



## Price County Land Conservation

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## **Conservation Activities**

### **Conservation Assistance**

Cost-share funds are available for a number of conservation practices that will help protect our land and water resources. Among the approved practices are:

- Access road or cattle crossing
- Barnyard runoff control system
- Heavy-use area protection
- Livestock watering facility
- Manure storage system
- Animal trails and walkways
- Waterway system
- Manure storage closure
- Well decommissioning
- Streambank and shoreline protection
- Wetland restoration

Other conservation practices are also fundable.

This program supports the implementation of the Price County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. All county landowners are eligible to apply for funding. If you are interested, please contact our office for more information or an application.

### **Farmland Preservation**

The Farmland Preservation Program was developed to address concerns about development pressures that were leading to loss of valuable farmland throughout Wisconsin. The program provides tax credits to landowners who agree to keep their land in agricultural use for the term of the contract. This program is no longer being used, as the state has switched to Working Lands Initiative, and participants are no longer able to extend their contracts when they expire. Price County currently does not meet the requirements for landowners to be eligible to receive credit under the Working Lands Initiative Program. The Land Conservation Department continues to monitor Farmland Preservation Agreements that are still under contract.

### **Clean Sweep Program**

Coordination of the Cleansweep Program is handled by the Price County Land Conservation Department in concert with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Cleansweep provides households, agriculture, and small businesses with an economical means to dispose of small quantities of hazardous waste in an environmentally safe manner. For most hazardous waste materials, there is no charge to use the Cleansweep event. The event takes place around the second week of July. Contact the Price County Land Conservation Department for details.

### **Invasive Species Education and Control**

Invasive species have become a major threat to forests, wetlands, grasslands, and agriculture. Price County is a member of the Upper Chippewa Invasive Species Cooperative, this group includes members from county, state, and federal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens, is providing information to the public about identification and control of these species. The Cooperative has developed displays and presentations and works with schools, youth groups, and others. Contact the LCD office for more information about invasive species identification or control.

### **Nutrient Management Cost-Share and Farmer Education**

A nutrient management plan can help you with improving your soil fertility and plant nutrient status as well as obtaining better economic return from your on- and off-farm nutrient sources while helping to protect surface waters and groundwater. Cost-share money will be available for 2012 based on availability and demand. Contact the Price County LCD for more information about Nutrient Management.

### **Tree Sale**

Trees and shrubs provide many benefits in addition to their aesthetic value. Not only do they provide us with products such as lumber, firewood and food, they are valuable for protecting shoreline areas of lakes and streams and are an important component of wildlife habitat.

The Land Conservation Department's Tree and Shrub Sale offers a variety of trees and shrubs native to Price County. The plants can be used for small reforestation projects, shoreland restoration, landscaping, or wildlife habitat. Species vary from year to year. Plants must be ordered in groups of 25 of one species, except for a wildlife package that includes five plants each of several species

The sale starts in winter of each year. Orders can be placed at any time during the sale period until trees are sold out. However, quantities of some species are limited. The pick-up date is in late April. All plants are shipped bareroot and need to be planted as soon as possible after pick-up.

Contact the Land Conservation Department for an order form or additional information.

### **Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims**

This program works with farmers to prevent or lessen damage to agricultural crops from deer, bear, geese, and turkeys and/or provides payments for damage that has already occurred. Enrollment is required to be eligible, and the enrollee must have control of hunting access to owned and leased contiguous properties. A minimum hunting requirement must be followed. Damage must be reported within 14 days of the beginning of eligible damage in order to qualify for payments. Additional requirements will also need to be followed. The LCD administers the program under a contract with USDA-APHIS. The Animal Damage Specialist may be reached at 1-800-228-1368. For other types of wildlife damage, contact the LCD office.

### **Other Land Conservation Department Services and Activities:**

Information and Education

County Fair display

Conservation camp

Video and book library

Presentations to area schools

Newspaper columns and radio spots

County Conservation Aids Program

Conservation awards

----- 'Protecting and Enhancing our Natural Resources.' -----