

# Protecting Soil and Water



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## Consider your goals

- Maintain/improve soil health
- Protecting water quality
- Income or tax assessment needs
- Recreation
- Wildlife habitat
- Scenery
- Future property transfer
- Use of herbicides
- Others?



Photo by Omar de Kok-Mercado, Iowa State University Prairie STRIPS program

## Consider your options

- Very steep fields, wet or frequently flooded areas, streambanks, poor soils, shallow soils
- It's not all or nothing: "Farm the best, buffer the rest"
- Hayfield
- Pasture
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Wildlife habitat restoration
- Conservation practices





## Wisconsin's **Runoff** Rules

what farmers need to know

- Wisconsin adopted administrative rules in 2002 (NR 151), with revisions effective in 2011 that set statewide performance standards and prohibitions for all Wisconsin farms.
- All **landowners** must comply with these standards and prohibitions.
- Cost-share funding may be available to assist with compliance.
- Some state and local programs may require compliance whether or not cost-share funds are available.
  - Farmland Preservation
  - County Ordinances

# Who?

Farmers who grow agricultural crops



# Who?

Farmers who raise, feed or house livestock



# Who?

Farmers who have or plan to build waste storage



# Who?

## Farmers in a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA)



- 300' to a stream



- 2' to groundwater or bedrock



- 250' to a private well or 1000' to a municipal well



- 300' to sink hole



# Who?

Landowners who participate in the  
Farmland Preservation Program

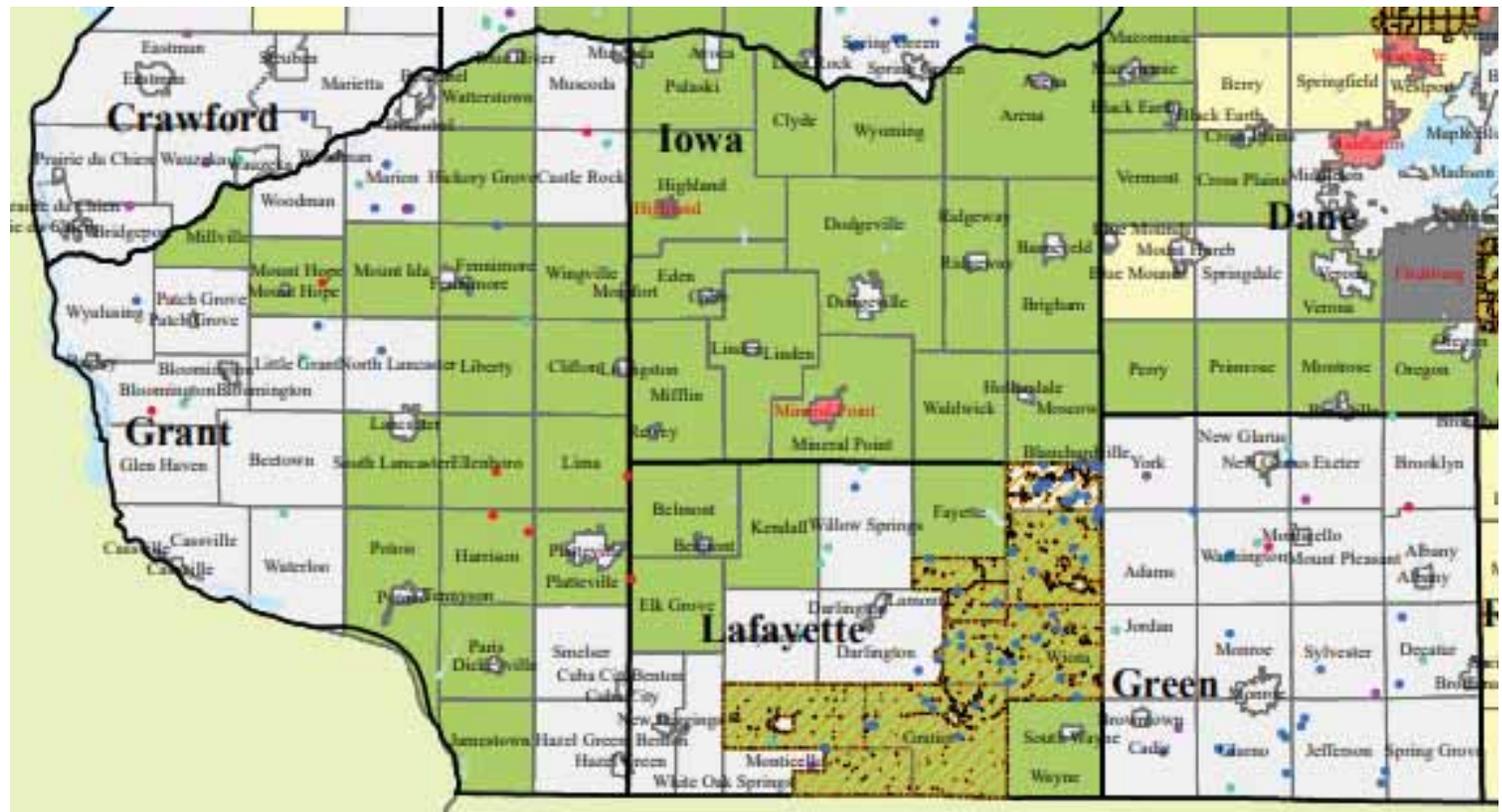
**Agreement Expiration Year**

- 2019 & 2020
- 2021 & 2022
- 2023 & 2024
- 2025 +

**Zoning Administered By:**

- County
- Town
- City or Village
- Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

— AEA Boundary







# **WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS?**

# WHAT?

- **Meet Tolerable “T” Soil Loss**

A defined annual rate of soil erosion that if exceeded would remove soil from the landscape faster than it is being formed



# WHAT?

- Meet Tolerable “T” Soil Loss



Contour Strip Cropping



Contour Buffer Strips



No-Till



Cover Crops



Grassed Waterways



End rows and Headlands

# WHAT?

- Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into Waters of the State



# WHAT?

- Divert Clean water around feedlots, waste storage and barnyards within a WQMA



# WHAT?

- Build waste storage facilities according to standards



# WHAT?

- Stack manure outside of a WQMA



# WHAT?

- Prevent over topping of waste storage facilities



# WHAT?

- Repair leaking waste storage facilities



# WHAT?

- Close waste storage facilities according to standards



Earthen



Concrete

# WHAT?

- Develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan.



# WHAT?

- Maintain Adequate Sod along Waters of the State



## What to watch for

- Is the soil protected?



## What to watch for

- Where is the water going?
- Signs of erosion



## What to watch for

- Limitations on manure spreading on frozen ground



## What to watch for

- Streambanks



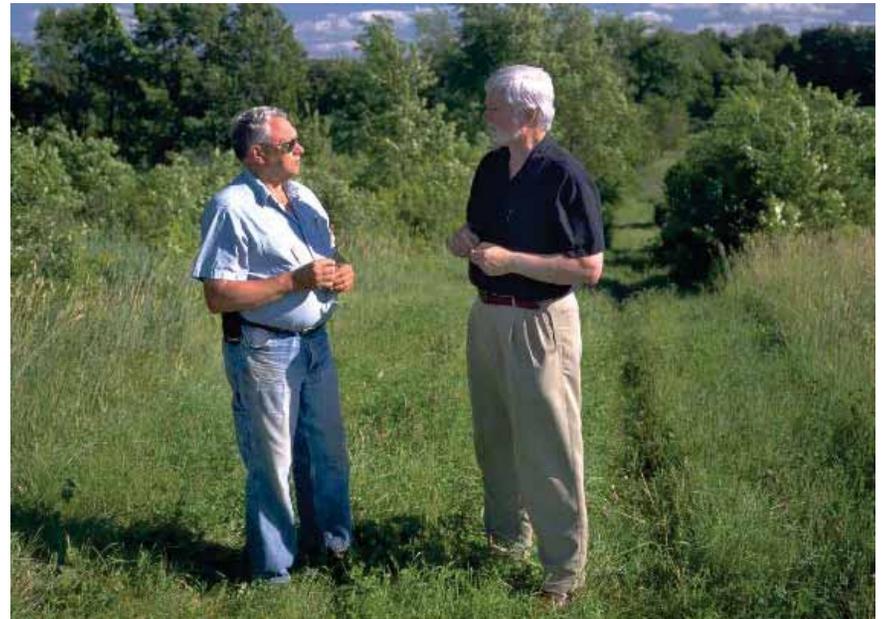
## Other considerations

- Fall nitrogen application
- Fall tillage
- Conservation goals- going above and beyond



## Where to get help

- Talk to your operator
- UW-Madison Division of Extension
- Land Conservation Departments (County)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (Federal)





## LEASING AND YOUR LAND

Thank you! What questions do you have?

