



250 years and another July has almost passed!

The "Current" newsletter is a quarterly note on recent and upcoming activities within the Soil & Water Conservation Department (SWCD), farming community and conservation partners. The newsletter doesn't include every activity going on, as there are many more active conservation minded organizations, associations, farms and citizens dedicating time and resources to improve the land, water and soil in Manitowoc County than we document here. The SWCD has historically played an important role in starting and supporting many of the conservation partner groups in the County, and continues to do so. The main goal was to engage as many like-minded individuals in meaningful relationships to pursue actions in the best interests of the resources and community. The SWCD could not do it alone, but one field, one person, one group at a time fixes a problem, builds a relationship and supports continued collaboration and success.

Please glance over a few things we have to share below and take time to reflect on all things you can be thankful for and what you have accomplished. Staff here are thankful for being able to work with you as we try new practices and efforts.

Pine Creek Surface Water Grant Wrapped Up

Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department recently wrapped up the Pine Creek Watershed Surface Water Grant, a multi-year effort focused on reducing phosphorus and sediment runoff to Pine and Calvin Creeks. Through the grant, SWCD worked with local producers and landowners to install conservation practices including a wetland restoration, harvestable buffers, and grassed waterways. Together, these grant-funded practices are estimated to reduce phosphorus by 487.61 pounds per year, sediment by 434.46 tons per year, and nitrogen by 773.11 pounds per year. That sediment reduction is roughly equal to keeping 43 dump truck loads of soil out of local waterways each year. While the grant is complete, the partnerships and momentum built through this project will continue supporting long-term water quality improvement in the Pine Creek Watershed.

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 Bluestem 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, Manitowoc)

OUTREACH UPDATE



Working Together in Targeted Watersheds

Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department recently hosted a stakeholder meeting for farmers and landowners in Subbasins S51 and S52 as part of our TMDL Implementation Pilot Project.

The meeting brought together local producers, landowners, conservation staff, and partners to begin a focused conversation about water quality, soil health, and conservation opportunities in these priority areas. Most importantly, it created space to listen to the people who know this land best.

Through the pilot project, our department will be focusing cost share dollars, technical assistance, and

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crops, reduced tillage, low disturbance manure injection, harvestable buffers, grassed waterways, barnyard runoff improvements, and other conservation practices that help reduce phosphorus and sediment losses.

While water quality is an important goal, these practices can also support farm-level benefits such as building soil health, improving field access, reducing erosion, making better use of challenging acres, and helping manage input costs.

Collaboration is key to the success of this effort. Meaningful conservation happens when farmers, landowners, local partners, and conservation staff work together to identify practical solutions that fit real fields and real operations.

If you farm or own land in Subbasins S51 or S52 and would like to learn more, Manitowoc County SWCD staff can help review your fields, explain available program options, and

discuss possible cost-share opportunities.

To participate or ask questions, contact Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department at 920-683-4183.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE WELL WATER SCREENING FOR NITRATES AT THE MANITOWOC COUNTY FAIR!

Private well owners should have their water
tested at least once per year.

August 26-30, 2026

BRING 1/2 CUP OF WELL WATER IN
A CLEAN BOTTLE TO THE
MERCHANT BUILDING FOR AN
ON-SITE SCREENING!

NOT GOING TO THE FAIR? DROP IT
OFF AT THE SWCD OFFICE DURING
FAIR WEEK.



Manitowoc County Soil & Water
Conservation Department
4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc

? Call: 920-683-4183

Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department Offers Free Well Water Screening for Nitrates at the Manitowoc County Fair

The Manitowoc County Soil & Water Conservation Department (SWCD), is pleased to announce a free well water screening for nitrates at the upcoming Manitowoc County Fair, August 26-30, and all well owners are encouraged to participate.

Nitrates are naturally occurring compounds that can be found in groundwater. While small amounts of nitrates are generally not harmful, excessive levels can pose a risk to human health, particularly for infants, pregnant women, and individuals with certain health conditions. Nitrates can enter groundwater from various sources, including fertilizers, animal waste, and septic systems.

Regular testing of well water is essential to ensure the safety and quality of drinking water. By participating in this free well water screening, Manitowoc County residents can take a proactive step in safeguarding their health and the well-being of their families.

[More information here](#)

WATCH FOR IT >> LDMI FIELD DAY

AT **LIBERTYLAND FARMS INC.**

**CAN WE MAKE LOW-DISTURBANCE
MANURE INJECTION WORK
BETTER FOR LOCAL FIELDS?**

A practical, in-the-field demonstration featuring toolbar adjustments, manure application rates, and cover crops seeded ahead of LDMI.

WATCH FOR FINAL DATE, TIME, AND REGISTRATION DETAILS!
More information coming soon.



TOOLBAR ADJUSTMENTS

Can adjustments make the Zimmerman toolbar leave less disturbance and a smoother field?



MANURE APPLICATION RATES

See different rates and what that means for field conditions.



COVER CROPS BEFORE LDMI

Drone seeded cover crops a couple weeks before application. See the results in person.



1ST OR 2ND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER

Watch for the date soon!



Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department

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Contact Information
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