



IOWA COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Projects

Soil and Water

- Installed 17 projects totaling \$58,877 in cost-share: 3 stream crossings, 1 access road, 11 well decommissions, 1 grassed waterway, 1 manure storage abandonment
- Provided additional technical assistance to 6 landowners
- 5 projects designed for 2023
- 2 projects surveyed for cricket frogs
- Contour strips for 2 famers covering 100 acres
- Submitted (and revised) MDV plans; installed 1 stream crossing
- Met with Town of Wyoming and Village of Hollandale to assist with phosphorus trading projects



Nutrient Management and Cropland

- 18 Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) cost-shared totaling \$25,859 and 924 acres
- 19 Cover crop contracts totaling \$20,750 and 830 acres
- 4 no-till contracts totaling \$7,195 and 389 acres
- 9 NMP training classes/sessions; 35 farmers assisted via class or one-on-one
- Processed and reviewed 205 Nutrient Management Plans
- Assisted with permit reviews for 3 new manure storages and 2 storage closures



County Dams

- Completed 11 dam inspections and regular debris clearing
- Successfully applied for Municipal Dam Grant and submitted permit application for 2023 dam repairs
- Participated in regional PL566 dam meetings



Programs

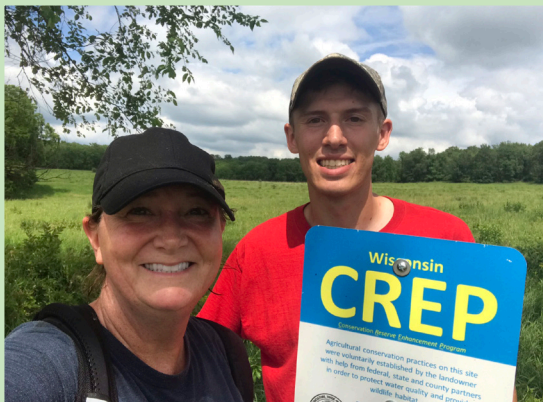
Farmland Preservation

- 53 FPP compliance site visits
- Managed 676 Certificates of Compliance, covering 144,672 acres which equates to over \$1 million in tax credits



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

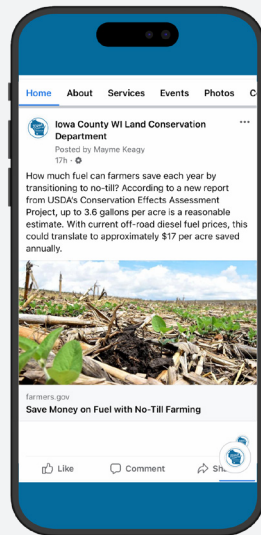
- 11 contracts completed, covering 124 acres and \$37,061 of incentive payments
- Processed 30 cost-share payments, 5 revisions, and 10 transfers
- 10 easement monitoring visits





Outreach and Communications

- Assisted Iowa County Uplands Watershed Group with soil health field day
- Partnered with Pheasants Forever and UW-Extension on workshop for agronomists and ag lenders
- Began department Facebook page: 235 posts; our most successful post reached over 4,000 people
- Renewed Youth Conservation Field Day for over 150 Iowa Co 6th graders
- Led a 4H bluebird house building activity
- Continued Youth poster contest (29 students participated)
- Gave 4 Farmer Awards
- Assisted with area soil judging competition
- Produced and mailed 1 newsletter



Partnerships and Special Projects

- Helped plan and implement the Southwest WI Groundwater and Geology (SWIGG) study final report release event and communications; continued discussions on next steps
- Helped plan and implement tri-county Clean Sweep program
- Worked with Extension and UW-Platteville on new streambank phosphorus research project
- Began implementing Field Profitability Improvement Program with Pheasants Forever and UW-Madison
- Continued implementing Targeted Runoff Management grant in partnership with UW-Extension, and Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
- Continued working with Southern Driftless Grasslands, Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative, and South Central Invasive Partnership
- Joined WI Land & Water Association Legislative/Administrative and Public Outreach Committees
- Facilitated completion of Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan by Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Participated on county hazard mitigation meetings, Bloomfield Property planning, Grasslands 2.0 learning hub presentation, UW-Madison nutrient management research, and Driftless Area planning effort



UNPACKING CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE



General

- Said goodbye to Conservation Specialist Landon Baumgartner in April and welcomed new Conservation Specialist Casey Michek in October
- Updated department policies

