



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

DATE: December 3, 2014

TO: Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

FROM: Ben Brancel, Secretary
John Petty, Administrator, Division of Agricultural Resource Management

SUBJECT: Land and Water Resources Bureau Report - Soil and Water Conservation Training and Regional Conservation Partnership Program

PRESENTED BY: Lisa Schultz, Agency Liaison
Matt Woodrow, Conservation Engineering Unit Supervisor

REQUESTED ACTION: For Informational Purposes Only

This report is provided as an update to the board regarding Bureau of Land and Water Resources training efforts, including the Agricultural Engineering Practitioner Certification program, Nutrient Management Farmer Education, and coordination of the Statewide Interagency Training Committee. The presentation also includes information about the Department's participation in the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, a program established in the 2014 Farm Bill and administered by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Agricultural Engineering Practitioner Certification Program

A service provided to Land Conservation Department technicians and others that design, review, and approve agricultural engineering practices. Certification exempts county and state employees from state licensure when they are engaged in specified engineering practices and complements services provided by DATCP staff.

Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) program

DATCP provides competitive grant dollars to partners who conduct classes that train farmers to write their own nutrient management plans which include all state and federal nutrient management requirements. Farmers are then eligible to write their own plans, but need to attend a refresher course every 4 years.

Statewide Interagency Training Committee (SITCOM)

An interagency team convened to identify conservation training needs and develop a coordinated and efficient approach for all conservation professionals that deliver best management practices for soil and water conservation in Wisconsin. The committee includes representatives from DATCP, DNR, NRCS, UWEX, UW, Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, counties, and the private sector.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

The RCPP promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts for incentive payments for BMPs and technical assistance.

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