programs
- Pasture Walk –“Managed Rotational Grazing Pasture Walk, .June 16, 2010 at VDB Organic Farm in Delavan, WI
- Completed 19 contracts in 2010 involving 2 organic farmers, four beginning farmers, one socially disadvantaged farmer and 3 women farmers... Of the four new CSP applications one participant is a female producer. Other applications serviced included historically underserved and Beginning Farmer categories.
- There is also a joint local agency newsletter –“Your Partners in Farm Business” that is sent to producers on email notification list. Three news releases were sent to local

papers regarding various signups including the Conservation Stewardship Program and EQIP.

Fond du Lac Field Office

Adam Dowling (formerly District Conservationist in Fond du Lac, currently DC of Dane County) participated in weekly and bi-weekly radio broadcasts to promote conservation efforts in Fond du Lac County all year in 2010 until his departure in October. Cory Drummond, DC as of Aug, 2010, continues in this good tradition of radio broadcasts to promote conservation.

Adam Dowling participated in a career day at Ripon High School in February. He gave 3 presentations (30 students each) about careers in NRCS and an overview of NRCS.

Brian Kind, Soil Conservation Technician, worked at the NRCS sponsored booth at the 2010 Agriculture Showcase (March 2010). More than 1,000 people attended this event which included agricultural machinery demonstrations, food tasting and ag marketing and networking.

Brian Kind also participated at the World Dairy Expo, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Cory Drummond attended the Annual “Farm City Day” held by the Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis club. He was one of many ag professionals invited to discuss the happenings and opportunities within the agricultural community.

Portage Field Office

- The local Field Office submitted articles & helped prepare mailings for the agricultural newsletter called the *Columbia County Ag Reporter*. This educational newsletter is a joint outreach effort between multiple agricultural/conservation agencies & organizations located within the county. It contains numerous articles informing readers of available opportunities, technical assistance, and



financial assistance. The local Field Office receives numerous inquiries from this valuable outreach publication.

- The local Field office continues to work with the Ho Chunk Nation on a WHIP contract for an oak savanna restoration project which contains numerous effigy mounds. This project was featured in the national NRCS This Week, dated June 13, 2007. The 40-acre wayside, formerly owned by the WI Dept of Transportation and now by the Ho-Chunk, contains over 20 Indian mounds. Restoration of the site will take place over the next couple years. (See story at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/thisweek/2007/061307/home.html>)
- In cooperation with Columbia County LWCD & UW-Ext, local Field Office had a joint booth at the Columbia County Fair to create awareness of conservation & programs available from NRCS. This outreach project allowed staff to talk with both traditional & untraditional customers, which included several women & minorities.
- In cooperation with Columbia County LWCD & UW-Ext, we have developed an annual nutrient management farmer training program. Farmers successfully completing the course are certified through DATCP to write their own plans. In 2010, we had 1 female producer complete the training.
- Numerous press releases were issued to local newspapers & radio stations throughout the fiscal year.
- Technician visited Amish farm to discuss resource concerns & potential conservation practices.
- FY10 Participation of Women & Minorities in NRCS Programs:
 - EQIP – existing contracts with 2 female producers & Ho-Chunk Nation
 - CSP – existing contract with 1 female producers
 - WRP – existing permanent easements with Asian-female landowner
 - WHIP – existing contracts with 1 female producer & Ho Chunk Nation
 - EWP-FPE – existing permanent easement with 1 female landowner

Sheboygan Field Office

Major outreach efforts for Sheboygan in 2010:

- Met with Chasong, director of the Sheboygan County Hmong Mutual Assistance Center and discussed EQIP and the Seasonal High Tunnels as a new practice available for fruit and vegetable producers. Gave reference materials to Chasong to send out to individuals that may be interested in the program. (Jan 2010)

- Handed out 30 folders with Seasonal High Tunnel and EQIP sign-up material at the Sheboygan Farmers market. Approximately 25 individuals were socially disadvantaged. Dropped off 10 Seasonal High Tunnel Folders at the Hmong Mutual Assistance Center(July 2010)
- Sent out 3000 post cards to all land owners in the County, and held 2 informational meeting regarding the CRP sign-up.

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Union Grove Field Office

- Dodge County Farm-City Day – NRCS presentation soils and what conservationists and soil scientists do for all 4th graders in Dodge county. Estimated 900 school children on May 4, 2010.
- Multi-county (Milw, Racine & Kenosha) CRP tour for those new and old producers who indicated an interest in this program. A bus full of about 50 producers on Sept 15th.
- UW-Parkside and Cartage College Soil Student Conservation Tour in both Kenosha and Racine county. A diverse group of some 40 college students on Nov 9th.
- Career Day talk to about 75 students at Wilmot high school in Kenosha on Nov 12th.
- New EQIP contracts in Milwaukee County for 3 Hmong producers and an African-American producer, practices include both Hoop Houses and the Organic Initiative.

Waukesha Field Office

January 2010, we provided a short narrative outlining NRCS as an agency and some of the opportunities we offer to the Waukesha Farmers Market Manager. The narrative was included in the newsletter distributed to the Waukesha Farmers Market participants, roughly 300 producers from around the area.

NRCS from Waukesha and FSA from Union Grove staffed at a booth at the International Mink Show in Milwaukee. We had an opportunity to talk to mink producers from around the nation. Everyone we spoke to seemed interested in USDA programs. They were directed to our website to find contacts for their counties.

Finally, in September, NRCS staff worked at Growing Power’s National-International Urban and Small Farm Conference. Growing Power is a national organization headed by the sustainable urban farmer and MacArthur Fellow [Will Allen](#). This conference was an opportunity for participants to learn how to plan, develop and grow small farms in urban and rural areas. Participants learned how to can grow food year-round, no matter what the climate, and how to can build markets for small farms. NRCS provided a

significant amount of information on Seasonal High Tunnels and soils to a very diverse group of participants.

Westfield Field Office

April 22, 2010 Michelle held a station at the Conservation Field Days held at the Mecan River Discovery Center. This event is sponsored by the Renewable World Foundation and we were invited through the Westfield School District. About 400 children, 6th through 8th grade attended. I discussed soils, habitats and careers in natural resources.

May 6th and 7th was the Waushara County Field Days held at Lake Lucerne Camp. Michelle, Scott, Cindy and Tonya took turns at hosting our “Soils” station of the field days. We discussed soil textures, soil bugs, plants, natural resources trivia and careers in natural resources. Each station saw about 190 children, from 7th grade schools in Waushara County. The Waushara Land and Water Conservation Department plans the event and it is very successful.

Each year our field office assists in the Marquette County Land and Water Conservation Department tree sale. Last year we assisted the LWCD with the distribution of about 49,000 trees to approximately 300 customers. Meeting customers in that different setting has been a nice change.

This year, SCT Scott Doherty assisted a landowner to install snake hibernacula through a WHIP Contract. During construction, Fish and Wildlife and WDNR staff were there as an informal training on that habitat.

Scott also worked with a UW-SP student on their grad student project on Carbon Sequestration. Scott took the student (also Earth Team Volunteer) to selected WRP sites and gave that person general background on the sites and WRP.

Special Emphasis Program Reports

Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager (HEPM) Report

Brunilda Velez, Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager for Wisconsin

Summary: Student recruitment. All of 2010 vacancy announcements were sent to NOPHNRCSE and SEPM list serve. Served as Member of the 2010 National Recruitment team to University Of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez Campus.

Career Development

- Summer Students (Luis Cruz, Litza Lopez and Josue Gandia) provided a power point presentation of their summer experience to District Conservationist during their NW Area DC meeting.

Collaborating with NRCS Leadership Other:

- Veronica Alba and Adolfo Diaz assisted in translating several USDA NRCS and partner agency outreach publications into Spanish.
- With KaYing Vang, API SEPM, provided training to DCs and Area Staff on Outreach, Supervisor Talking Points and the Role of the SEPM

Asian Pacific Islander Program Manager Report

Ka Ying Vang, API Special Emphasis Program Manager

Field Office Assistance

- Helped translate EQIP information for Hmong producer at the Waukesha field office, resulting in EQIP 2010 contract for a high tunnel system.
- Translated for Hmong producer at the West Bend field office during the EQIP contract process. Called Farmtek and translated the information about their high tunnel system.
- Assisted Dunn County Hmong producer with EQIP application and through the contracting process. Also assisted producer in finding contractors to implement EQIP practices.
- Attended a Hmong family gathering in Dunn County and presented information about EQIP cost-sharing program to six farmer's market vendors.
- Provided EQIP grazing information as well as technical assistance from RC&D for Hmong producer.
- Collaborating with Minnesota NRCS to secure a presentation session at the 2011 HND conference in Minneapolis.

Recruitment and Outreach

- Assisted in recruiting summer student interns. As a result, 2 API students were hired for the summer of 2010. One of the students applied for the BASU scholarship and was awarded one of the scholarships.

- Contacted the Hmong Wisconsin United Coalition Mutual Associations to get a session in their conference in November 2010 to speak about USDA programs and assistances.
- A barrier that limits API customers in NRCS programs is that the program doesn't have a lot of practices that would fit a small farmer's market vendors. The high tunnel was a practice that significantly increase API customer in NRCS. I have been working with an engineer in designing a permanent trellis system that would target specialty vine crops. Two experimental trellises have been built and are being tested during the 2010 growing season. If successful, it could be another practice that would help with the participation of API customers in NRCS programs.
- Another barrier that limits API customers to NRCS program is the lack of translated material in API languages. In 2010, I have helped the state office translated outreach materials into Hmong for NRCS, FSA and RD, which will be distributed throughout the Hmong Associations in WI.
- Presented a presentation at the All Employees meeting for the Northwest area about the SEP and how the manager of each SEP can assist the field office to achieve the agency's and the department's CR goal.
- Sent out interesting facts and recipes from Asian Countries during the 2010 Asian and Pacific Heritage Month.

Disability Program Manager Report

John Caine, Disability Special Emphasis Program Manager

- March 2010 Kansas City Joint Employee Organization and All SEPM Training Conference. Provided very worthwhile training for new DEPM.
- December 2010 Bethesda, Maryland, USDA Disability Employment Program Managers Training and DEPM/VEPM Perspectives Conference Training.
- October Disability Awareness Month, Sent out weekly biography of famous people with disabilities, such as Helen Keller, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Teddy Roosevelt and Stephens Hawking

Federal Women's Program Manager Report

Jean Stramel and Deni Hazell, co-Federal Women's Program Managers

- FWP Newsletters were sent out statewide in February and July, 2010. Articles highlighted Women's History month, History of Women in NRCS, and Women's Equality Day.
- E-mail messages – statewide emails with information on women farm operators, Women's History Month, and Women's Equality Day, as well as links to informational websites and census data.

- Provided assistance to student trainees who came to WI for the summer. Each FWP committee member contacted students coming to their area asking if they needed help finding a place to live, household items, etc.
- Annual Interagency FWP Conference on March 10th at Wisconsin Dells. 200 in attendance and very good reviews. This one day conference is co-sponsored by FSA and RD, with State, local and other federal agency employees invited.
- Displays – Women’s History Month and NRCS veterans display at Interagency conference.
- Highlighted participation in “Bring your Daughters and Sons to Work” day with a document that included pictures of kids who participated in the event at different offices throughout the state.
- Provided SW area training on Reasonable Accommodations.
- Provided SE area training on Special Emphasis Programs.

Ho Chunk Nation, Greg Yakle Tribal Liaison

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Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Sherrie Zenk Reed Liaison Tribal FY2010 Contracts

EQIP 2010: Forest Stand Improvement 666 – Crop Tree Pruning- 80 acres.
Tree and Shrub Establishment 612 – Conversion Project IV – 72 acres
Access Road 560 – Lake Elma Boat Access – 55 ft.
Stream Crossing 578 – Middle Village Crossing – 1380 sq. ft.
WHIP 2010: Fish Passage 396 – Beaver Dam Removal – 3 dams.
Prescribed Burning 338 – Savannah Restoration – 71 acres.
Prescribed Burning 338 – Wildlife Openings – 51.9 acres.

Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Sherrie Zenk Reed Liaison Tribal FY2010 Contracts

EQIP 2010: Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management 644 – Shallow Water Area for
Wildlife – 264,519 sq. ft. and Wetland Restoration 657 – Embankment with
Water Control Structure – 2,108 ft.
Forest Stand Improvement 666 – Crop Tree Release – 142 acres.
Forest Stand Improvement 666 – Crop Tree Release – 121.8 acres.
WHIP 2010: Stream Crossing 578 – Stream Crossing, Culvert, Less than 25 Inch
Diameter, Single Tube and Surfacing – 3 Crossings at 103 ft.

Oneida Nation, Tony Bush, Tribal Liaison

Tribal Technical/Administrative Assistance

- Worked with the Oneida staff to assess leased tribal agricultural lands, and develop and implement conservation plans that meet tribal guidelines.
- Served as EQIP coordinator for the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) providing program updates and maintaining records on tribal program activities.
- Developed the tool used for ranking tribal EQIP applications.
- Provided guidance to the Oneida Sustainable Conservation Advisory Council (OSRAC), Oneida Department of Land Management, Oneida Nation Farm and Tsyunhehkwa Farm concerning all NRCS programs.
- Presented information to OSRAC, the Oneida Environmental Resource Board and the Oneida Land Commission concerning current and potential EQIP, GLRI, WHIP, CSP and CRP contract involvement.
- Maintained records for and provided updates to the Oneida staff concerning NRCS program activities.

Tribal EQIP/WHIP Projects Completed

- 250 feet of Stream Habitat Improvement utilizing wood debris
- Installation of 40-ft. culvert as part of a Stream Crossing
- 3 acres of Field Borders for pollinator habitat
- Closure of Waste Impoundment

2010 EQIP/GLRI/WHIP Contracted Activities

- 59.7 acres of warm season Filter Strips
- 13,910 sq. ft. of rock-surfaced Stream Crossings
- 1740 feet of stone Access Roads
- 107 feet of Underground Outlet
- 1 Well Decommissioning
- 1100 feet of Grassed Waterways
- 2590 sq. yds. Mulching
- 50-ft rock-Lined Outlet
- 0.5-ac. Critical Area Planting
- 214.1 acres of Prescribed Grazing
- 7600 feet of Fence
- 1700 feet of Pipeline
- 2 Obstruction Removals
- 1 Watering Facility
- 1 Seasonal High Tunnel System

Lancaster Brook Stream Habitat – Oneida Nation



Other Tribal Liaison Reports (included in Field Office reports by Area)

Bad River/Red Cliff – see Ashland

Lac Courte Oreilles – see Ladysmith

St. Croix - see Spooner

Lac du Flambeau, Forest County Potawatami, Sokaogon – see Rhinelander