

Evaluation and Monitoring

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 WestCentral 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) has begun in the county with participation from sports clubs and interest from area school classes. One training session has been held and others are planned for volunteers. WAV data will be 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 with a consortium of southwestern Wisconsin governmental bodies to obtain digital ortho-photography at a 12" ground pixel resolution.

Annual Accomplishment Reports

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