

Dear Landowner,

The Dry Run Farmer-Led Watershed Council is pleased to announce that for 2022, their incentive program will be focused on the establishment of field borders to reduce sediment and nutrient loss to the Dry Run.

The farmer-led council will reimburse farmers or landowners with Dry Run-adjacent cropland **\$650 per acre to take the land out of crops and put in 30-60 foot buffers of perennial roots instead.** This is a one-time payment with the expectation that converted cropland will be maintained in perennial cover for a minimum of 3 years.

#### **How does it work?**

1. You show us the site and indicate your intent for the planting.
2. Once approved by the farmer-led council, you plant a perennial plant cover like cool season grasses (other seed mixes welcome for discussion).
3. Once the perennial is established, we pay you \$650/acre.
4. You keep the site in perennial root cover for 3 years We encourage you to bale the borders once a year to keep woody vegetation from moving in and to remove nutrients. Livestock should not be allowed access, and the site should not be mown to under 4" growth. This program is designed to be flexible and you may make the border any width between 30 and 60 feet.

#### **What are the benefits?**

For 100 feet of buffer 35 feet wide, the average field in the Dry Run watershed is estimated to **save 3,000 pounds of soil LOSS from your field every year**, including 1 pound of nitrogen and 2 pounds of phosphorous.

You will likely be **removing unprofitable acres for your field**, and providing a space for wildlife to browse, keeping them out of your crop. We have also seen that landowners enjoy these buffers as ways to access the field and stream for crop monitoring and recreation.

#### **How do I sign up or learn more?**

If you want to talk to a farmer who designed the program:

Dennis Mitchell 715-781-4833  
Sam Erickson 715-554-0354

If you want to get signed up or have logistical questions for the coordinator:

Tara Daun 715-492-0329  
[tdaun@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:tdaun@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

**See Reverse for Form Signup**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of proposed buffer: \_\_\_\_\_ (please provide address or Township, Range, Section location)

Estimated area: \_\_\_\_\_ feet along the waterway x \_\_\_\_\_ feet wide = \_\_\_\_\_ square feet

Estimated Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that by receiving funds from this program, I am agreeing to maintain the area for which I am receiving payment in perennial cover after establishment in 2022 through the harvest season of 2024. If I till the site or plant a non-perennial crop before January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2025 I will reimburse the Farmer-Led Watershed Council all of the funds I received. No payments are guaranteed until site approved by the council or approved representative.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have an idea on how you can use your cropland to protect the water, but need some extra funds to assist you?**

Contact our council with your project idea and we will consider it for cost-sharing.

Your idea: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This form can be emailed to [tdaun@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:tdaun@wisconsinfarmersunion.com) or mailed back to

Dept of Land and Water Conservation  
1960 8th Ave  
Suite 140  
Baldwin, WI 54002



This program is completely voluntary and funded by the Dry Run Farmer-Led Watershed Council. Our funding for this incentive has been provided by a McKnight Foundation water quality grant. We are partnering with the St. Croix County Land and Water Department to help with assessing area and providing resources.

[www.farmerledwatershed.org](http://www.farmerledwatershed.org)

[facebook.com/farmerledwatershed](https://facebook.com/farmerledwatershed)