



***Helping People
Help the Land***

**Wisconsin
State Outreach Report
FY2011**

December, 2011

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State Outreach Activities

Outreach to Women and Hispanic Farmers

- Wisconsin NRCS conducted an extensive outreach campaign in 2011 to inform potential claimants about the Women and Hispanic Farmer/Rancher Claims process resulting from the USDA Garcia-Love class action lawsuits. The Claims Process is open to anyone who feels that USDA improperly denied them farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because they are Hispanic, Latino, or female. Wisconsin NRCS, FSA and RD coordinated extensive outreach and notice efforts to Hispanic and/or women farmer and rancher communities so that all eligible farmers and ranchers could learn about this option and were provided an opportunity to participate.
- Weekly reports were submitted to the NRCS national office from June through October, 2011.

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

WTCAC continues to serve as the primary forum for tribal conservation and resource issues and program participation. NRCS staff serve as liaisons to all of the 11 tribes, with two dedicated staff for programs and technical resource conservation assistance.

Tribal TSP Agreement with College of Menominee Nation

Wisconsin NRCS began a pilot project, funded through USDA, to develop identifying and training tribal members who are interested in earning NRCS certification as a Technical Service Provider to develop forest management and wildlife Conservation Activity Plans. As tribal members, these planners will be uniquely qualified to address the cultural as well as technical issues involved in the development of a Conservation Activity Plan. Specific work products include establishment of a tribal TSP working group to advise NRCS on implementation of the process, identifying potential candidates to participate in the training, coordinate the training and certification with the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, identify training needs unique to the development of CAP's on tribal lands and provide support to training participants to complete the NRCS TechReg certification process.

Exhibits and Events

NRCS exhibited at 52 Conferences and Educational Events, including Women in Farming Conference, FFA Career Fair and numerous events attracting small and beginning farmers. Special initiative taken to disseminate information at these events on Hispanic-Women Farmer Claims Process.

Publications

- Completion of the WTCAC Report for 2011. Worked with all tribal contacts to finalize submissions.
- Several publications were finalized that targeted Hmong and Spanish producers to encourage participation in EQIP.
- Publications on farm bill programs translated into Hmong and Spanish.
- Success story on Oneida Nations Farm and Ho-Chunk-Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

Programs - EQIP

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)

- Southwest Badger RC&D, Town & Country RC&D, and NRCS State Office staff collaborated to conduct an informational meeting for conservation partners interested in the FY2011 Request for Proposals for the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative.
- Meetings with individual Land Conservation Departments and Conservation Organizations were conducted to provide information regarding MRBI. Press releases and web sites were utilized to promote existing projects and encourage partner participation. Presentations were conducted for NRCS staff and partners to provide guidance and updates regarding the program.

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)

- Meetings with individual Land Conservation Departments and Conservation Organizations were conducted to provide information regarding CCPI.
- Press releases and web sites were utilized to promote existing projects and encourage partner participation. Presentations were conducted for NRCS staff and partners to provide guidance and updates regarding the program.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

- A tour of the Milwaukee River Watershed was conducted for collaborating GLRI conservation partners to highlight the conservation work being performed by NRCS and partners.

- Press releases, radio interviews, and web sites were utilized to promote existing projects and encourage partner participation. Presentations were conducted for NRCS staff and partners to provide guidance and updates regarding the program.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Through a collaborative effort with Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, outreach efforts were conducted in four counties for the 2011 Stewardship sign-up which included a direct mailing to all agricultural producers located in the county notifying them of the program.
- In partnership with Michael Fields Agricultural Institute and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection; the highest ranking farmer enrollees in the 2011 Stewardship sign-up were recognized for their extemporary soil and water conservation efforts.
- Press releases, radio interviews, and web sites were utilized to promote existing projects and encourage partner participation. Presentations were conducted for NRCS staff and partners to provide guidance and updates regarding the program.
- **CSP Contract with Lac Du Flambeau Chippewa Tribe:** The Lac Du Flambeau Chippewa Tribe was selected for funding under the CSP 2011-1 Signup. This is the first CSP contract with a Tribe in Wisconsin. The contract is serviced by the Rhinelander Service Center and covers 28,449.2 acres of woodland. The tribe will be adding conservation enhancements such as, creating snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris on the forest floor for native wildlife usage and long-term forest soil health. They will also be constructing and installing wildlife structures to benefit targeted species. These species could include cavity-nesting birds, bats, bees, raptors, reptiles, amphibians, and waterfowl. The Tribe will also do hardwood and conifer crop tree release to enhance the health and productivity of individual trees, while improving other resources such as wildlife habitat, recreation, timber value, and aesthetics.

Soils

Onalaska MLRA Soil Survey Office

During FY 2011, Onalaska MLRA Soil Survey Office Staff worked on projects in cooperation with Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) and will provide assistance to WGNHS and UW-Madison as the projects continue to progress.

MLRA Staff provided soil digital products assistance to field office, county soil and water conservation office, and DNR Forestry staff. Kevin Traastad, Donna Ferren Guy, Shaunna Repking, and Mike England worked with field office, county, and DNR staff in St. Croix, Buffalo, La Crosse, and Monroe Counties to help them become more familiar with the variety of Soil Digital Products available to them as well as answer questions about Soil Survey goals. The products presented included such tools as Web Soil Survey, Soil Data Viewer both with and without Toolkit, Geospatial Data Gateway, and Soil Data Mart. The Onalaska MLRA staff will continue to provide this assistance to field office staff as well as county or DNR staff as requested. Requests should be sent to your Area Soil Scientist. Typically the office visits are done during non-peak field season and are as formal or informal as the audience would like. The visits can be one-on-one, as a group, or a combination of both.

On February 7, 2011, Shaunna Repking presented Web Soil Survey during a Woodlands Class in Sparta, WI. The class is sponsored by UW Extension and Wisconsin DNR. This course was offered to teach landowners about the technical information available for them to use when planning the management of their woodlands. Donna Ferren Guy assisted in preparing materials for the class.

On April 18, 2011, Kevin Traastad, Shaunna Repking, and Mike England scored land judging pits for a high school land judging competition sponsored by UW-Platteville. The contest was rained out and the location changed. On May 9th, Kevin Traastad and Shaunna Repking returned to judge the new pits for the contest. Both pits were located near Platteville, WI.

On April 19, 2011, Shaunna Repking gave an Earth Day presentation to Lawrence-Lawler Elementary students. The event was originally planned to be held at the school forest. However, snow began to fall and the event was moved indoors. The students learned about what can be found in soil, what the different horizons in a soil are, and they made their own mini monolith. Since the kids could not go outside to see soil, Shaunna decided to bring the soil in to the kids. Donna Ferren Guy collected soil samples for Shaunna to use in an art project. Shaunna printed a blank monolith on cardstock which she passed out to each student. As she handed the students the materials for each horizon, she would discuss what that horizon is, and the students would use glue to place the materials on the printed monolith. By the end of the lesson, students were able to repeat back the importance of a nice dark A horizon and why it is important to prevent erosion. Each student also gave their unique soils a name.

On May 3 and 4, 2011, Donna Ferren Guy and Shaunna Repking scored land judging pits for a high school land judging competition for Trempealeau County schools. Shaunna acted as Official Judge during the competition. The pits were located just north of Independence, WI.

On June 10, 2011, Shaunna Repking presented Web Soil Survey and other digital soil products to the UW-La Crosse Basic Hydric Soils Course. The course is taught annually by Bob Weihrouch, UW-L instructors, and NRCS Soil Scientists. The students at these

courses are often professionals in the environmental field. During the presentation she instructed the students on the ways to access soil data for use in their professions. Shaunna also assisted as a soils expert during the field portion of the class for that day.

On June 22, 2011, Tim Miland and Shaunna Repking gave a presentation at a 4-H Field Day at the Lost Falls Campground west of Black River Falls, WI. They told the students about what a soil scientist does and they took the students on a walking tour to show them how different soils occur on landscape positions within the campground. They also discussed the geology of the campground area.

In July, Mike England and Shaunna Repking helped set-up the soils pit displays at Farm Technology Days. Shaunna and Mike staffed the soils booths on Tuesday morning and Kevin Traastad and Donna Ferren Guy staffed the soils booths on Thursday. They spoke to fair goers about Web Soil Survey and answered questions people had about soil. They also helped children create a mini-monolith they could take home as a souvenir.

On September 22, 2011, Shaunna Repking gave a presentation at the Crawford County Youth Conservation Day held at Sugar Creek Bible Camp near Ferryville, WI. During the presentation Shaunna took the kids through the steps she goes through while mapping soils. The students learned how to use clues from the landscape to decide where different soils occur. They observed wetland soils, colluvial soils, and buried A horizons. Shaunna also discussed area bedrock geology.

On July 15th, 2011, Michael England and Kyle Reedy assisted as a soils expert during the field portion of the class for that day to the UW-La Crosse Wetland Delineation Soils Course. The course is taught annually by Bob Weihrouch, UW-L instructors, Army Corps of Engineers Scientists, and NRCS Soil Scientists. The students at these courses are often professionals in the environmental field and come from an array of other agencies; such as the Army Corps of Engineers and the private sector.

During FY 2011 the Onalaska Soil Survey office also gave Soil Digital products training to Fillmore County, MN and Dubuque County, IA staff. This can be added to rest of the counties mentioned below.

Kyle Steele (ESD) and Donna Ferren Guy (Soils) co-taught soils and plant relationship class at the Aldo Leopold Center. The class was set up by the Center for the public to sign up

Rhineland Soil Survey Office

- **“Careers in Soils” Trees for Tomorrow**

High school students from various areas of the state were given a basic introduction to soil properties and how they affect people. NRCS soils staff provided information on careers that are available in soils, and how they can get an early start by volunteering or looking for internships. We provided a hands-on session outside where students were able to color, texture, view soil horizons, and learn more about what a soil scientist does on a daily basis.

- **“Farm Technology Days” Marathon County**

The Rhineland SSO was in charge of set up and working the “Soil Pit” at farm technology days. The pit was lined with educational signage and posters that the attendants passing through could view. Soil scientists were stationed in the pit to answer attendant’s questions about soils, as well as explain what we do and how landowners can use our information. There was also a booth where kids could learn about soils by building their own miniature soil profile tube. Numerous people showed interest in Web Soil Survey and were given brochures, bookmarks and magnets with the website and instructions. The Rhinelander soil scientists also assisted Tim Miland with preparing pits for the land judging competition.

- **“Fred Madison’s Class” UW-Madison Nicolet National Forest**

Mark Krupinski assisted Fred Madison teach a hands on soil class in the Nicolet National Forest. Students learned soil mapping techniques as well as soil concepts. Students were also informed about jobs available with the NRCS and what soil scientists do.

NORTHWEST AREA

Ashland Field Office

FSA and NRCS participated in plant give away in Red Cliff in early June. A total of 109 people went through and received plants for their home garden. Remaining plants were moved to the community garden farm and planted for summer production. Program information was distributed and many questions answered.



Gary Haughn, DC in Ashland, provided technical assistance to the Red Cliff with a fish composting facility to help with resource concerns at the fish hatchery.

Balsam Lake Field Office

Polk County NRCS staff assisted at the Tri-County Soil Judging contest, which attracted 83 students representing 6 schools. Due to budget constraints at the FSA and county levels, the semi-annual Service Center newsletter was not published this fall.

Black River Falls Field Office

- Assisted UWEX with a Nutrient Management Planning class to 10 local farmers, discussed NRCS programs.
- JD Armstrong, Farm Bill Biologist for NW, and myself met with the Black River Area Green School called BRAGS. Talked about native grasses to 12 students and assisted in planting a native prairie along a walking trail.
- A series of three articles published in the Wisconsin Agriculturist about featuring conservation in Jackson County. DC Ryan Swatek talked with Harley Bucholz regarding NRCS and how we assist private landowners with conservation.
- Volunteered for Farm Tech Days in Marshfield where I promoted NRCS programs and talked to individuals about NRCS and what we have to offer.
- Worked with Jackson County LCD to be a sponsor for 2 EWP projects in FY2011.

Durand Field Office

Presented at Pepin County Schools Conservation Field Days with over 125 students participating. Reviewed farming conservation practices, soils, and NRCS history.

Worked with four beginning farmers on EQIP program applications with one being female. These turned into 4 funded contracts.

Presented on “Resources for evaluating Existing Systems” at UW Extension Irrigation Management Workshop with over 25 landowners in attendance.



DC Dennis Reimers teaching soils and conservation to Pepin County students.

Ladysmith Field Office

- Contacted DNR Foresters in Rusk and Sawyer to explain CSP Forestry so they can outreach to their clients. Also contacted local consulting forester to explain CSP so these people can reach non-typical, non Farmer clients.
- Made a presentation to Wisconsin Woodland owners meeting on June 18 in Sawyer County. Discussed EQIP, CSP, & Whip programs.
- Materials on EQIP – Seasonal High Tunnels and Rotational Grazing distributed to Ladysmith and Hayward Farmers Markets.
- Materials Distributed to WITC Ag classes on February 16 & 17 on EQIP & Rotational Grazing in Ladysmith and Bruce.
- Materials distributed at UW Extension workshop on Grazing regarding EQIP & Managed Grazing.
- Grazing conference held in Ladysmith on March 10 sponsored by Pru-Ru-Ta.

- Several pasture walks were held between Rusk and Sawyer Counties.
- Continue to work with the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe to ensure their conservation needs are addressed. This resulted in EQIP & WHIP contracts for F.Y. 2011

Menomonie Field Office

The 17th Annual Dunn County Dairy Breakfast was held at the Doug Clark Farm in Boyceville on Saturday, June 4th. NRCS assisted with staffing along with other partners and had an NRCS booth with information about pollinators. Other activities at the breakfast included a petting zoo, antique car and tractor display, craft fair, Dunn County Master Gardener Assn plant sale, and a tour of the farm that included a robotic milking equipment and conservation practices.

Outreach to Historically Underserved producers at the Dunn County Farmers Market: The Dunn County NRCS staff went to the Dunn County Farmer's Market and talked to local producers about NRCS assistance and programs. We visited with over fifteen local historically underserved producers and went over information about NRCS and what practices we have that they can benefit from. We handed out information about Hoop Houses that were translated to Hmong to all of the producers.

Photo below – Ka Ying Vang, SC in Dunn County, talks to Hmong producers at farmers market.



The Flyer for High tunnel was used to promote the EQIP Program and the high tunnel practice

Spooner Field Office

- Met with students from the Spooner FFA and reviewed the Soil Study and Land Evaluation Handbook in preparation for the Tri-County Land Judging Contest.
- Assisted with a diverse group of high school students in the annual Tri-County Land Judging Contest held in Washburn County.
- Discussed soil properties and soil erosion with the 5th grade students at Conservation Field Day in Burnett County.
- Participated in the Washburn County annual report meeting in Shell Lake giving the annual NRCS work report for Washburn to the Washburn Land Conservation Committee.
- Sent News articles throughout the year to the various newspapers in Burnett and Washburn Counties.
- Participated with Rural Development and Farm Service Agency in regards to the Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers outreach.

NORTHEAST AREA

Area Office – Cranberry Liaison

The Cranberry Liaison position is essentially an outreach position with a goal of reaching a historically underserved group of farmers. Julie Ammel, located in the NE area, provided numerous newsletter articles and participated in organized events and meetings as outreach to specialty crop/cranberry growers throughout 2011. Both women farmers and new farmers are now involved with NRCS through this outreach.

- 8 articles were written in 2011 for the WSCGA monthly newsletter.
- an article for the Jan/2011 Cranberry School proceedings book promoting cranberry conservation with NRCS
- article for the 2011 Summer Meeting promoting many of the programs available to cranberry growers and encouraging them to participate (attached).
- sent out an announcement flyer for EQIP sign up to all listed cranberry growers
- manned a display promoting NRCS and conservation at Cranberry School (Jan), Dairy-Berry Breakfast (June) and the Summer Meeting (Aug). At both the Dairy-Berry Breakfast (approx 400 people) and Summer Meeting (approx 1000 people)
- displayed the information concerning Hispanic and Women Farmers at these events.
- Organized and presented at two Cranberry Nutrient Management Trainings (April) in which many of the participants were “new” customers and we also had some women farmers in attendance.

- As acting DC in Waukesha, sent out the info on Hispanic and Women Farmers to 3 different newspaper sources.

Appleton Field Office

- We took part in the Oneida Nation school program at the Oneida Nation Farm on April 14, 2011. FSA and NRCS set up an information booth for the students (along with the FFA) to provide information to students on NRCS careers, volunteer opportunities, and the FSA youth loan program. We also included some general farm facts – playing a question and answer game with the kids providing prizes to those students that got answers right. Approximately 30 Native American students participate in the event.
- A multi agency effort, organized by the LCD involving DNR, NRCS, DATCP, UW-Ext and the private sector, to educate 4th and 5th graders from 15 Outagamie County schools. The 47th Annual Conservation Field Days was a huge success with approximately 900 students attending the 3-day event on September 20-23, 2011. Public and private schools in the county are invited to attend, including the Oneida Nation and Parochial schools. The Field Days offers an outdoor teaching/learning environment with 9 different stations setup throughout a working farm. The students rotate to all the stations throughout the day to learn about soils (at the soils pit), geology (at the on-site quarry), forestry, wildlife, recycling, and farm practices. Minority groups were represented with approximately 2% being African American, 5% Hispanic and 5% Hmong.
- Field office staff also assisted with the Winnebago County Youth Fields Days and Waupaca Field Days.
- News articles with NRCS program information and contacts were regularly submitted to the papers, placed on UW Extension's website as well as placed for publication in UW-Extension's quarterly newsletter.
- Outreach was made to the Hmong Community by inviting the Community Garden Coordinator to the LWG mtg. Hoping that with her connections to the Hmong community, we can reach Hmong producers with program and technical assistance.

Luxemburg Field Office

- Continued to offer technical assistance to a Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and to Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers with EQIP contracts

- Provided program and technical assistance to 1 Limited Resource Farmer and 7 Beginning Farmers; of these four EQIP contracts were completed with Beginning Farmers and one Limited Resource Farmer
- In the 2011 EQIP signup, two female producers and one disabled producer received EQIP contracts.

Manitowoc Field Office

- The District Conservationist teamed up with the Manitowoc County Lakes Association President to promote water quality and wildlife habitat a 3 separate meetings throughout the year. The first meeting was in January and that was directly to the Lakes Association board members to get the thoughts on the presentation and see if this is something they would like to support. The presentation covered several of the USDA's programs available to landowners, but specifically talked about CREP/Continuous CRP for filter strips, riparian buffers, and shallow water areas for wildlife. The board liked the presentation and it was given at two other meetings. One of those meetings was to the Manitowoc County Fish & Game Association and the other was to the Friends of the Branch River spring meeting. The audiences on both these meetings were very interested in the presentation. They were also a unique audience in that they may have owned some land or know someone that owns land and would like to utilize the programs and NRCS's technical assistance to help the land.
- The District Conservationist was also asked to talk at the local co-ops winter meeting for producers in the county about Nitrogen Management and what NRCS has to offer. The DC talked about the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program. As far as CStP, the main focus was on the enhancements that targeted Nitrogen Management how they benefit the environment. For EQIP, the focus was on Practice 590 and the VRT scenarios.

Merrill Field Office

Pam Denzine (SCT) and Peggy Lane (DC), worked with potato growers in Langlade County. We contracted 8 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts for >15,000 acres with potato growers. This is a significant accomplishment for all Merrill field office employees since these growers had not previously participated in any NRCS programs or worked with NRCS for technical assistance. Something that we learned from our outreach was that variable frequency drives on fans in potato storage buildings

conserve a lot of energy, as one farmer showed us, but in CSP the activity is not eligible on headquarters (it has to be done on cropland). We have shared what we learned with the area and state office to see if the activity eligibility could be reconsidered for future sign-ups. We look forward to working with these producers for the next 5 years and we are hopeful other potato producers will also sign-up for NRCS conservation programs.

Michael Stinebrink as acting DC in Merrill attended a strawberry growers meeting in Langlade County in early August. There were at least 50 people in attendance. Michael described NRCS programs that strawberry farmers may be eligible for. This was a great programs outreach opportunity, but at this time has not resulted in any additional applications or requests for technical assistance.

Oconto Field Office

October 2010

District Conservationist Jeff Maroszek hosted an NRCS program informational meeting for local agronomist. The five agronomists that attended the session were able to ask questions directly in a group setting regarding changes to EQIP, the new CSP, and requirements associated with each program. Having local agronomists onboard with promoting EQIP and CSP helped increase the number of contracts received in Oconto County by 150% in 2010 and 2011 compared to 2009.

March 2011

Hosted a CRP landowner workshop in Oconto Falls. Informational meeting put on to explain the options for expiring CRP contracts. This event was attended by 4 landowners.

Summer 2011

The Oconto Field Office hosted a college student one day per week as an Earth Team Volunteer. This “job shadowing” experience showed him what NRCS does and gave him a knowledge base for future career decisions.



August 2011

Along with UW-Extension, District Conservationist, Jeff Maroszek, presented at a High Tunnel Workshop. He discussed the EQIP High Tunnel pilot project with the attendees, making them aware of the cost share opportunities. This event was also covered by “The Country Today” farm paper highlighting EQIP. It was attended by 25 people from northeast Wisconsin. It also resulted in at least one High Tunnel EQIP application for FY2012.



Oshkosh Field Office

In December, 2010 Merrie Schamberger took part in a meeting with UW-Extension, WI DATCP, and Winnebago County Land and Water Dept to add input to an Agricultural Impact Statement for the City of Oshkosh “James Road Storm-water Detention Basin”. The City of Oshkosh wants to condemn a Winnebago County farmer’s land in order to put a storm-water detention basin for the city of Oshkosh. This will take about 55 acres

out of production. NRCS and LWCD offered other solutions to condemnation of the farmland, mainly CRP, CREP, WRP and EQIP practices.

On 1/20/11, Pat gave a 15+ min power-point presentation entitled, “Wetland determinations, Labels, Maintenance, and the Farm Bill” to over 100 individuals at a UW-EX event entitled, “The Art and Science of Agricultural Drainage Tile”. The purpose of the presentation was to explain how the wetland conservation provisions of the Farm Bill apply to the installation and maintenance of drain tile and the process involved in granting permission to do so. The session included a lengthy and spirited Q&A. The audience was primarily farmers, with some agency people, contractors, and vendors.

February 23 Merrie attended the Oshkosh Community Garden Partners planning meeting to kick-off the 2011 growing season. FSA and NRCS will once again have a joint “People’s Garden” this year.

On 2-24-11 Pat gave two presentations on NRCS employment to two groups of students (26 total students) from FVTC environmental studies classes as part of a LWCD-sponsored conservation career day and tour.

March 24, 2011 Pat prepared an informational handout for a meeting with Wisconsin DOT, DNR, and affected landowners along Hwy 41 expansion. The DOT has been contacting farmers along the Hwy 41 corridor asking if they want free fill for their “low spots” which happen in most cases to be wetlands. Some of the farmers have come in for wetland determinations and now, to speed things up, the DOT wants information for several farmers in specific areas. The Land and Water Dept hosted a meeting of agencies to get them all on the same page.

March 29-31 WPS Farm Show at the EAA grounds in Oshkosh. NRCS shared a display area with FSA and LWCD of Winnebago County. Pat and Merrie had EQIP and CSP information and networked with farmers from around the state.

April 21st Merrie served as a moderator for the soils station at the **Envirothon** in Rosholt, WI.

On April 28th Merrie’s daughter, Molly, came to work for “Take your Sons and Daughter to Work Day”, Molly helped with filing, doing a slide review for a wetland determination, and doing a post-burn inspection on CRP.



May 3rd, **Conservation Field Day for Winnebago county schools.** Merrie and Pat staffed the soils area for the day and shared soils info with 125 4th and 5th graders. (Photos by Patrick Lake)





Saturday, May 7th, Merrie participated in an outreach event at Memorial Park in Oshkosh celebrating “**Migratory Bird Week**”. She had a “Backyard Conservation” display and provided educational information to local residents. This was the first year this was held, in conjunction with Oshkosh receiving a “Bird City” designation from the State. Approximately 50 people attended the event, which featured a wildlife rehabilitator, a DNR bird banding area, bird watching areas with spotting scopes and binoculars, Wild Ones, The Nature Conservancy, UW-Extension, Buttes des Morts Conservation Club, and the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW) representative.

Pat and Merrie staffed the NRCS booth at Farm Technology Days in Marathon County on July 14th. We assisted a variety of customers with resource and informational interests.

Merrie organized 4 town hall meetings in Winnebago County in order to inform the agriculture community and rural landowners about conservation assistance programs available to them. About 900 invites went out and a total of 35 people ended up attending the sessions around the county.

Merrie sent information about High Tunnel/Hoop Houses to a farmer that rents part of his farm to market growers in the hopes he may install one through EQIP to benefit his gardeners.

On August 18th Merrie met with a reporter from The Country Today at Tom Wrchota’s Cattleana Ranch in Omro to discuss the nitrogen study Tom is doing through CSP. We also talked about EQIP funded pastures and the unique benefit his cows share with cattle egrets.



Merrie delivered NRCS career and volunteer information to Neenah High School in August and spoke with a guidance counselor about the Earth Team and the need for HS students to volunteer before graduation.

Merrie has contacted UW-Stevens Point, as part of her GLBT SEPM duties, Gay Student Alliance (GSA) to disseminate information about NRCS careers and Earth Team opportunities.



Merrie and Pat planted a “Peoples Garden” once again at the Sherman Road Community garden site in Oshkosh. They donated a total of 54 pounds of produce to various soup kitchens in Neenah and Oshkosh. Vegetables donated include green beans, zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, and squash. Unfortunately, the later part of the harvest was ruined by bugs.

The garden shortly after planting this spring.

Rhineland Field Office

DC/Tribal Liaison conducted direct outreach to all three of the tribes in the area – Lac du Flambeau Chippewa, Forest County Potawatomi, and Sokaogon Chippewa – by making personal appointments to meet with their professional staff to explain EQIP, WHIP, and CSP. This resulted in EQIP contracts for all 3 tribes, WHIP contracts for 2 of the 3, and the first tribal CSP contract, in Wisconsin, for one of the tribes. The CSP contract covers 27,000 acres of forestland of the Lac du Flambeau tribe.

Shawano and Menominee Counties

Outreach through Education

NRCS organized and Alan Tauchen hosted a fall (November 9, 2010) and a late summer (September 7, 2011) tour of his heifer grazing operation. The fall tour focused on fencing, pasture establishment, and how to introduce the cattle to the pasture lay-out. The late summer tour focused on “How did the first grazing season go?”, the economics of grazing and the overall successes of the operation. Both tours were well attended with 25 to 30 farmers from Shawano and well as surrounding counties which included several Amish and women farmers.

Teamed up with Waupaca County NRCS and set-up the NRCS career booth at the Clintonville Career Fair, April 2011. This annual event invites 8th graders from Shawano, Waupaca, and Menominee counties to explore career opportunities. This year’s event was attended by approximately 1,000 students.

New and Beginning Farmer

Developed three 2011 EQIP contracts with Beginning Farmer certification.
Developed one 2011 CSP contract with Beginning Farmer certification.

Stevens Point Field Office

November 11, 2010 – Kevin Halvorson met the local chapter of the Trout Unlimited and discussed and made a presentation regarding the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and its benefits. There were about 20 people in attendance, 5 were women.

February 19, 2011 – Kevin Halvorson met with a group of Portage County lake residents, in Amherst to discuss current conservation easement options available through NRCS and what various assistance NRCS can provide to landowners. There were over 30 people in attendance, 13 were women.

March 31, 2011 – Melissa Knipfel and Jesse Turk went to the Bannach Elementary School to educate approximately 50 students on the soil profile. The students participated in the activity by creating a soil profile using Chocolate and Vanilla pudding, chocolate chips, gummi worms/bugs and oreo cookies. The students were able to ask and answer general question regarding soils and conservation. At the end of the presentation the students enjoyed eating the edible soil that they helped build.

April 21, 2011 – Melissa Knipfel was signed up to assist with 2011 Wisconsin Envirothon, due to program contracting at the time; Bill Ebert went in her place and volunteered as a Runner. A runner acts as a liaison between stations, groups, advisors, guests and registration. Bill took pictures of all of the stations and action shots of students taking their various exams. This year there were eight high School teams that attended; each team had 5 students and 1 advisor.

May 10, 2011 – Megan Buckley had contacted the NRCS FO to assist with her UWSP soils class in March. In April, Melissa Knipfel asked Bill Ebert to take the lead on this project. Bill led the students on a tour of conservation practices throughout Portage County. During the tour Bill had the opportunity to discuss the role of NRCS staff, NRCS programs and how NRCS assists landowners with conservation practices.

June 5, 2011 – Melissa Knipfel (NRCS) assisted FSA by volunteering to serve milk during the Marathon County Dairy Breakfast. We both wore our agency shirts and hats and greeted many landowner/producers that work with the Wausau Service Center.

July 14, 2011 – Melissa Knipfel worked the general NRCS booth in the Conservation Tent at the Farm Technology Days in Marathon County. Melissa fielded question regarding pollinators and NRCS programs, handed out information regarding the Hispanic and/or Women farmers and ranchers compensation for claims of discrimination to one person.

Throughout the summer of 2011, the Portage County Field Office had information available to anyone that wanted information regarding the Hispanic and/or Women Farmers and Ranchers Compensation for claims. The Portage County area was well covered with assistance from the Farm Service Agency and Rural Development.

Waupaca Field Office

- The NRCS office wrote an article that was published in the summer UWEX newsletter which explained how producers can stay in compliance with wetland and HEL regulations.
- The NRCS staff and several landowners invited a reporter from the Waupaca County Post to come to the field office to discuss concerns about Spotted

Knapweed. Following the interview, an article was published in the Post, highlighting the resource concerns caused by knapweed, what landowners can do to control it, and which NRCS programs are available to assist landowners with control.

- On September 23rd, Waupaca County held its annual Conservation Field Day at Hartmann Creek State Park. The Adam Abel, Pat Lake and Lisa Neuenfeldt spoke to over 200 5th graders throughout the day about the importance of conserving soil, how to make their own soil profile and went on a soil scavenger hunt.



- Lisa was a guest lecturer at a field biology class conducted by Perdue University-Calumet Campus. The class consisted of mainly minority and non-traditional students. The lecture topics included the history and demise of the tall grass prairie, types of prairie, prairie restoration and invasive species management.
- The office approved four contracts with female producers; one of which was also a beginning farmer. Two contracts with organic producers were also approved; one of which was a beginning farmer.

Wausau Field Office

Marathon NRCS staff provided technical assistance to an Amish customer for a stream crossing.

The *Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims* flyers were available at the NRCS booths during Farm Tech Days July 12, 13 and 14 in Marathon County.

The Permanent Trellis at the USDA Service Center grew Sugar Snap peas in the *Peoples Garden* (until the deer came and ate them all).

We have an EQIP contract with the Boy Scouts (new customer) to do stream bank protection along with fish habitat structures.

There were 7 EQIP Organic Initiative contracts funded for FY11. Some of the organic growers are new customers that we have never worked with before.

Wisconsin Rapids Field Office

- SCT started a Soil and Water Conservation Merit badge project with 10 Boy Scouts, he also gave a presentation to 6 Cub Scouts on Backyard Conservation.
- Set up and staffed an NRCS display at the Wisconsin Rapids Dairy-Berry Breakfast, over 1300 people attended the event, included in the display were several publications that have been translated into the Hmong language for distribution.
- Brief technical assistance to 21 female landowners.
- Assisted two female farmers with 2011 EQIP applications that were approved for funding and are now new contracts, assisted two female landowners with 2011-1 CSP applications that were approved for funding and are now a new CSP Cropland and NIPF contracts, also assisted three other female landowners with implementation of their existing EQIP and CRP-SAFE contracts.
- Provided NRCS career information to 12 MSTC students during a classroom lecture and a conservation field trip organized by NRCS for an urban forestry class.
- One female Earth Team Volunteer worked 4 hours for the fiscal year.
- Assisted one female limited resource farmer with an application of the WRP on two tracts of land, currently FO staff is still working on survey and preliminary planning to submit to the state office for potential funding in 2012.

SOUTHWEST AREA

Richland Area Office

The southwest area implemented direct mailings to all female landowners in the 11 counties in the SW area. Mailings included a brochure explaining NRCS programs and assistance, and also included information on the USDA Hispanic/Women Farmer Claims Process, and where to get information for those who may have been discriminated against in the FSA loan programs. The mailings were as follows:

- Crawford – 54 letters – July 5th
- Grant – 197 letters – June 27th
- Green – 232 Letters – August 8th
- Iowa – 334 letters – August 15th
- Juneau – 67 letters – July 18th
- LaCrosse – 112 letters – September 26th
- Lafayette – 15 letters – August 22nd
- Monroe – 237 letters – July 25th
- Richland – 221 letters – July 11th
- Vernon – 192 letters – June 20th
- Sauk – 21 letters – August 1st

Darlington Field Office

- Organized and worked the Lafayette County Earth Day Event which showcased conservation to over 200 5th grade students
- Worked with female producers on CRP, EQIP, and WHIP
- Worked with 4 Amish producers
- Assisted with High School Land Judging competition

Dodgeville Field Office

- Worked with SEPM to recruit a veteran as a STEP for 2011.
- Initiated process to diversify Local Work Group through targeted invitations, resulting in the addition of female and specialty crop representation on the group for both 2011 and 2012 meetings.

- Presented to all Iowa Co 6th grade classes at Conservation Observance Day at the Iowa Co. Farm
- Contracts (1-EQIP) was developed with female producer
- Contracts (3-EQIP, 1CStP) were developed with historically underserved producers
- Submitted public release announcements to local radio and newspapers detailing the EQIP, WHIP, and CSP signups
- Staffed an EQIP/CSP display at the Iowa Co Farmers Appreciation Day.
- Assisted in targeted mailing to all female producers in county.

Lancaster Field Office

- Worked with UW Platteville on the high school land judging contest
 - assisted in judging the soil pits when they were dug prior to the contest. Answered questions and helped the students understand why the soil pits were classified the way they were.
- Presented at Iowa-Grant high school earth day and planted trees with biology students.
 - DC presented information about NRCS jobs and how we help private landowners. One class planted trees in the morning and the other class came out in the afternoon and planted the rest of the trees.
- Assisted LWCD with farmer written nutrient management class
 - NRCS staff assisted farmers with soil testing and writing their own plans using Snap Plus. The class is held at UW Platteville during the winter. Husbands and wives wrote the plans together. Twelve landowners went through the class and all of them had an approved nutrient management plan when they left.
- Display at new Fair Building grand opening
 - The new fair building opened in May. NRCS had an EQIP display that attracted many nontraditional customers. The 4H and FFA groups put on a presentation with singing and dancing. This was an evening to recognize everyone that helped make the building a reality. Grant County takes great pride in their county fair and the new building will be the location of the displays for years to come.
- Display at the Grant County Fair

- NRCS had a pollinator display at the fair and handed out posters and web soil survey information. We set up a laptop and offered to print aerial photos of people's land. We also demonstrated how to use Web Soil Survey.
- Countryside Clinic monthly news articles
 - Monthly conservation articles are written by both LWCD and NRCS staff and published in the Platteville Journal.
- Display at Rural Landowners Day
 - NRCS display at the Rural Landowners Day. This day was organized by UW Extension and targeted landowners that own less than 20 acres.
- Presented at Female Landowners Day in Seneca
 - presented NRCS information to female landowners. These landowners received a direct mailing. The purpose was to help female landowners network and share resources for making decisions with their land.

- Youth Days in Crawford County

- Marlene and Karyl Fritsche talked about the importance of contour farming and the effects of erosion on steep hillsides to 8 classes of 5th, 6th and 7th graders at Crawford



County Youth Day. After this discussion, the kids broke up into groups and laid out contour strips using hand levels.

- Field Visit
 - Marlene and Melissa met with a female landowner who wanted advice on land management. We did a farm walkover and suggested a stream crossing, streambank protection and fencing to exclude livestock from the woods.
- Job Shadow
 - Two biology students from Cuba City High School job shadowed Marlene for a day. They were interested in a career in biology. Marlene showed them wetlands, wildlife habitat, streambank protection and how to measure crop residue.

Mauston Field Office

Mauston continues the tradition of working with area schools at the elementary and high school levels on conservation education. The county con and district conservationist presented soil and water quality info to Mauston 6th graders, which some of the students were minorities. The county con, county technician and soil conservationist also taught water quality on a trout stream to a Mauston high school wildlife class. The county con and district conservationist also performed an educational and informational session with the Juneau County Adult Leadership Program (ALP) in May of this year, providing the 15 participants perspective on what our office does with farmers and rural landowners

Monroe Field Office

- Radio programs (26).
- News articles on conservation compliance and EQIP.

Onalaska Field Office

Ho Chunk Nation Liaison, Greg Yakle and NRCS area staff met with representatives from HCN, WI DNR, USFWS, US Army Corp of Engineers, and other organizations to finalize project plans for effigy mounds protection at the Bison Ranch near Muscoda, WI. An engineering plan was developed by the US Army Corp of Engineers to protect this group of effigy mounds which are threatened by bank erosion on the Wisconsin River. The plans were modified to reduce impact on a freshwater mussel bed in the project vicinity. Construction work is projected to start spring/summer 2012 with joint funding from the US Army Corp of Engineers and the Ho Chunk Nation through various grants.

Ho-Chunk DNR leaders met with NRCS state office public relations staff and field staff from Viroqua and HCN Tribal Liaison in September for interviews and photos to develop a "Success Story" on practices applied through existing WHIP and EQIP contracts. Streambank erosion control, fish habitat practices, native plantings, and prescribed burns on HCN land in the Kickapoo Reserve in Vernon County were reviewed. During the construction season, 6 EQIP and WHIP contracts were completed. Prescribed burning, streambank protection, stream habitat improvement, rotational grazing, forest stand improvement, gully control structural practices were all completed.

HCN Tribal Liaison and HCN DNR staff met at the Whirling Thunder Ranch in Monroe County for conservation plan modifications to two existing EQIP contracts. The farm was converted from pasture to cropland for financial reasons regarding the cattle operation at

the ranch. Grass waterway, contouring, contour strip cropping, and other potential erosion control measures were reviewed as part of a future EQIP application.

HCN Tribal Liaison and HCN DNR staff met with new WI Tribal Liaison, Chris Borden, on September 26, 2011 to review tribal conservation needs and how to make GIS data layers available to the tribe. A future meeting is being planned at the HCN DNR Headquarters for a demonstration of NRCS GIS and soils capabilities.

A joint outreach effort was made with the SW Area Office to contact female landusers in La Crosse County about NRCS conservation programs and provide information about the lawsuit female landusers have with USDA. A direct mailing was made to applicable landusers.

Sparta Field Office

- February - Greg Wheeler, DC, organized a meeting to focus on HEL compliance issues open to all corn/soybean farmers in Monroe County. 350 cards and letters were sent out and a newspaper article was printed. Twenty-seven local farmers attended with SO, AO, FO and UW-Ext personnel making presentations. Topics covered included: Bt Corn residue – Is it decomposing at the same rate as non-Bt corn; Soil K and T factors; Soil Organic Matter; RUSLE 2 and vertical tillage.
- July - Sparta NRCS FO hosted a CRP participant meeting. 33 CRP participants pre-registered, with 26 in attendance. It was a good turnout. The goal was to inform CRP landowners of their responsibilities and to make completing current Conservation Plans more efficient. Rick Lange, DC Crawford County, presented current prescribed burn policy. Agencies participating included FSA, US FWS, NRCS, DNR and RC&D Central Wisconsin Windshed. Topics covered included: Weed Control in CRP, Mark Renz UW Extension; Tree Planting tips, Christine Walroth WI-DNR; Prairie Planting, Mark Pfost US-FWS; CRP required mid management, Erin Holmes Farm Bill Biologist.
- February - DC Greg Wheeler made a presentation to the “Learn about your Land – Classes for Woodland Owners” Session on: “People and Programs – Assistance with Your Woodlands”, and inform the public about NRCS programs. This program is hosted by the WI-DNR foresters. Farm Bill programs were highlighted and discussed with Monroe County landowners.

Viroqua Field Office

- Talked with hundreds of producers at the Upper Midwest Organic Conference in February while at an NRCS display area. Program handouts and group

discussions on NRCS programs were provided to many limited resource, under-served, and female producers.

- Public release announcements about NRCS programs were provided through both local newspapers and through radio interviews. Emphasis was placed on program availability for all qualifying producers.
- Technical assistance was provided for over a half dozen Amish producers.
- One Native American producer, 5 female producers, and 6 limited resource producers received contracts through the CSP or EQIP programs in 2011
- Worked with Greg Yakle and the Ho Chunk Nation towards showcasing the large amount of conservation work The Nation has completed in Vernon County through EQIP, WHIP and general technical assistance. This meeting led to a “Success Story” developed by Barb Jansen. More work was completed with The Nation this year on their land in the Kickapoo Reserve.
- Pasture walks were held in Vernon County that were attended by Amish, female, and limited resource producers. Program information was provided at each of the six pasture walks.

SOUTHEAST AREA

Elkhorn Field Office

<i>Walworth co NRCS Outreach Activities for 2011 - collaborative efforts with local other local agencies</i>		
Outreach Activities	Date	Comments
FSA press release to CRP participants	7/20/2011	maintenance/mgmt reminder
Annual Prairie Walk @ Seno Woodland Center	7/14/2011	54 people in attendance
Walworth Co. EcoFair360 presenter	7/9/2011	Igl -45 minutePPT presentation
HELC/WC reminder	4/11/2011	sent by FSA
Friends of Turtle Creek	2/11/2011	Jeehye attended this
SE WI Grazing Seminar in Jefferson	1/31/2011	sponsored by RC&D/UWEX/SE area grazing network
Badger High School Career days	1/13/2011	Jeehye Lee talked to students regarding job/internship opportunities
CSP news release sent	1/7/2011	list of local newspapers
CSP was announced to Master Gardeners	Jan-11	announced by Jeehye Lee

Program		
Annie's Project	12/15/2010	Jeehye Lee presented EQIP/Organic initiative as outreach to women producers
CSP Outreach materials displayed at USDA Service Center	11/15/2010	displayed through 1/21/2012
Local Work Group meeting outreach efforts	10/5/2010	Igl announces program signup information
EQIP Outreach materials displayed @ USDA Service Center	11/15/2010	displayed through 1/21/2011
Outreach for Organic initiative sent to UWEX		
MRBI Outreach Activities*- collaborative effort with KMLT		
MRBI Outreach materials displayed at USDA Service Center	11/15/2010	displayed through 1/21/2011
Keeping the Water Clean <i>Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI) in Walworth County</i>	9/29/2011	assisted Barb Jansen, Visual Information Specialist with MRBI success story
Delavan Lake WIN outreach land mgmt work group meeting	8/18/2011	
Delavan Lake WIN outreach meeting	7/28/2011	Igl attended
Delavan Lake WIN outreach meeting	5/26/2011	Igl attended
Delavan Lake WIN outreach meeting	4/28/2011	Igl attended
Website article on KMLT website	2/2/2011	
KMLT Press release for MRBI	1/27/2011	Delavan Lake Watershed Initiative
MRBI postcard mailed to 124 owners/operators	1/21/2011	
Rock River Educational Forum Presentation by Maggie Zoellner, KMLT		
Outreach to Hispanic and women farmers*		
<i>*collaborative effort with Farm Service Agency</i>		
HWCP outreach to East Troy Chamber of Commerce	9/28/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided
HWCP outreach to CPI in Whitewater	9/21/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided

HWCP outreach to Farm city Elevator	9/15/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided
News Release: USDA Notice to Women and Hispanic Farmers	9/8/2011	
HWCP outreach to Badger Grain Co	9/7/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided
HWCP outreach to Elkhorn Library	9/2/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided
News Release: USDA Notice to Women and Hispanic Farmers	8/23/2011	
HWCP outreach to Whitewater chamber of Commerce	8/23/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided
HWCP outreach to the Tractor Supply Store in Delavan	8/17/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided
News Release: USDA Notice to Women and Hispanic Farmers	8/16/2011	
News Release: USDA Notice to Women and Hispanic Farmers	8/8/2011	
HWCP outreach to St Patrick Church in Elkhorn	8/8/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided
HWCP outreach to Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce & Tourism	8/5/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided
News Release: USDA Notice to Women and Hispanic Farmers	8/2/2011	
HWCP outreach to Delavan Lake Area chamber of Commerce	7/27/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided
News Release: USDA Notice to Women and Hispanic Farmers	7/20/2011	
HWCP outreach to St Andrew Parish in Delavan	6/28/2011	HWCP fact sheets, posters and summary provided
Meeting with FSA to discuss HWCP outreach efforts	6/21/2011	
News Release: USDA Notice to Women and Hispanic Farmers	6/20/2011	

Green Lake Field Office

- Displayed an NRCS exhibit at the Green Lake County fair about different programs available to the public and our technical assistance that we provide. Pamphlets and contact information were available for the public to take.

- Presented at the Ripon elementary school for an environmental education day. This day was supposed to be out in the field, but the weather didn't permit. The topic presented was about different wetlands, wetland plants, and wetland animals.
- Attended local farmers markets to talk to the public and the vendors about NRCS and things that they are doing. This helps to create an awareness of NRCS to the public and lets local producers know who we are available if they need assistance.
- Posted displays of information, and produced reports regarding 'compensation for claims of discrimination' for Women and Hispanic farmers.
- Took opportunities to collaborate and work openly with other conservation partners and organizations through sponsoring their meeting, activities, and trainings.
- Posted a Public meeting notice for the Fall EQIP LWG involved and let them have the opportunity to offer their assistance or support.
- Volunteered at World Dairy Expo at NRCS's display in the Grazing Tent. Talked with the public and other producers about what the NRCS does, and services we would be able to offer.

Juneau Field Office

This year Dodge County NRCS participated in the Dodge County 4-H "Farm City" day. This event focuses on bringing school children and teachers from urban areas out to a local farm to learn more about farming and agriculture. NRCS had a demonstration set up for this event and roughly 150 children and teachers came through and learned about NRCS at this event. We also set-up a booth at the Alto Fair, this small town fair is near the border of Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties and I shared the time at the booth with Cory Drummond, DC from FDL County.

Madison Field Office

- Worked with Spring Rose Co-op, created a year ago by immigrant farmers that are part of the Farley Center Farm Incubator. (Check out photos and info here: www.farleycenter.org / under the "Farm Incubator" tab.) Farmer assistance through Farley Center is supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher

Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, Grant # 2010-03096; a Small Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grant from USDA Rural Development. The co-op now has 8 member farms, all of them owned by people of color. These farmers have made remarkable progress, with help from the USDA, over the last year. Spring Rose Co-op members have applied for organic certification, and include the first Hmong farmers in Wisconsin to take this step. They have launched two successful CSAs, the first CSAs in the state that include Hmong and other immigrant farmers. (Info taken from the website)

- Wrote EQIP contract with Hmong members for cover crop and high tunnel on their private land. We also visited the farm with Ag Eng to look at a drainage situation in their cropland and made suggestions to help them meet their objective.
- Wrote a letter of support and commitment for a second USDA grant application for the Farley Center, which they were recently awarded. We will be participating in their winter workshops with the Spring Rose Co-op members to inform them of the Farm Bill Programs and assist them through the application process where appropriate.
- Worked with nonconventional ag producers including women farmers, beginning farmers, organic producers, and local CSAs, helping them through the eligibility maze, some received contracts, some not.
- Sent out grazing class, conference and pasture walk info out to all graziers that we worked with, current and past program participants.

Portage Field Office

- The local Field Office submitted articles for the agricultural newsletter called the Columbia County Ag Reporter. This free educational newsletter is a joint outreach effort between multiple agricultural/conservation agencies & organizations located within the county. It contains numerous articles informing & educating readers of available opportunities, technical assistance, & financial assistance. The local Field Office receives numerous inquiries from this valuable outreach publication. <http://columbia.uwex.edu/agriculture/newsletter/>
- The local Field office continues to work with the Ho Chunk Nation on a WHIP contract for an oak savanna restoration project which contains numerous effigy mounds. This project was featured in the national NRCS This Week, dated June

13, 2007. The 40-acre wayside, formerly owned by the WI Dept of Transportation and now by the Ho-Chunk Nation, contains over 20 effigy mounds. Restoration of the site will take place over the next couple years. (See story at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/thisweek/2007/061307/home.html>)

- In cooperation with Columbia County LWCD, local Field Office had a joint booth at the Columbia County Fair to create awareness of conservation & programs available from NRCS & LWCD. This outreach project allowed staff to talk with both traditional & untraditional customers, which included several women & minorities.
- In cooperation with Columbia County LWCD & UWEX, we have developed an annual nutrient management farmer training program. Farmers successfully completing the course are certified through DATCP to write their own plans. Female producers often participate in the training.
- Distributed fact sheets and posted notice for Hispanic &/or Women Farmers & Ranchers Claims of Discrimination. Activities included the following: posted at Portage USDA Service Center, Columbia County Fair, numerous local businesses, Columbia County LWCD, UWEX, printed in Columbia County Ag Reporter, and distributed at local farmers' market & local women/Hispanic organizations.
- Numerous press releases were issued to local newspapers & radio stations throughout the fiscal year.
- FY11 Participation of Women & Minorities in NRCS Programs:
 - EQIP – existing contracts with a beginning farmer, a limited resource producer, 2 female producers & Ho-Chunk Nation
 - CSP – existing contract with 1 female producer
 - WRP – existing permanent easements with Asian-female landowner
 - WHIP – existing contracts with 1 female producer & Ho Chunk Nation
 - EWP-FPE – existing permanent easement with 1 female landowner

Sheboygan Field Office

- Sent out over 500 EQIP announcement post cards to all active producers (November 2010)

- Coordinated with FSA to hold a 2011 program update meeting in March that discussed NRCS programs, and compliance issues to inform producers on any changes and opportunities. Approximately 7 producers attended.
- Attended an organic outreach meeting (Saturday 10/23/2010) at the Hmong Community Center. Presented information regarding NRCS's organic initiative and Season High Tunnel's. 10 people attended
- Attended UWEX-Sheboygan Agronomy day, handed out 60 EQIP practice list brochures to producers and agronomists.
- Assisted Deb Beyer UWEX Basin Educator with their watershed education program development. Represented NRCS and presented the agencies mission to local 4-H leaders.

Union Grove Field Office

NRCS staff participated in the Agriculture/Food/Natural Resources Career Panel at Wilmot Union High School auditorium on 11/12/10. I spoke to the students about what I do for a living with NRCS and answered questions afterward

West Bend Field Office

- **Tree Program on April 25-29 2011:** West Bend Field Office staff worked along with the Washington County LWCD during the Annual Tree Program. The Tree Program is sponsored by LWCD and offers a variety of evergreens and deciduous trees, wildlife shrubs, wildflower seeds, and a popular groundcover. West Bend Field Office worked in preparing tree orders for customers and providing information on how to manage the trees. More than 2, 000 people showed up to the event where 34,000 trees were sold.
- **Clean Sweep on May 21 and October 15 2011:** The Washington County LWCD sponsored the Bi-Annual Clean Sweep which provides an opportunity for county residents to properly dispose or recycle unwanted hazardous chemicals, electronic goods, pharmaceutical medication and used tires. LCD and West Bend Field Office staff helped provide customer full service for tires disposal. Approximately 800 tires were collected for each session.
- **Breakfast in the Farm on June 11 2011:** NRCS had a display at the event to promote the conservation programs. Display included the "Notice to Hispanic and/or women farmers or ranchers" for compensation for claims of discrimination.

- **Washington County Fair on July 28 2011 and Ozaukee County Fair on August 4 2011:** NRCS had a display at the event to promote the USDA conservation programs. Display included the “Notice to Hispanic and/or women farmers or ranchers” for compensation for claims of discrimination. The Washington and Ozaukee Counties District Conservationist (Josh Odekirk), and the Soil Conservationist (Elsie Gonzalez) were present to answer questions on conservation practices and programs.
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Field Tour Visit:** NRCS hosted a stop at a local farm for the GLRI tour that was attended by the regional conservationist, advisors to the administration for EPA, and other local and regional leadership. NRCS staff and the operators of the farm presented on their relationship and the positive results that have been reached.

Westfield Service Center

April 14-15, NRCS staff assisted the Marquette County LWCD in the distribution of approximately 43,000 trees and shrubs. This is an annual event for all of us.

May 5-6, NRCS staff members held a session to teach Waushara County 5th graders about soils and soil properties. Approximately 200 children were introduced to the wonderful world of soils.

On May 6th Scott Doherty, SCT, led a tour of the Duffy’s Marsh wetland restoration for UWSP students. He covered all aspects of the restoration, the history, the restoration and the benefit to wildlife these practices have.

On June 3rd, Scott and Michelle gave presentations to the Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists about the Wetland Restoration Program. Michelle presented general information about WRP, and Scott gave a detailed look at Duffy’s Marsh.

Throughout the year, all Westfield staff participated in the distribution of information about the Women and Hispanic Farmer Claims process. We announced contact information at all LCC meetings, to all LCD’s, to all Local Work Group members, and posted information at local offices and public places.

Michelle worked at the grazing tent at Farm Technology Days in July, and at the Grazing booth at the World Dairy Expo in October.

Special Emphasis Program Reports

Asian Pacific Islander Program Manager Report

Ka Ying Vang, AAPI Special Emphasis Program Manager

Communications

- Participated in the APIO 1st quarter teleconference on Nov. 23rd 2010.
- Developed and translated brochure targeting smaller Hmong farmer market vendors (see attached email).
- Network with North Carolina's and Minnesota's SEPM and to formulate ideas for outreach, program promotion, and other activities.
- Network with DATCP outreach specialist at the 2010 Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association (WUCMAA) conference in Milwaukee.
- Participated in the APIO 2st quarter teleconference on February 22, 2010.
- Participated in the APIO 3st quarter teleconference on April 26, 2011.
- Participated in the APIO 4st quarter teleconference.
- Contacted DATCP Hmong Outreach Specialist to coordinate an outreach conference to the Hmong community in Wisconsin. The conference will be held in cities in Wisconsin where high Hmong population exist.
- Attended the Hmong Professional of Chippewa Valley meeting. Was ask by the group to do a presentation to the Hmong community of Chippewa Valley.

Working with Leadership

- Working with Justin Rhee at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) regarding outreach effects at the upcoming Hmong National Development Conference.
- Contacted State Public Affair specialist to see what materials would be available for the HNC.
- Work with MN and WI State Conservationist to coordinate outreach effect during the HNC.

Recruitment, Promotions, and Recognition

- Have 2 career interns belonging to AAPI group in WI at the start of the FY11, with one funded through the BASU scholarship.
- Recruited an AAPI student majoring biology with minor in wildlife and chemistry at UW-Stevens Point. This student will be working in Wisconsin as a student intern in summer of 2011.
- Volunteer as a mentor for the API summer student in Wisconsin. Provided the student with an EDP that has reference links to information about each duty listed.

Outreach

- -Attended the 2010 WUCMAA Conference in Milwaukee on October 30-31. Set up a booth with information on EQIP. Contacted over 30 individual, of which 5 were very interested in EQIP. Handed out 20 translated brochures on EQIP that I developed.

- Submitted a proposal in November to be consider for an 1 ½ hour session at the Hmong Nation Development (HND) conference in April 2011 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The proposal was accepted in December.
- Currently working with MN SEPM to develop a presentation on EQIP targeting Asian farmers and landowners.
- Presented a short five minute presentation at the WI all employee meeting on Hmong culture back in Laos and Thailand.
- Reach out to the vice president at the Hmong and Southeast Asian American Club at UW-Stevens Point about career opportunities and summer jobs with NRCS. Resulted in the hiring of one API student for summer of 2011.
- April 22-24 **Hmong National Conference** in Minneapolis, MN Attended the conference with MN-AAPISEPM and MN-FSA Outreach Coordinator. Over 1000 people attended the conference, most were students and professionals

AAPISEPM proposal to present at the conference was selected and during the conference we conducted a 1.5 hr session titled “Funding for Farmers and Gardeners”

- Presented about who NRCS is and programs within NRCS. Focus mainly on EQIP. Provided a quick overview of career opportunities that exist in NRCS. Spoke with one male API student who ends up working as a STEP student in Wisconsin. Clarified EQIP program rules with one participant who already had a contract for high tunnel.



Provided conference attendees with information on EQIP practices such as high tunnels, grazing, and fencing. Spoke with several students and attendees about careers in NRCS and programs. Provide contact information to some farmers who were interested in learning more about USDA in general. Received one female Hmong landowner’s information and shared her information with partnered agency, Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota.

AAPISEPM tried to connect those who were seeking farm land to those who had land available for rent. Network with other professionals who provided service to the Hmong community

- Translated a high tunnel flyer to be used in Wisconsin (see attachment).
- Outreach to the local farmers market by providing them with information about EQIP program emphasizing the High Tunnel practice. Provided information to 12 Hmong vendors. As a result 1 producer came in to use our service and get information about other services with our sister agency (FSA). .
- In the process of developing a flyer with the Hmong Professionals of Chippewa Valley on a presentation to the Hmong community.

Projects

- Awarded certificate of appreciation for outreach effect in the WI northwest area.
- Continuing to work with the Wausau field office on the trellis system project for specialty vine
- crops.
- At the Wisconsin all employee meeting (Nov. 16-18), I put a large poster together showing different specialty crops grown in Wisconsin by Asian producers. I also brought in the actual produces and set them next to the poster. I also created five flyers on invasive species that are used in Asian cooking, such as Japanese knotweed, prickly ash seeds, yellow rockets, and nightshade. I also included pictures and recipes in each of the flyers.

Special Emphasis History Month

Created and sent out 4 flyers about invasive species that are used in Asian dishes. Also included recipes for these invasive species (some of the recipes are not from Asian dishes, but still use the same invasive species.)

<https://nrcs.sc.egov.usda.gov/central/wi/Shared%20Documents/Civil%20Rights%20and%20Outreach/Edible%20Invasives.pdf>

- Sent out an article with Statement from Agriculture Secretary Vilsack on Tragedies in Japan along with information from USDA on radiation and food safety.
- Encouraged offices to do pot luck with all Asian dishes. Sent everyone in the state a site where they can research their favorite Asian and create it for the pot luck. A few offices did participate in the pot luck idea and all of them really enjoyed it.

Tribal Liaison Reports

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Sherrie Zenk Reed Liaison

Tribal FY2011 Contracts (Socially Disadvantaged)

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

- EQIP 2011: 2 Contracts - Forest Stand Improvement 666
- EQIP 2011: Tree and Shrub Establishment 612
- WHIP 2011: Fish Passage 396

Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Sherrie Zenk Reed Liaison

Tribal FY2011 Contracts (Socially Disadvantaged)

Stockbridge-Munsee Community

- EQIP 2011: Culvert Replacement 578
- EQIP 2011: Forest Stand Improvement 666
- EQIP 2011: Conservation Cover 327
- EQIP 2011: Obstruction Removal 500 and Critical Area Planting 342
- WHIP 2011: Prescribed Burning 338

St Croix Tribe, Tom Fredrickson, Tribal Liaison, Spooner Field Office

- Attended 5 WTCAC meetings held throughout the state.
- Hosted a student trainee from the La Courte Oreilles College this past summer. This individual received instruction regarding the various assignments a NRCS employee has to perform.
- This past winter Spooner Field Office staff met with the St Croix Environmental Department to review the 2011 St Croix obligations for the EQIP and WHIP programs.
- Projects completed this year with the St Croix Tribe include 157' of Shoreline Stabilization work, 175' of Access Road, a 57' Diversion, and 4.7 acres of Wild Rice Seeding.
- Entered into 2011 EQIP agreement on 2 separate EQIP projects and one WHIP project.

Oneida Nation, Tony Bush, Tribal Liaison

Tribal Technical/Administrative Assistance

- Worked with the Oneida staff to assess leased tribal agricultural lands, and develop and implement conservation plans that meet tribal requirements.
- Developed Oneida's Buffalo Grazing Plan
- Revised Oneida's Black Angus Grazing Plan
- Served as EQIP/WHIP coordinator for the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC)
- Coordinated efforts to develop the tool used for ranking tribal EQIP applications.
- Provided guidance to the Oneida Sustainable Conservation Advisory Council (OSRAC), Oneida Department of Land Management, Oneida Nation Farm and Tsyunhehkwa Farm concerning all NRCS programs.
- Presented information to OSRAC and the Oneida Land Commission concerning current and potential EQIP, GLRI, WHIP, CSP and CRP contract involvement.
- Maintained records for and provided updates to the Oneida staff concerning NRCS program activities.
- Attended Tribal Emergency Services Workshop
- Supervised WTCAC summer intern

2011 EQIP/WHIP Contracted Activities

- 18,000 feet of Fence
- 122 acres of Prescribed Grazing
- 6850 feet of Pipeline
- 7 Watering Facilities
- 159 acres of Pest and Nutrient Management (organic)
- 1 Well Decommissioning
- 620 ft of Well
- 3.7 acres of Filter Strips
- 47 acres of Conservation Crop Rotation

EQIP/WHIP/GLRI Projects

Completed

- 214 acres of Prescribed Grazing
- 7600 feet of Fence
- 22.9 acres of native Filter Strips
- 3.3 acres of cool-season Filter Strips
- 4 (rock) Stream Crossings
- 3 Grassed Waterways
- 1 (rock) Lined Waterway
- 1015 feet of Access Road
- 700 feet of Diversion
- 400 sq. yds. of Mulching
- 1200 feet of Subsurface Drain
- 1 Well Decommissioning
- 3 Obstruction Removals



Managed Grazing of Buffalo at Oneida



Sign placed on Oneida Filter Strips

Other Tribal Liaison Reports (included in Field Office reports by Area)

Bad River/Red Cliff – see Ashland, Northwest Area

Ho Chunk Nation – see Onalaska, Southwest Area

Lac Courte Oreilles – see Ladysmith, Northwest Area

Lac du Flambeau, Forest County Potawatami, Sokaogon – see Rhinelander,
Northeast Area