

Hello,

We are writing to encourage you to apply for funds that will improve your farm's soil health.

We hope this letter will answer the first questions you have, and encourage you to follow up with any other questions.

### **Why are you sending this to me?**

We think you own or rent ag land in the Dry Run watershed (see map). As such, you are eligible to receive funds and make decisions on how our funds are spent.

### **What is the Dry Run Farmer-Led Watershed Council?**

A group of farmers working together to improve on-farm profitability and stewardship of nutrients on our fields in our neighborhood.

### **Who's on the council and where do you get your money?**

Any farmer who operates or rents farmland within the watershed can be part of the council. We don't keep an official list of members right now, farmers are invited to attend meetings and provide input. Current active members include (but aren't limited to) Kevin Conard, Jake Erickson, Kyle Mitchell, and John Van Dyk.

Our funds come from a grant our group received from the McKnight Foundation (about \$10,000 a year) as well as a grant from DATCP which is focused on Farmer-Led groups like ours providing benefits to our region. This year, we received \$10,000 from DATCP to provide incentive funds and host field events.

### **How do I get some money?**

Fill out the enclosed application. If something doesn't make sense, call one of the numbers on it and we or our partners will walk you through it. Better yet, come to a council meeting. Our next meeting is on **March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Rooster Roadhouse at 11:30.**

### **I think the council should pay for something else that's not listed on the application sheet.**

Well that's not really a question. But it's a fair point. The best next step is to show up at a council meeting and provide your perspective or call one of us. The council is truly farmer-led, and as a farmer, that means you can be a leader. As long as your project will somehow improve soil health on your farm or reduce potential pollution to surface or groundwater, we are open to hearing it.

### **Is this a government program?**

No. But we partner with a couple of organizations to do the administrative stuff for our group. St. Croix county holds some DATCP funds for us so we don't have to manage the financial paperwork.

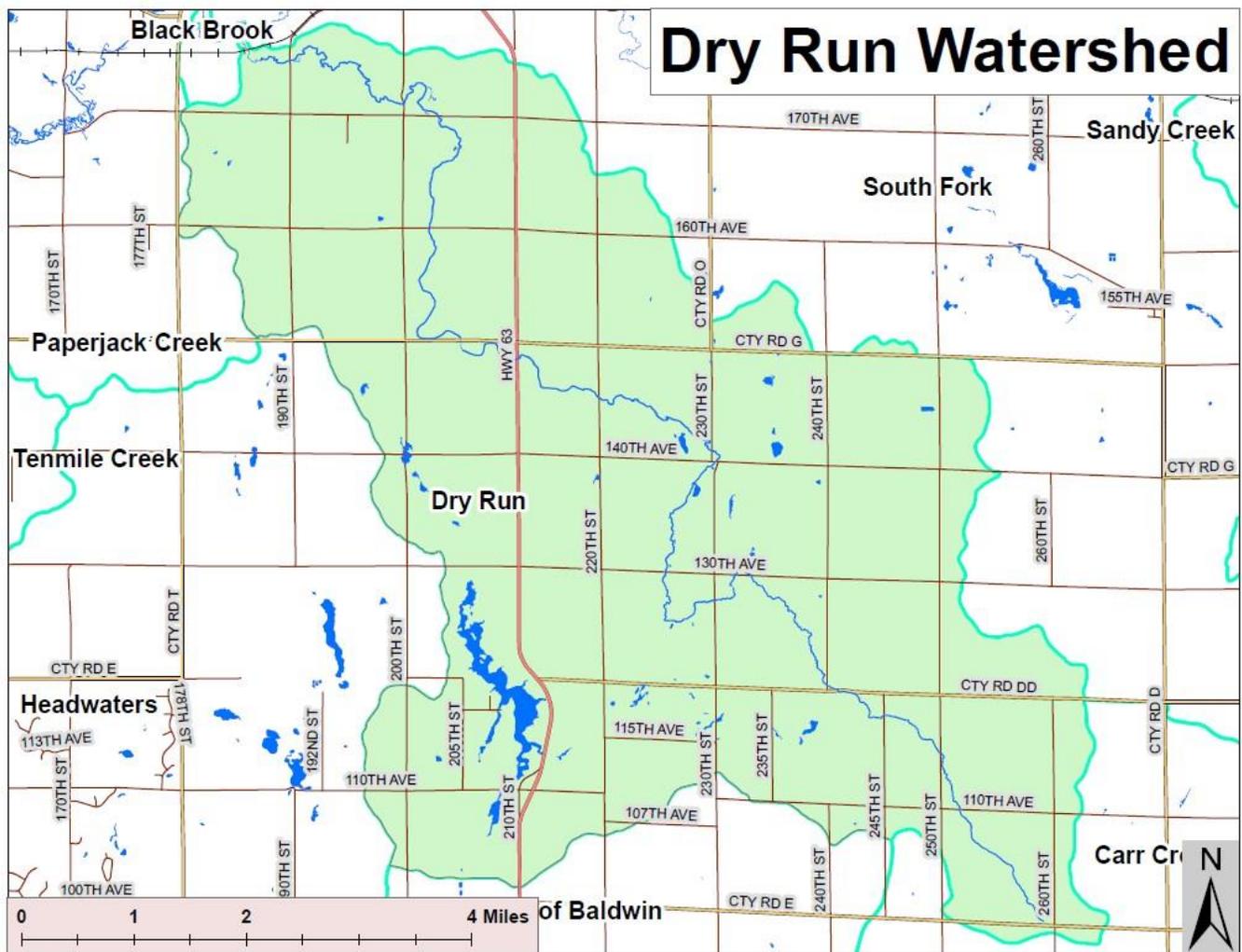
We also have a coordinator, Tara Daun who works for the Wisconsin Farmers Union which administers some grant money we have. Tara helps us do outreach and all the other stuff we don't have time to do for the group. **You can reach Tara at 715-492-0329**

[tdaun@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:tdaun@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Thanks for your time. We hope to see you at our March meeting or our field days. Contact Tara if you want to be notified of events. You can also find information on our website ([farmerledwatershed.org](http://farmerledwatershed.org)) or by following us on Facebook (@farmerledwatershed).

Sincerely,

Farmers of the Dry Run Farmer-Led Watershed Council



**\_\_\_\_\_ :STREAMBANK OR SINKHOLE BUFFER (\$650/acre)**

**Description:** Plant a perennial mix of seed in a high priority area (adjacent to the Dry Run or around a sink hole) 30 – 70 feet wide and leave in perennial growth for at least 3 years (until 2026).

**Location of proposed buffer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

By signing, 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 2023 through the harvest season of 2025. If I till the site or plant a non-perennial crop before January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2026 I will reimburse the Farmer-Led Watershed Council, all of the funds I received.

**\_\_\_\_\_ : COVER CROP PROGRAM (\$10/acre)**

**Description:** Broadcast or drill in seed into standing crop or after harvest to provide living cover on the field before planting main crop in spring.

**Number of acres for fall-seeded cover crops:** \_\_\_\_\_

Cover crop(s) species planted \_\_\_\_\_ rate \_\_\_\_\_ method of planting \_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_ : GRASSED WATERWAY (\$3/foot)**

**Description:** Graded, seeded strip to reduce erosion within the field – designed with the help of technical planners.

**Feet of waterway:** \_\_\_\_\_

Application does not guarantee payment. Once your application is submitted, you will receive a phone call from our coordinator, Tara on the project. Our funding is limited and we reserve the right to pro-rate payment but will prioritize full payment of buffers based on number of applicants and available funds.

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

This form can be texted or emailed to Tara Daun at 715-492-0329 or  
[tdaun@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:tdaun@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Or mailed to our partners at the county

St Croix County Ag Center  
1960 8<sup>th</sup> Ave Ste 140  
Baldwin, WI 54002

Signing this application is not a guarantee of funds. We reserve the right to pro-rate payment based on the number of applications and availability of funds. Signing also confirms that you are not receiving cost-share assistance for the applied-for practices on the same acres you're applying for in 2023.



This program is completely voluntary and funded by the Dry Run Farmer-Led Watershed Council. Our funding for this incentive has been provided grants from the McKnight Foundation and DATCP. 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)