



*Josh Odekirk (L), NRCS District Conservationist presents Terry Groth of Farm 45 a farm sign recognizing his participation in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.*

The rolling landscape of Washington County was carved by glaciers. It is this landscape that brought Terry Groth of Jackson, Wisconsin to the NRCS office for some advice. He originally planned to crop the land but the steeper slopes on parts of his farm were prone to excessive erosion. Josh Odekirk, District Conservationist in Washington County, worked through the planning process with Terry and developed a conservation plan to address the resource concerns on the highly erodible soils on his farm.

One alternative to cropping the highly erodible fields included seeding them down to permanent cover. Since Terry was already raising sheep in confinement, a rotational grazing system was a perfect fit. His plan outlined a system that included forage and biomass planting and fencing.

“Fencing from the NRCS is a very important part of the success of my operation.” said Terry. “This grazing system would not have happened without the fencing, which was installed with assistance and funding from NRCS.” To complete the system, a pipeline and watering facility were installed and the pastures next to the stream were fenced off, allowing for a 30-foot buffer to intercept any nutrients and sediment from the field.

Now grass-fed lamb from Farm 45 is sourced to local markets, creating jobs and investing in the local economy by providing quality meat to local vendors.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative targets funding and practices to protect and improve water quality.

*Farm 45 is owned and operated by Terry Groth and located in the Milwaukee River Watershed, 15 miles from Lake Michigan. This watershed is one of the targeted areas for the Initiative.*



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.