



April is here and spring has not sprung... but SWCD staff have! Today I share a list of current departmental activities and a few new initiatives staff have sprung... read on if interested in hearing more on the mobile learning lab trailer, producer led group, comprehensive groundwater testing initiative, Chapter 28 Ordinance 5-Year Forms, manure and nutrient management education efforts and if interested in being a Land Conservation Committee Community Representative.

Department Updates



Celebrating Stewardship, Community, and the Land We Call Home

As spring begins to unfold across Manitowoc County, it brings with it two meaningful opportunities to reconnect with the land and with each other --**Earth Day (April 22)** and **Arbor Day (April 24)**.

These celebrations are more than just dates on a calendar -- they're reminders that the small actions we take, collectively, can have a lasting impact on our soil, water, and

community.

[Local Ways to Get Involved](#)

[Give Your Soil Some Love](#)

[Celebrate at Home \(or on Your Own Land\)](#)

[Pick Up Where You Are](#)

[Plant Something with Purpose](#)

[Start a Conversation](#)

[Protect Our Water](#)

Why It Matters Here

In Manitowoc County, our connection to the land runs deep-- from working farms to wooded areas to the shoreline of Lake Michigan. The choices we make locally directly impact water quality, soil health, and the long-term sustainability of our community.

Earth Day and Arbor Day remind us that stewardship isn't just something we celebrate -- it's something we practice every day.

If you'd like to learn more about conservation programs, cost-share opportunities, or ways to get involved locally, we're here to help.

Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department

[Manitowoc County - Soil and Water Conservation - Manitowoc County](#)

A graphic titled "SPRING SPREADING Reminders" with a background image of a manure spreader in a field. The text includes: "As we move into the growing season, manure and nutrient application increases—right alongside spring rains." and a quote: "April showers bring May flowers"... and potential runoff." Below the quote is a dark green button that says "BEFORE YOU SPREAD:".

SPRING SPREADING
Reminders

As we move into the growing season, manure and nutrient application increases—right alongside spring rains.

*"April showers bring May flowers"...
and potential runoff.*

BEFORE YOU SPREAD:

Stay Ahead of Runoff Risk

As we head into the growing season, manure and nutrient applications ramp up -- right alongside spring rains. A quick check before you spread can save nutrients, protect water quality, and keep you in compliance.

Remember: "April showers bring May flowers"... and potential runoff.

✓ **Before You Spread:**

- **Check the Mobile Manure Restriction Map**

View real-time field conditions and restrictions to avoid high-risk areas.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0e136c2ae604433d8e165b9c61d0e9a4/>

- **Review the Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast**

Get up-to-date weather and runoff risk predictions before heading out.

<https://runoffriskadvisory.wi.gov/>

- **Watch the Forecast Window**
Rain in the next 24-48 hours? Consider delaying application.
- **Know Your Fields**
Be extra cautious on frozen ground, saturated soils, steep slopes, and near surface water or conduits.
- **Protect Your Nutrients**
Keeping nutrients where they belong = better crop use + improved water quality

A few extra minutes of planning can prevent a seasons worth of problems.

☐ Questions? Contact Manitowoc County SWCD—we're here to help. 920-683-4183



☐ **ATTENTION FARMERS: Don't Leave Money on the Field!**

The 2026 Cover Crop Cost-Share Application is officially LIVE—and funds will be gone before you can finish your morning coffee.

Last year, these funds disappeared in record time. With increased payment rates, cost-share goes fast. If you've been thinking about trying cover crops or expanding your current acreage, now is the time to lock in your funding.

What you need to apply:



Your intended field locations



2026 Crop & planned cover crop species and rate



Total estimated acreage



10 minutes of your time



2026 Cost Share Rates (Per Acre)

Multispecies Cover Crop = \$75/acre

Single Species (that overwinters) = \$60/acre

Single Species Cover Crop = \$34/acre

[Sign-Up Here](#)

We have tree planters for rent if you need one!! Please call the office to get a spot reserved as it could fill up fast 920-683-4183.

See Tree planter [Rental Agreement](#) if interested in reserving it.



TREE PLANTERS AVAILABLE FOR RENT



920-683-4183

If you plant it, they will come!

POLLINATOR HABITAT

SEED KITS

ATTRACT BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, BEES, & WILDLIFE

**\$16 PER KIT
(COVERS 1,000 SQ. FT.)**

The mix contains: Bergamont, Black-Eyed Susan, Butterfly Milkweed, Canada Milkvetch, Common Milkweed, Culver's Root, Evening Primrose, Yellow Coneflower, Foxglove, Beardtongue, Giant Hyssop, Smooth Blue Aster, Hoary Vervain, Lance-Leaf Coreopsis, Mountain Mint, New England Aster, Ox-eye Sunflower, Partridge Pea, White Prairie

Clover, Prairie Cinquefoil, Purple Prairie Clover, Large Beardtongue, Little Bluestream and Sideoats Grama. ***Suitable for full sun locations.***

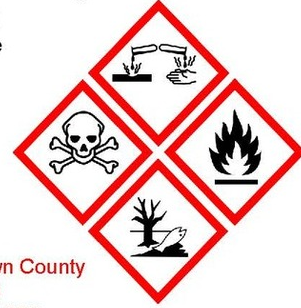
Can be purchased at the Soil and Water Conservation Department from 8:30-4:30 Monday thru Friday.(4319 Expo Drive) ***Call ahead to make sure seed kits are available. Currently we are waiting on seed.* 920-683-4183**



Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep 2026



Many common items like automotive products, household cleaners, pesticides, and home improvement products are hazardous when used, stored, or disposed of improperly. Look for items that contain the following on their labels: **Danger, Warning, Caution, Poison, Combustible, Flammable, Corrosive, and Toxic.**



Thanks to our participants and volunteers, since our collection started in 1985, we have collected 1,260,093 pounds of unwanted chemicals.

NEW—Residents can bring acceptable household hazardous waste items to the Brown County Hazardous Waste Facility **free** of charge throughout 2026. For more information on the Brown County partnership program visit our website at Recycling.manitowoccountywi.gov.

MANITOWOC COUNTY EVENT

Residents

- Saturday, May 16, 9am - Noon
Manitowoc County Highway Shop
3500 HWY 310, Manitowoc
NEW—Truck bed full and trailer full loads must register by May 8 (see back)

Farms and Businesses

- Friday, May 15, 2pm - 4pm
Manitowoc County Highway Shop
3500 HWY 310, Manitowoc
Must register by May 8 (see back)

FREE!
For Households
and Farms

SAVINGS!
For Businesses

REDUCTION IS YOUR FIRST CHOICE!

Before you buy:

- Read the labels
- Choose safer alternatives
- Buy smallest amount needed for the job

After you buy:

- Follow directions for safe use
- Store properly in the original container
- Share what you can't use
- Dispose of leftovers properly

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Pesticides

- Insecticides/Rodenticides
- Herbicides/Fungicides
- Other poisonous repellents and banned chemicals (DDT)

Paints/Solvents

- Varnishes/Shellacs
- Turpentine /Thinners
- Lead Based Paints
- Oil Based Paints
- Aerosols
- Wood Preservatives
- Paint Strippers

Cleaners/Cleaners

- Oven Cleaners
- Spot Removers
- Polishes

Other Materials

- Nicotine Vape Pens
- Contaminated Oil
- Hydraulic Oil
- Gasoline
- Bulk Mercury, Mercury Devices and Compounds
- Acids/Bases
- Mothballs
- Pool Chemicals
- Photographic Chemicals
- Used Oil and Filters
(consider using local options for used oil and filters)
- Antifreeze

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- **LATEX PAINT***
- Explosives such as ammunition
- Radioactive materials like smoke detectors
- Compressed gas tanks and high pressure cylinders such as fire extinguishers and propane tanks
- Unknown chemicals
- Tires
- Infectious and biological waste including sharps and needles
- Electronics including light bulbs, ballasts, televisions, batteries
- Appliances
- Freon gases
- Pharmaceuticals
- THC/Cannabis Vape Pens

Manitowoc County may modify guidelines at any time to meet the needs of the program.

Other disposal or recycling options exist for many unacceptable items.

Contact the Manitowoc County Recycling Center at 683-4333 or visit Recycling.manitowoccountywi.gov

***All residents are encouraged to dispose of latex paint in their regular trash. Just take the lid off and let it dry or add paint hardener or cat litter. Once hardened, latex paint can be disposed of in the trash.**



Printable Flyer

ESPAÑOL

UPCOMING EVENTS





SnapPlus Version 3: Webinar Training Series

Join Extension, DATCP, and the SnapPlus Team to walk through new features in SnapPlus Version 3. This latest release of the software includes new maps, and easier ways to add crops and grazing schedules.

SnapPlus (Soil Nutrient Application Planner) is Wisconsin's nutrient management planning software that helps farmers make the best use of their on-farm nutrients and make informed decisions about commercial fertilizer purchases.

Each webinar will have:

- 45-60 minute tutorial on a new feature
- 30 minute "office hour" where you can meet with staff one-on-one to ask your specific questions

All webinars will run from 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. **Registration is free.**

[Register for trainings](#)

Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department

4319 Expo Drive, P.O. Box 935

Manitowoc, WI 54221-0935

P: 920.683.4183



Contact Information

Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department

4319 Expo Drive, P.O. Box 935

Manitowoc, WI 54221-0935

920-683-4183

Website: <https://manitowocountywi.gov/departments/soil-and-water-conservation>

Facebook: Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation

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