



# Ties to the Land

## Ties to the Land



### Your Resource Partners in Kenosha and Racine Counties:

Racine County Land Conservation Division  
University of Wisconsin Extension

Farm Service Agency Office

Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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### Linda Feldkamp Retiring

Yes, after 42 ½ years of service to the farmers of Kenosha, Racine and most recently Milwaukee Counties. Linda is planning on taking the break she has earned starting February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.



Please join with us as we send Linda on her way with refreshments at an open house that will be held in her honor on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the County FSA Office at 1012 Vine Street in Union Grove.

*\*\*Don't forget to mark your calendars for February 2<sup>nd</sup> \*\**

### Comments from Linda

It has been my privilege to work with the farmers of initially Kenosha County for many years prior to being combined with Racine County and eventually Milwaukee County. I have said many times I had the best job in the world and the nicest people to work with and for.

To those who've I worked with – Elmer, Rita, Eileen, Evelyn, John, Donna, Velma, Lori, Kim, Angie, Sue and Jeanette. You were all special in what you do.

To the Farmers some of whom I am now in the third generation in my 42 years I have met many wonderful people who have become very good friends. I know you all know who you are. All that I have met I respect you for what you do to feed this country. You all deserve better for all you endure to bring your crops in for harvest.

I know I will continue to see many of you in private life, but to those I will probably never see again it has been wonderful and to those I will see don't forget to give me a hug when you see me.

I will miss you all – you are what made my job so WONDERFUL.

*Linda Feldkamp*



## SIGN UP NOW FOR 2010 DCP/ACRE

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program has begun and will continue **through June 1, 2010.**

If you are too busy to stop into the office you can sign up for DCP online. DCP is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in the DCP and ACRE Programs and can be accessed at [www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp). To access the service, producers must have an active USDA Authentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov) followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning December 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For the 2010 crop, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

**The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications. (Please note this is a change for 2010!)** For more information on DCP or ACRE, please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## 9-MONTH COMMODITY LOAN

With market prices being higher than county loan rates on most crops, we want to remind you that a marketing assistance loan may be a good alternative for short-term financing. A marketing assistance loan on commodity crops provides short-term operating funds at a comparably low interest rate.

The deadline to apply for 9-month loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts, wool, and mohair produced in crop year 2009 is January 31, 2010. The deadline to put 2009 crop wheat, small grains, many minor oilseeds, and honey under a 9-month loan or to apply for a LDP is March 31, 2010. The last day to request a 9-month loan or LDP on 2009 corn or soybean crops is May 31, 2010.

**Special note for the 2009 corn crop:** As producers are harvesting their corn crop, it has become apparent that the test weight levels are lower than normal. If test weight is below 52 pounds, the producer has the option of obtaining a recourse loan at the full loan rate or obtaining a non-recourse loan at 20% of the county loan rate.

If your corn is above a 52 pound test weight and you want to obtain a non-recourse loan at the full county loan rate, you must bring in a representative sample. If your corn test weight is below 52 pounds and you choose a recourse loan at the full loan rate, you do not need to bring in a sample.

Please feel free to call Linda or Jeanette to discuss your options for putting crops under loan.

## YEAR END ANALYSIS

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded that data must be provided to your FSA farm loan officer each year for a Year-End Analysis (YEA). Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that your files can be updated. Your farm loan officer will contact you to inform you of the data that will be needed.

## REPORT BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

All Farm Service Agency payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to receive timely payments, you need to notify your administrative FSA office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing number.

Also, be aware that actual deposits of FSA payments could take from 2-3 days to be deposited into your bank account, although it shows up in Financial Inquiries as being posted. This delay is due to the processing time required by our processing center in Kansas City, Missouri.

## ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI)

All persons and legal entities requesting certain program payments, either directly or indirectly are subject to average AGI provisions. Persons or legal entities whose average AGI for the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year exceeds the qualifying limits are ineligible for the applicable payment. If the payments are issued to an entity, general partnership or a joint venture, payments are reduced in an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect interest of any member or interest holder who is non-compliant with average AGI.

**\*New for the 2008 Farm Bill:** Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules **must annually certify** their eligibility to receive benefits by either submitting a statement from a certified public accountant or an attorney, or by completing form CCC-926.

## CONTINUOUS CRP

Do you have an area of cropland that could use a grassed waterway, buffer, or even a wetland restoration? If so, you may be eligible for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

To be eligible, cropland must have been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 of the 6 crop years between 1996 and 2001, and is physically and legally capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity. Also, certain marginal pastureland is eligible for enrollment as a riparian buffer.

For additional information or to set up an appointment to determine if your land is eligible, contact Jeanette at the Racine Kenosha Milwaukee county office.

## SURE DISASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

As of the publishing of this newsletter, we do not have any signup dates or new information for the SURE disaster program. Please remember that there will be an "application period" for you to come into the office to apply for a SURE payment on your 2008 crops.

SURE provides disaster assistance payments to producers of eligible commodities (crops, farm-raised fish, honey, and livestock) in counties declared by Secretary of Agriculture to be "disaster counties," including counties contiguous to disaster counties and any farms with losses in normal production of more than 50% in calendar year.

SURE provides payments at 60% of difference (if greater than zero) between disaster assistance program guarantee and total farm revenue, where revenue includes all crops produced on farm.

The program requires producers to obtain crop insurance for insured commodities or pay administrative fees for crops covered by NAP to be eligible. Socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers and ranchers must file appropriate paperwork but are exempt from these fees.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The following commodities are a few examples of eligible crops for farm storage facility loans: corn, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain or as other-than whole grain, hay, renewable biomass, and fruits and vegetables

An FSA farm storage facility loan must be approved by the local FSA county committee before any site preparation and/or construction can be started.

Facilities such as new grain bins, new oxygen-limiting structures, new flat-type structures, new structures for storing hay with a useful life of 15 years, new structures suitable for storing renewable biomass, and new cold storage buildings for vegetables are eligible for this loan program.

The maximum loan amount is \$500,000 per loan, and repayments are available for 7, 10, and 12 year terms with varying interest rates.

If you are interested in learning more about the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program please contact the FSA office at 262-878-3353.

**SAVE THE DATE!  
CONSERVATION TOUR**

**Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**Registration: 7:45 a.m.**  
**Tour 8:30-1:00**  
**Lunch: 1:00**  
**Start at the Racine County Building,**  
**Hwy 20 & I-94**

Join us for a bus tour of various Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts in the area. You will learn about the CRP program and the benefits of installing conservation practices such as waterways and filter strips on your land. There will be a charge for the tour to cover transportation and lunch costs (to be determined).

If you have any questions about the tour, please contact Jeanette or Kim at the FSA office at 262-878-3353.



**Save the Date**

On June 29, 2009 the Governor signed the state budget into law. Included were important changes that affect the farming community.

The Land Conservation Committee of Walworth County has scheduled an informational meeting on the **Working Lands Initiative for Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 1:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Health and Human Services Auditorium** (located at Hwy NN east of Elkhorn and west of the hospital) and will explain the changes to both the Working Lands Initiative and Farmland Preservation Program. The public can then comment on how the County should proceed. The county's certified farmland preservation plan expires on December 31, 2011.

Issues being addressed include:

- Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative expansion
- Modernization of the existing Farmland Preservation Program
- Establishing Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA)
- Development of a purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) grant program

More information can also be found on the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) website at [www.datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands/index.jsp](http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands/index.jsp)

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

A special thanks to the twenty-nine 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at St. John's Lutheran School, Racine, Wisconsin for participating in the Racine County / Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) 2009 environmental poster contest. The top three posters within Racine County received prizes; the top County winner advanced to the southeast Wisconsin WLWCA area contest. This year's winner was Lydia Balke, age 10. Lydia also took third in the Area contest for her age group. The second and third place finishers for the County contest were Arden Peterson (age 11), and Michael Gregory (age 11); respectively. This year's theme was "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil." Winning posters will be displayed at the 2010 Racine County Fair via the Land Conservation booth.

The theme for the 2010 contest will be "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats". Any Racine County educators interested in participating in the 2010 poster contest should contact the Racine County Land Conservation Department at 262-886-8479.



**Racine County Land Conservation**  
**14200 Washington Ave.**  
**Sturtevant, WI 53177**  
**262-886-8479**

<http://www.racineco.com/landconv/>

Staff Contributions by:  
Chad Sampson, Jonathan Grove,  
& Krystal Freimark

**Wisconsin Lands Initiative (WLI)**

Wisconsin farmland is being lost at an alarming rate and conflicting land uses are threatening Wisconsin's agricultural economy. The Wisconsin Lands Initiative (WLI) is a cooperative effort between the State, County, local, and private entities to save Wisconsin farmland, promote agriculture, protect environmental and natural areas, and reduce land use conflicts between agricultural areas and development. The WLI updates the 30-year-old farmland preservation program.



**WLI – Effects on Zoning**

- Eliminates the 35 acre minimum lot size
- A lot split from the base farm tract that is sold to another person for residential purposes is classified as a non-farm residence (regardless of who owns the new lot).
- Each base farm tract may contain up to 4 non-farm residences (not to exceed a 1:20 density ratio to farm acreage)
- Conditional uses are required for all qualifying non-farm residences and residential clusters.
- For lands rezoned out of the A-1 district a conversion fee will be charged to landowners. The fee is approximately three times the agricultural use value of the rezoned acreage (average \$600-900 per acre). Fees collected will fund the WLI program.
- Total acres rezoned within the County must be reported to DATCP (location maps and fees collected must be included).

**Counties under the most developmental pressure (i.e. Racine and Kenosha County) must update current farmland preservation ordinances to meet the new WLI requirements by December 31, 2011.**

**WLI – 2010 Tax Credit Changes**

The changes discussed below are valid for the 2010 tax year; those landowners zoned A-1 General Farming should continue to use the current tax credits for 2009 reporting. The WLI tax credit changes include the following:

- No minimum acreage is required to collect tax credit.
- Tax credit is a flat rate, not based on income or property taxes. Credits are based on the number of acres of land devoted to agricultural use multiplied by a fixed rate per acre.
  - \$5 per acre credit if land is under farmland preservation agreement (signed after July 9, 2009) and within a certified Ag Enterprise Area (AEA)
  - \$7.50 per acre if lands are within a Farmland Preservation zoning district (A-1)
  - \$10 per acre if lands are zoned A-1, under a preservation agreement, and within a AEA

**Landowners who wish to participate must claim the credit on the annual tax form. Racine County must issue a certificate of compliance for soil and water standards (required every 4 years); the certificate of compliance must be submitted with tax form.**

**2010 Racine County  
Land Conservation Tree and Shrub Program**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree and Shrub sale has begun! Several new species have been added to the sale including: Elderberry, Dawn Redwood, White Oak, & Dogwood-White Flowering. The order form can be downloaded from the Racine County webpage.

Orders are due to the Land Conservation office by **February 26, 2010**. The tree pick-up dates will be April 21<sup>st</sup> and/or April 22<sup>nd</sup>; pick-up will be located at the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove.





## **Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC)**

Southeastern Wisconsin is the primary gateway for invasive species into our state due to the high rate of roadway travel to and from Illinois as well as the Lake Michigan shipping traffic. The rapid urbanization of land in southeastern Wisconsin often produces the ideal habitat for invasives to find a foothold. It is estimated that 5 new invasive plant and animal species may be entering our region each year. Invasive plants, if left unchecked, will limit many uses on lands now and for future generations. Invasive plants can harm the natural heritage of our wetlands, prairies, forests, lakes, and rivers. The longer we wait, the more expensive it will be to control invasive plants and animals.

The Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC) is a broad-based coalition that promotes efficient and effective management of invasive species throughout an 8-county region (Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine, and Kenosha). SEWISC provides the opportunity for partners to share and leverage limited resources, raise awareness about invasive species problems, and provide a mechanism for collaborative problem-solving on both public and private lands.

The mission of SEWISC is to educate the public and protect biodiversity and ecological function throughout the region, contributing to a high quality of life for present and future generations. Many invasive exotic plants and animals have devastating impacts on our native plant communities, fish and wildlife habitat, agricultural yields, recreational opportunities, and ultimately, local economies.

Because these non-native species disperse widely across the landscape, it is advantageous to work cooperatively across jurisdictional boundaries towards prevention, management and control objectives. In addition, the number of new invasive species introduced into our region each year has been out-pacing control activities, making prevention and management tasks impractical for any one agency to manage alone. The cost to the U.S. economy to monitor, contain, and control these species is estimated at \$100-200 billion per year - an annual cost greater than that for all natural disasters combined. To find more information and resources about invasive

species identification, planning, education and management visit SEWISC on the web at <http://www.ipaw.org/sewisc/index.aspx> or the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin at <http://www.ipaw.org>. **Here are some ideas from the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) to reduce the impact of invasive plants**

- Learn how to identify the invasive plants that are in your area.
- Make sure that seeds are not stuck to your clothes or gear. You don't want to introduce or spread these plants to other areas!
- Do not camp or travel through areas infested with invasive plants, if they can be avoided.
- Clean mud or dirt off your vehicle, pets, and even your hiking boots before going onto public lands.
- Wash your boat before going to a new lake, river, or stream.
- Drive on established roads and ride or hike on designated trails.
- Don't plant invasive species on your land. Find native or non-invasive alternative species to plant instead. Ask your local nursery to stock native plant species.
- Volunteer to help inventory or control invasive plants. Early detection and eradication of small infestations and prevention of new infestations are the most cost-effective ways to manage invasive plants.
- Always be on the lookout and help wipe out invasive plants.
- Timing is everything - understand the life-cycle of the invasive plants you are trying to control, so you know when to pull, when to mow, when to burn, or when herbicide application is most appropriate.

For more information visit the Midwest Invasive Plant Network at <http://mipn.org> or contact [SEWISC@townandcountryrcd.org](mailto:SEWISC@townandcountryrcd.org) to ask how you can get involved.

SEWISC is presenting two spring workshops for regional **Parks, Roadway & ROW managers** on March 24 & 25, 2010. The workshops will be held at Havenwoods Environmental Awareness Center in Milwaukee, WI.

Registration is \$50 per person and includes all workshop materials and handouts, breakfast, refreshments, and lunch.

**Kenosha County**  
PO Box 550  
Bristol, WI 53104  
262-857-1945

**Racine County**  
14200 Washington Avenue  
Sturtevant, WI 53177  
262-886-8460

Article Submitted by: Rose Skora  
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## PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING



It's that time again! Every 5 years, pesticide applicators that use restricted use pesticides must get re-certified.

Anyone who has been certified in the past and has a license that will expire in 2010 or has already expired should have received notification of the training/testing through the mail. Costs for the program are \$30 which includes the training manual. It is recommended that applicators purchase the manual at least one week before the training and/or testing.

General Farming manuals can be purchased at the county UW Extension offices. Anyone wishing to receive certification in the Greenhouse/Nursery or Fruit Crops categories needs to purchase the training manuals through the state. Cards are available at the county UW Extension offices that can be used to send for those training manuals. The manuals can also be purchased on-line by going to the following website: <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/>. Click on the Pesticide Applicator Training program link on the left hand side. General Farming Private Applicator trainings will take place in two locations in 2010:

**Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 9am**  
Kenosha County Center, 19600 75<sup>th</sup> St (Hwy 45 and 50)  
Bristol, WI 53104

**Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 9am**  
Walworth County Government Building  
100 W. Walworth St, Room 214, Elkhorn, WI 53121

Individuals wishing to take the test on their own are invited to call any UW Extension office to schedule a time to take the test.

The test is open book. Applicators who attend the training must get 50% correct or better to pass. Those choosing the self-study option must get 70% correct or better to pass.

## PUTTING YOUR BUSINESS IDEA TO THE TEST COURSE

Thinking about a business idea? Perhaps you are looking to get some more information to decide whether or not to pursue the business idea.

UW Cooperative Extension and the Kenosha/Racine Small Business Development Center will be offering a five week course entitled "Putting Your Idea to the Test". This course will include both on-line course materials as well as classroom sessions.

In person sessions will be held in the evenings on the following days:

***A Guide for Agricultural Entrepreneurs: Introduction***  
February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kenosha County Center, Bristol

***Risk, Risk, Risk: Are the Potential Benefits Greater than the Potential Risks?***  
February 9<sup>th</sup>: Kenosha County Center, Bristol

***Conducting Preliminary Market Research***  
February 16<sup>th</sup>: Racine County Ives Grove Building, Sturtevant

***Market Research: Learning from Associations, Businesses and Suppliers***  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>: Racine County Ives Grove Building, Sturtevant

***The Business of Marketing: Insights from Successful Valued-Added Agricultural Businesses***  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kenosha County Center, Bristol

Costs for the program are approximately \$35/person and will include course materials. Participant will need access to the internet for the on-line portion of the program, which will be done on the participants own time. In-person programs will expand what is learned through the on-line sessions and offer a chance to interact with other entrepreneurs as well as get access to guest speakers.





### DIRECTORY OF AGENCIES



#### Racine/Kenosha Farm Service Agency (FSA)

1012 Vine Street, Union Grove, WI 53182 1330  
Phone: 262-878-3353, Ext 2 Fax: 262-878-3283

#### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1012 Vine Street, Union Grove, WI 53182 1330  
Phone: 262-878-1243, Ext 3 Fax: 262-878-3283

#### Racine County Land Conservation Division

14200 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant, WI 53177  
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#### Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation

19600 75<sup>th</sup> St, PO Box 520, Bristol, WI 53104  
Phone: 262-857-1895, Fax: 262-857-6508

#### Kenosha County UW-Extension

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#### Racine County UW-Extension

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Ties to the Land Newsletter**

**Your Resource Partners:**  
Farm Service Agency  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Racine County Land Conservation  
Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation  
UW-Cooperative Extension

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