

## **Section 4: Implementation Tools and Strategies**

There are numerous programs, tools and strategies available to assist in the implement the Crawford County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. During the planning process the Land conservation Committee evaluated and identified several programs, tools and strategies that can be utilized in cooperation with agency partners to address the land and water resource concerns. The following programs, tools and strategies have been grouped and described in like categories.

### **Information and Education Strategy**

Knowledge is power. Cost-sharing, technical assistance and resource monitoring are ineffective unless they are shared in a meaningful way. Landowners and residents that make conservation decisions need to hear the story and the facts about the importance of sustaining and enhancing our precious soil and water resources. It is our belief that if people are provided with information and the facts, they will make good conservation decisions. The key is communication and getting the information to residents and landowners. The following information and education tools and strategies will be used to get information to the public.

### ***School Outreach***

Involving and educating the next generation of landowners on land and water conservation issues is critical to meeting future conservation goals. To achieve this, the LCD and committee will continue outreach efforts in the local K-12 educational facilities through activities such as:



Youth Conservation Day

- Provide staff for outdoor education activities for county/state school districts, i.e. Wauzeka Badger Camp, Upper Mississippi River Festival, Youth Conservation Days, Breakfast on the Farm; Wisconsin's WLWCA Summer Conservation Camp, Boscobel School Forest.
- Annual youth speech and poster contest for in all school districts.
- Use Enviro-scape at spring high school tour and loan Enviro-scape to teachers.
- Continue storm drain stenciling project with Prairie du Chien 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Construct stream table and use at Youth Conservation Day.
- Utilize Schools for seedling sale.
- Provide staff for Wisconsin Conservation Camp & Mississippi River Festival.
- Emphasize recycling category in annual county Speaking and Poster Contest.

### ***Landowner Recognition/Appreciation***

Landowners are vital to conservation efforts in the Crawford County. Recognizing landowners for their efforts and showing appreciation is an excellent way to spread a positive message about conservation. To achieve this, the County will continue to conduct a yearly Conservation Awards event.

### ***Community Event Outreach***

The Land Conservation Department staff and committee will also be active in the community taking the opportunity at community events, county fair, etc. to spread the word and informational brochures and displays detailing the benefits of sound conservation practices.

### ***Landowner Services***

Providing landowner services will continue to be a priority to implement land and water conservation practices. Services available to landowners to address the LWRM plan goals include:

- Include time to discuss issues with landowners and farmers when on farm visits or when landowners or farmers visit the office.

- Provide publications to new landowners such as: “Wisconsin’s Runoff Rules: What Farmers Need to Know”, “Owning Rural Lands” a Guide for the Kickapoo Watershed, And “Farmland Conservation Choices”
- Revise and write conservation plans as an ongoing activity and as a contact follow-up.
- Do well screening for nitrates and bacteria at county fair, at office, and on farm visits.
- Continue to lend manure scales and provide assistance for spreader calibration.
- Continue with ongoing triennial Rural Clean Sweep.

### ***Training Activities***

Training landowners and residents on methods to protect land and water resources is valuable in that they acquire the conservation skills. If landowners acquire the skills and do not have to pay for someone else to implement conservation practices it is more likely that the resources will be protected. Training opportunities provided include but are not limited to involving citizens in monitoring county streams by teaching proper techniques for sampling for critical indicators of water quality, i.e. nitrates, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, macro-invertebrates, etc. Continue working with Southwest Technical College on training Crawford County farmers to prepare their own nutrient management plans.

### ***Media and Legislative Outreach***

Communicating conservation issues to the media and legislators is important as a way to generate public awareness and legislative support for programs and services. The Crawford County LCD will continue to publish its annual report and results of its annual transect survey to the print media. The Land Conservation Committee will also continue to invite legislators to conservation public events and applicable meeting.

### ***Informational Brochures - Mailings***

Crawford County is aware that getting the word out about land and water conservation issues is vital to preserving and enhancing the counties natural resources. The Land Conservation Department will distribute the brochure “What Farmers Need to Know” (WT 756-2003) at the County Fair, with tax bills, at annual Dairy Breakfast, and during farm visits. In addition, the LCD will provide publications to new landowners such as: “Wisconsin’s Runoff Rules: What Farmers Need to Know”, “Owning Rural Lands” a Guide for the Kickapoo Watershed, And “Farmland Conservation Choices”.

### **Regulatory Requirements and Performance Standards**

There are several regulatory requirements and performance standards that help ensure implementation of portions of the Crawford Land and Water Resources Management Plan. Crawford County prefers landowners to voluntarily comply with regulations rather than face enforcement measures. The county when enforcing regulatory requirements, as a policy provides landowners great leeway to seek voluntary compliance. In most cases, landowners recognize the value of improving the land and water quality and implement measures to be in compliance with regulations. The regulatory/performance standards in effect in Crawford County are described below:

### ***Land and Water Management Plan***

Crawford County will comply with Wisconsin’s Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection’s Administrative rule ATCP 50.12 Land and Water Resource Management Plan. Copies are available at the Land Conservation Department, 225 N Beaumont, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 or at the county web site [www.crawfordcountywi.org](http://www.crawfordcountywi.org).

### ***Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance***

Crawford County adopted a nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance in response to Wis. Administrative Code NR 135, and is being jointly administered by Land Conservation Department and the Planning and Zoning Department. This ordinance requires operators of nonmetallic mining sites to plan for a specific post-mining reclamation at their sites.

With approximately 35 nonmetallic mines in the county, the Land Conservation Department is occupied inspecting, measuring the acreage covered by mining activity, receiving and reviewing reclamation plans, investigation complaints and other overall technical aspects of the program. The Planning and Zoning Department performs the administrative aspect of the program, by collecting fees, sending notices, and handling records. Copies are available at the Land Conservation Department, 225 N Beaumont, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 or at the county web site [www.crawfordcountywi.org](http://www.crawfordcountywi.org).

### ***Manure Storage Ordinance***

In 2010, Crawford County revised its Manure Storage Ordinance to cover all manure storage facilities, including stacks and abandonment. The purpose of the Manure Storage Ordinance for Crawford County is to regulate the location, design, construction, installation, and use of all animal manure storage facilities. New or substantially altered manure storage facilities shall be designed, constructed and maintained to protect water quality.

Copies are available at the Land Conservation Department, 225 N Beaumont, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 or at the county web site [www.crawfordcountywi.org](http://www.crawfordcountywi.org).

### ***Performance Standards: NR 151 Performance Standards Implementation Strategy***

On October 1, 2002 Wisconsin's rules to manage polluted runoff for farms and other sources went into effect. The DNR Administrative Rule NR151 set performance standards and prohibitions for agriculture, construction site erosion, and runoff from streets and roads. DATCP Administrative Rule ATCAP 50 identifies conservation practices that must be followed to meet the performance standards. The following is the Crawford County Land Conservation Department's strategy for the implementation of the NR 151 performance standards.

#### **Identification of Priority Farms**

Priority farms are:

- Farms within watersheds most impaired by soil loss and water quality. The rank in descending order for 2004 Transect data is Rush Creek, Millville Creek, Lower Kickapoo, Reeds Tainter, and Knapp Creek.
- Farms in watershed draining to DNR listed as "Impaired Waters (Section 303D)"
- Farms in Water Quality Management Areas
- Farms making application for the Farmland Preservation Program

#### **Action items for Priority Farms**

- Priority farms will grouped by county watersheds and the watersheds will be ranked by soil loss according to the most recent data available from the transect survey and water quality data from DNR and citizen monitoring. (see Action Plan – Soil Erosion Section)
- Informational meetings will target the watersheds most impaired and be followed by volunteer on-farm evaluations using the Compliance Checklist (see appendix).
- The implementation of the strategy is based on staff and funding availability.

#### **Information and Educational Activities**

The Crawford County LCD will employ varied ways to contact landowners and inform them of Wisconsin's agricultural performance standards and prohibitions such as a combination of newsletters, public informational meetings, news media, and one-on one contacts.

## **Determining Current Compliance**

### Records Inventory

The records inventory will be a review of existing records of landowners throughout the county who may already be in compliance based upon past and present program participation. The FPP standards have been updated.

- Farmland Preservation Program – annual review.
- Reviews of existing plan folders,
- Contracts developed through County Cost Share programs.

### Onsite Evaluations

Crawford County Land Conservation Department will conduct on-site evaluations using the Compliance Checklist (see appendix) based on the following criteria.

1. Review at the request of the landowner.
2. Landowners who are found out of compliance (using the Compliance Checklist) during normal records inventory process.
3. Formal complaints received by the Land Conservation Department
4. Farmsteads located within a Water Quality Management Area that drains into an Impaired Stream or on of Crawford Counties Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters. Farmsteads in a Water Quality Management Area will be determined through the use of existing geographic information systems. Farmsteads that apply for the Farmland Preservation Program.
5. Farmsteads located in the most impaired watersheds as determined by the Transect Survey (see Action Plan – Soil Erosion section)

The Compliance Checklist will be recorded and kept in the Land Conservation Department/USDA landowner file. A copy also will be kept in a countywide GIS database maintained by Crawford County and the Land Conservation Department.

### Prepare Report and Notify Landowners of Compliance Status

Following completion of a records review and/or an on-site evaluation the Crawford County LCD will prepare and issue a NR 151 Status Report to owners of the evaluated parcels.

The report will include the following;

- The current status of compliance of individual parcels with each of the performance standards and prohibition
- Corrective measures needed to be brought into compliance a rough cost estimates to comply with each of the performance standards and prohibitions.
- Status of eligibility for public cost sharing
- Grant funding sources and technical assistance available from Federal, state, and local sources, and third party service providers.
- Explanations of conditions that apply if public cost share funds are used.
- A signature line indication landowner's agreement or disagreement with the report finding.
- The process and procedures to contest evaluation results to county and or state.
- A copy of the performance standards and prohibitions and technical design standards

## **Administer Funding and Technical Assistance**

The LCD uses various sources for funding conservation practices including federal, state, and private dollars. Annual allocations from DATCP are used alone or piggy backed with federal and private funds. The Land Conservation Committee encourages the following practices:

### Erosion Control Practices:

Critical Area Shaping, Grassed Waterways, Diversion, Grade Stabilization Structures, Steambank & Shoreline Protection Access Roads & Stream Crossings.

### Waste Management Practices:

Diversions, Nutrient Management Plans, Roof Runoff Systems, Barnyard Runoff Control Sediment Basin Filter Strips, Heavy Use Area Protection.

### Environmental and Water Quality Practices:

Sinkhole Treatment, Tree and Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation Cover Crops, Fencing, Conservation Cover.

### Demonstration Practices:

Prescribed Grazing, Multi-flora Rose Control

County Cost Share participants will be required to sign a cooperative agreement with the Land Conservation Department that will allow a review of their farm for compliance. We will check the whole farm to document areas meeting and not meeting compliance on required standards.

If cost sharing is involved an agreement will be developed that includes a schedule for installing or implementing Best Management Practices (BMP's). Technical assistance will be provided in the following forms.

- Conservation planning assistance
- Review of conservation plans prepared by other than LCD staff
- Engineering design assistance
- Review of designs prepared by other than LCD staff
- Construction oversight
- Certification of construction practices
- Cost containment

After installation of a practice, the LCD staff will evaluate if the parcel is in compliance with applicable performance or prohibitions.

#### **Strategy to Encourage Voluntary Compliance**

- Provide landowners with information concerning;
- The performance standards and prohibitions, their design and requirements.
- How the standards and prohibitions apply to their land and their status concerning compliance
- The options they have to achieve and/or maintaining compliance
- The implication of their decision and action regarding compliance
- Available sources of cost sharing and technical assistance and how to access them
- Provide information about practices that would bring landowners into compliance with standards or prohibitions
- Provide help to apply for cost sharing and other technical assistance
- Provide technical assistance to prepare and review conservation plans and designs.
- Administer cost sharing
- Provide follow-up and support to maintain compliance.

#### Notice

All landowners will receive written copies of their NR151 compliance status or other ordinance status evaluation and the actions of the Land Conservation Department.

#### Appeal/Hearing

Any landowner wishing to appeal their evaluation of NR 151 compliance may request a hearing before the Crawford County Land Conservation Committee.

#### **Enforcement**

- If a landowner refuses technical and financial assistance from the Crawford County Land Conservation Department, in an NR 151 compliance requirement, they will be notified by mail that they may be subject to an enforcement action pursuant to NR 151.09. Appropriate DNR Geographic Management Unit Leaders will be notified of landowner refusal. Landowner refusals in the Bad Axe Basin will be referred to the DNR office in La Crosse and those in the Lower Wisconsin Basin will be referred to the DNR office in Dodgeville.
- A Copy of the Compliance Checklist (see appendix), all correspondence with the client, all determinations made by the Land Conservation Department and actions of the Crawford County Land Conservation Committee regarding the client, and a recommendation by the department and committee on how to proceed with enforcement will be sent to the area DNR Geographic Management Unit Leader.
- County ordinances will be enforced as listed in the Penalty section 25.04 of the Crawford County Code.

#### **Partnership and Coordination**

Establishing and maintaining partnerships is very important to the conservation of land and water resources. Turf battles, agency posturing, kingdom building, and political grandstanding destroy people and natural resources. It is the goal of the Crawford County Land Conservation Department to discuss program issues and ideas with staff from all groups and agencies to establish mutual agreement on resource protection. The following agencies and groups are well suited to preserve, protect and enhance Crawford County's precious soil and water resources. The Crawford County Land Conservation Department will continue to work with the following agencies and groups:

### ***USDA Programs***

1. *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)*. Provides cost-sharing for conservation practices.
2. *Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)*. Provides cost-sharing for fish and wildlife habitat improvement practices.
3. *Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)*. A set-aside land program.
4. *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)*. A buffer creation program implemented by DATCP, NRCS, FSA, and Crawford County.
5. *Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)* A wetland restoration from cropland program.

### ***DNR Programs***

1. *Targeted Resource Management Program (TRM)*. A program to address an area water quality problem.
2. *Managed Forest Law (MFL)*. A forest management program
3. *Trout Stamp Program*. Trout habitat work.
4. *Conservation Aids* A program to match county dollars for wildlife habitat improvement.

### ***US Fish and Wildlife Service Programs***

1. *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program*. Used to acquire unique wetland habitat with restoration. Active in the river Valleys.

### ***DATCP Programs***

1. *Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM)*. Provides grants to counties for conservation staff, and the design and installation of conservation practices.
2. *Agricultural Clean Sweep*. Crawford County uses this program triennially to collect and dispose of hazardous Ag chemicals.

### ***Crawford County Ordinances and Programs***

1. *Crawford County Manure Storage Ordinance*: A regulatory county measure to require the environmentally sound construction and operation of all manure storage structures.
2. *Crawford County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance*: A regulatory county measure to ensure the proper reclamation of nonmetallic mines.
3. *Crawford County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance*: Administered by the Zoning office with to regulating a variety of flood fringe, flood plain issues.
4. *Crawford County Farmland Preservation Program*: Administered by the Land Conservation Department, this program provides tax relief to participants who protect farmland and follow a conservation plan. Two townships in the county are Exclusively Ag Zoned, where the majority of the land is subject to the Farmland Preservation requirements and benefits.

### ***Other Active Partners in Conservation***

1. Crawford County Northern Land Use Group
2. UW Extension
3. Prairie Rod & Gun Club, Gays Mills Big Buck Club
4. Valley Stewardship Network
5. Crawford Stewardship Project
6. Southwest Badger RC&D
7. Southwest Technical College
8. Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission
9. Lower Wisconsin State Riverway
10. Crawford County municipalities, 11 townships, 10 villages, one city

11. Great River Grazers
12. Trout Unlimited
13. Wild Turkey Federation
14. Pheasants Forever
15. Ruffed Grouse Society
16. Crawford County Apple Growers Association
17. Farm Bureau
18. National Farmers Organization
19. School Districts of North Crawford, DeSoto, Seneca, Prairie du Chien, and Wauzeka