

Soil & Water Director Update

Hello Everyone!

This mid-winter reflection was sparked by the flickering thoughts of a warm fire needed to melt the cabin-fever ice that forms every year just about this time. If you own property, visit parks, drive down just about any road or street with a tree line or have seen patches of scrubby brush, woodlots, forested wetlands or even large old stand-alone trees located in farm fence line... you have seen the effects of an invasive species giving one of our most common tree species a big pain in the ash. Yes! It is spelled correctly. The non-native invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle, bug, harbor of evil has invaded our State, our County and is totally changing the appearance and dynamics of our existing forests.

Click [here](#) for full article.



Sign up Now for 2023 Resource Conservation Programs

Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department's natural resources conservation programs help producers and landowners reduce erosion, build soil health, improve water quality, and increase wildlife habitat. Program sign up for the 2023 season is now open. If you have a resource concern, contact the Soil and Water Department for technical and financial assistance. 920-683-4183. Click the link for a full list of programs available.

Click [here](#) for a full list of programs available.



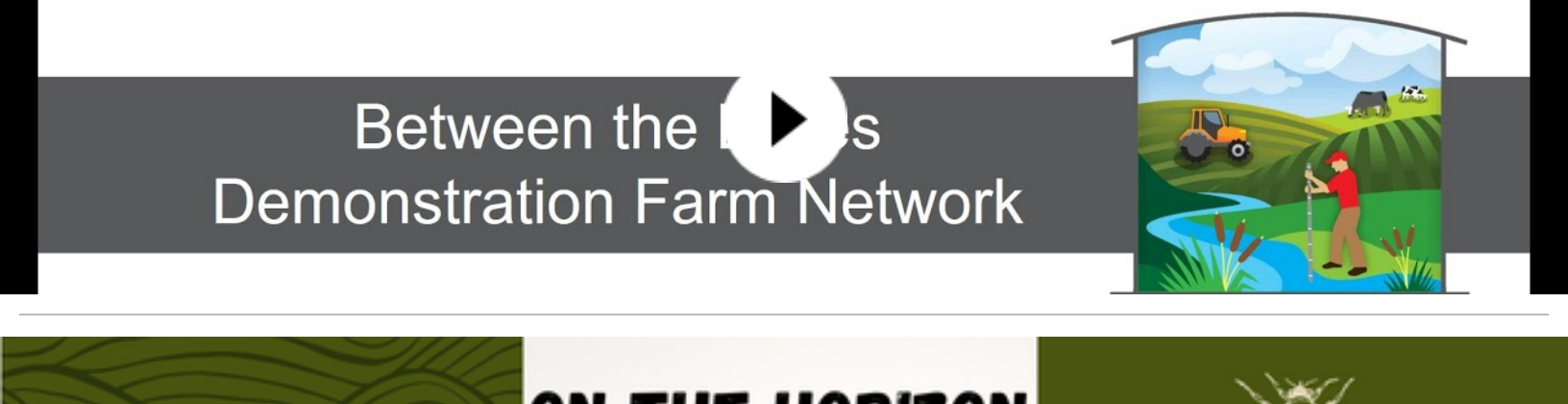
FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM REMINDERS!

- Remember to Claim your 2022 FPP Tax Credit!
- If you bought or sold land in 2022 or misplaced your certificate of compliance, contact the Manitowoc Co. Soil and Water Department for an updated certificate at 920-683-4183
- Please submit your 2023 Nutrient Management Plan by June 1, 2023
- If your farm is up for review, you'll receive a reminder postcard in the mail. Please call us to schedule an appointment.

Frost Seeding Time is Almost Here!

Late winter is the perfect time to get a jump start on planting while taking advantage of the freeze-thaw cycles that occur in March. These cycles help some types of seeds break down their tough, outer coats and ensure good seed-to-soil contact needed for germination and growth. The late-winter method of planting is called frost seeding and both Gardeners and Agricultural Producers can benefit from it.

Click [here](#) for the full article.



FREE WELL WATER SCREENING FOR NITRATES

GROUNDWATER AWARENESS WEEK MARCH 6-10

Bring 1/2 Cup of well water in a clean container to the SWCD or select locations (TBD) soon!

ON THE HORIZON



WATCH FOR SMALL AREA (1,000 SQ. FT.)

NATIVE POLLINATOR SEED PACKS

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT SWCD STARTING APRIL 1ST!

OUTREACH UPDATE



Farmer-To-Farmer Mentoring

A farmer-to-farmer mentoring program is taking place across Manitowoc County this winter. The pictures above, include producers from Newton area farms attending a mentoring meeting at Soaring Eagle Dairy Farm. The purpose of the small workshops is to connect farmers thinking about or who've just started growing cover crops with producers who have fine-tuned the process. Cover Crops are typically grown late fall through early spring and are planted to manage soil erosion, enhance soil quality, add nutrients, increase water infiltration, and reduce weed pressure.

The second mentoring meeting was held in the Town of Franklin and another is planned for the Maribel area in February. These meetings are being held in collaboration with the Manitowoc County Forage Council, Soil Health and Water Quality Team. To get involved, contact the Soil and Water office at 920-683-4183.

LEARN TO WRITE YOUR OWN NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

MANITOWOC COUNTY SWCD

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING CLASS

FEB. 17 & 24, 2023

QUALIFYING FARMS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A \$700 STIPEND TO ATTEND!



- You'll need soil tests results that are no more than four years old, sampled on a one-sample-per-five-acre basis, and analyzed by a DATCP-approved laboratory.
- **February 17** Nutrient Management Planning Class & SNAP PLUS training with Jamie Patton, PhD, CPSS UW Outreach Specialist
- **February 24** Create Field Maps & enter information into SNAP PLUS with a SWCD Resource Conservationist
- Register Early! Space is limited.

CALL TO REGISTER 920-683-4183

Register NOW for Manitowoc County's

Nutrient Management Planning Class, February 17 and 24, 2023

Save Money, Increase Crop Production, and Improve Surface & Groundwater

Self-writers must attend a DATCP-approved Nutrient Management Class at least every 4 years to write a qualifying 590 plan. In this free class, you'll use your soil test results to write a nutrient management plan and enter it into SnapPlus software. Participants will leave with a completed 2023 nutrient management plan and may be eligible for a stipend to cover soil testing and time away from the farm.

Feb. 17th: 9:30am – 3:00 pm (Lunch Included)

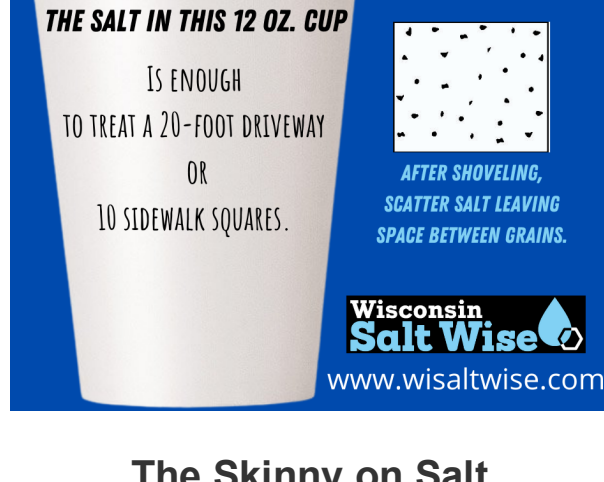
- Learn the basics of nutrient management planning, how to read your soil test results, and how to set up your Snap Plus plan with UW Outreach Specialist, Jamie Patton, PhD, CPSS
- Come to the class with your soil test results!

Optional Feb. 24th Choose Morning 9:30am – 12:00pm OR Afternoon 1:00 – 3:30pm Session:

- Create field maps and finish up your plan with Resource Conservationist, Cheyenne Behnke, CCA

Location: Manitowoc County Office Complex, 4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc, WI. Room 300

Call 920-683-4183 by February 8 to Register!



The Skinny on Salt

The Wisconsin Salt Wise Partnership is urging homeowners, municipalities, and private contractors to make a commitment to reduce salt use this winter. Using excess salt harms plants and animals, pollutes water, damages buildings and corrodes vehicles, roads and bridges. Once you put salt down, it doesn't go away. Instead, it travels into lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands, putting aquatic life at risk and endangering our freshwater resources. Salt also alters the composition of soil, slows plant growth and weakens the concrete, brick and stone that make up our homes, garages, bridges, and roads.

Believe it or not, just a coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. Scatter the scatter salt so the pattern should look like the image above.

Other strategies include:

Shovel: Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.

Sweep: Sweep excess salt from walkways and parking lots after a snow event, especially before a rain event to prevent salt from washing down the storm drain to our waterways.

Switch: When pavement temps drop below 15, salt composed of sodium chloride won't work. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works in lower temperatures.

Love the lines: the stripes on roadways before a storm are made of anti-icing brine. Using brine can reduce overall salt use by 70%! If you see brine lines, you know that your winter maintenance crew is protecting public safety while saving time, money and caring for the environment.

Be Salt Wise all year! The salt you put in your water softener ends up in local freshwater streams. New, efficient softeners use less than one bag per month. If you're using more – have a professional tune yours up – or, replace it with a high-efficiency model.

For more information visit: www.wisaltwise.com



WINTER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Winter reminds us that everyone and everything needs some quiet time to rest, reflect, and gear up for the year ahead. It's also a great time to learn something new. Grab a cup of coffee or hot cocoa and snuggle up to one these winter learning opportunities.

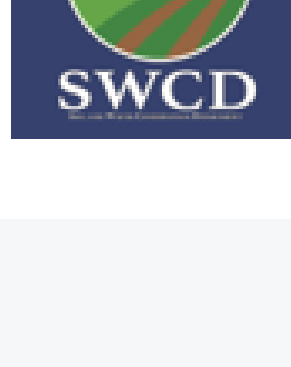
Click [here](#) for Winter Learning Opportunities.

Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department

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