



IOWA COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

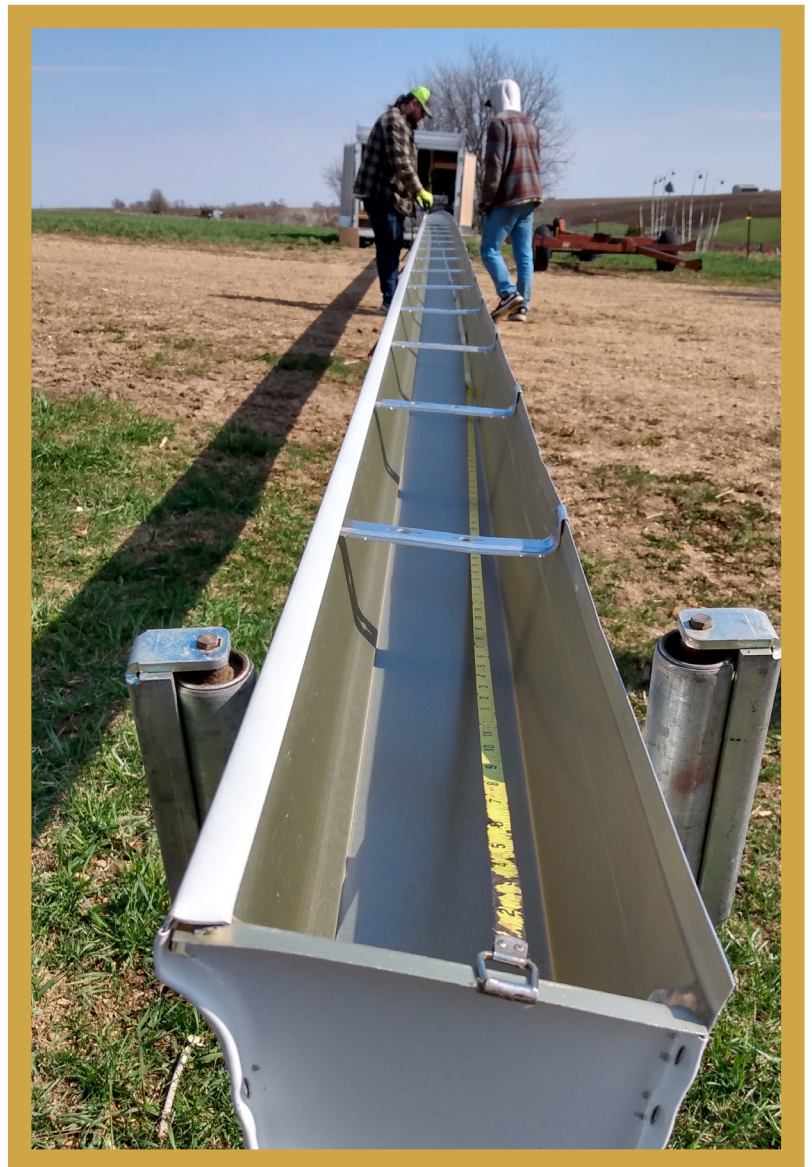


Seeded and mulched waterway

Projects

Soil and Water

- Installed 13 projects totaling \$167,536 in cost-share:
 - 1 barnyard runoff control system (including a roofed barnyard, heavy use area protection, livestock watering facility water diversion, and fencing), 1 roof gutter, 8 well decommissions,
 - 1 grassed waterway, and 2 manure storage closures
- Four projects designed for 2024
- Created a map of potential projects for Hollandale Water Quality Trade program and joined a meeting with landowners



Roof gutter ready to be installed

Nutrient Management and Cropland

- 7 Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) cost-shared totaling \$9,758 and 348.5 acres
- 11 Cover crop contracts totaling \$14,702 and 570 acres
- Seven NMP training classes/sessions; 30 farmers assisted via class or one-on-one
- Processed and reviewed 170 Nutrient Management Plans
- Provided technical assistance for 3 new manure storage permits and 3 storage closures



Manure storage closure in process



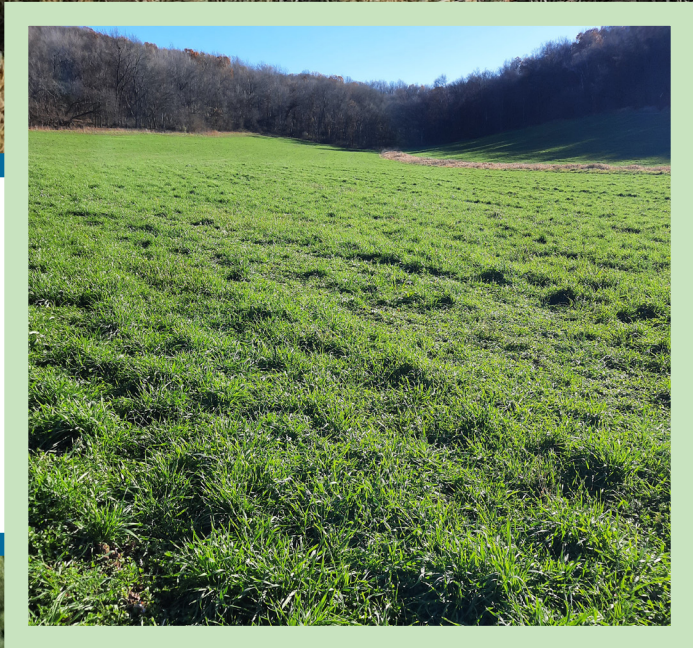
County Dams

- Completed 11 dam inspections and regular debris clearing
- Continued work on Municipal Dam Grant and Birch Lake dam repairs

Programs

Farmland Preservation

- 314 FPP compliance site visits
- Managed 685 Certificates of Compliance, covering 147,317 acres which equates to over \$1.4 million in tax credits to Iowa County farmers and farmland owners



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- 10 contracts completed, covering 228 acres and \$85,300 of incentive payments
- Processed 31 cost-share payments, 5 revisions, and 20 transfers
- 5 easement monitoring visits





Katie Abbott and Matt Krueger ready testify for Farmland Preservation updates



Groundwater 101 at Evenings Afield at Lowery Creek



Outreach and Communications

- Gave two presentations at statewide WI Land + Water conference
- Co-led Groundwater 101 and help host Perennial Crop field trips with the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative
- Testified on Assembly Bill 133 regarding Farmland Preservation Program updates; was quoted on WPR and gave a radio interview
- Continued department Facebook page: 152 posts; our most successful post reached over 5,200 people
- Continued Youth Conservation Field Day for over 150 Iowa Co 6th graders
- Created or updated four website pages
- Created two videos
- Gave 4 Farmer Conservation Awards



Youth Conservation Field Day at Bloomfield Prairie



Conservation Farmer awards at Farmer Appreciation Days

Partnerships and Special Projects

- Lead tourism-recreation grant program that awarded 8 projects totaling \$50,000
- Began a new grant program to provide a total of \$100,000 to landowners for projects that protect or improve groundwater
- Assisted Health Dept with starting a new well testing lab
- Continued working with Extension and UW-Platteville on streambank phosphorus research project, including taking soil samples and running Phosphorus reports
- Continued working with Southern Driftless Grasslands, Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative, and South Central Invasive Partnership
- Continued as member of WI Land & Water Association Legislative/Administrative, Public Outreach (as Chair), and Health and Conservation Committees
- Participated on Bloomfield Property planning, Grasslands 2.0 meetings, DNR Non-point runoff strategy meeting, and Southern Driftless Grasslands conservation planning



grassLAND 2.0



South Central
Invasives
Partnership

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
PLATTEVILLE

General

- We said goodbye to Conservation Technician Sarah Hovis in August and Conservation Specialist Casey Michek in November. In December, we welcomed new Conservation Technician Tony Pillow, and the first week of 2024, we welcomed Sara Wilhelm as our new Conservation Specialist
- Updated department policies



Tony Pillow

Sara Wilhelm