

Section 6: Evaluation and Monitoring

Measuring and evaluating activities identified in the plan is critical in order for the plan to be successful and ensure that the land and water resources of the County are protected. Annually, the Land Conservation Department and Committee will review the action plan to determine what has been accomplished and what additional tasks need to be completed. The Land Conservation Department and Committee will also use the following tools to evaluate and monitor plan success.

Cropland Transect Survey

The Crawford County Land Conservation Department will continue to conduct an annual transect survey that will include crop trends, tillage methods, soil loss, and rural housing changes. It will be conducted in a statistically valid method in order to direct department program activities, and be made available to county residents for their information and education. A synopsis will be sent to the DNR West Central Region that will in a numerical order list crops grown, residue cover percent, and projected soil loss.

Water Quality Monitoring

Crawford County has encouraged water quality monitoring by the Valley Stewardship Network in the Kickapoo River Watershed and will continue to cooperate with similar efforts. A fledgling project of UW Extension Water Action Volunteers (WAV) began in the county in 2005 with participation from sports clubs and interest from area school classes. Training session has been held for volunteers. WAV data is tracked in the Citizen Monitoring Database maintained by UW Extension. The largest benefit of citizen monitoring is the increased awareness of county residents in the importance of good land stewardship and its impact on water quality.

The Land Conservation Department will collect county data from the Water Action Volunteer site <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/erc/watervol/> and use the water quality data to compare and contrast with the ranking of the transect survey year to year to pinpoint education and informational efforts.

While water quality monitoring is important, the ability of citizen volunteers to record the effects of heavy rainfall is limited. More effort is needed to put dedicated continuous monitoring equipment in county streams to accurately reflect water chemistry.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

As Crawford County modernizes its land records all NR 151 evaluations will be recorded and tracked in a geo-database linked to tax parcel I.D. numbers. Manure storage permits, nonmetallic mining permits, and CREP agreements and easements will also be linked to the tax parcels. The county is cooperating other southwestern Wisconsin governmental bodies to attain LIDAR images for parts of the County.

Annual Accomplishment Reports

Financial data, installed practices, pollutant load data, information and education activities, and NR151 compliance will all be reported to DATCP and other agencies as required. Progress on work plan goals will be annually reviewed by the Land Conservation Department.