

Dear Farmer and/or Landowner,

The Dry Run Farmer-Led Watershed Council has updated the incentive program for 2022. In addition to the \$650 per acre conversion of row crops to buffers adjacent to the Dry Run, **we are also offering a cover crop incentive at \$10/acre.** If applications exceed available funds, cover crop payments will be pro-rated. But buffer payments will be prioritized to be paid in full.

The farmer-led council will still 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.

Field Buffers...How does it work?

1. You show us the site and indicate your intent for the buffer 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) for the buffer.
3. Once planting is established, we send you a check.
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

See Reverse for Form Signup

Name: _____

_____: **BUFFER PROGRAM**

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

Estimated area: _____ feet along the waterway x _____ feet wide = _____ square feet

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 1st 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.

_____: **COVER CROP PROGRAM**

Number of acres for fall-seeded cover crops: _____

Cover crop(s) species planted _____ rate _____ method of planting _____

after what crop _____

Applicant Signature: _____ **DATE:** _____

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 or mailed back to

St. Croix County-Resource Management
1960 8th Avenue, Suite 140
Baldwin, WI 54002



DRY RUN AREA WATERSHEDS

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

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