

NRCS Report to the Land Conservation Committees

Florence, Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties
Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2023 [April-June]

Staffing Update

Lindsey Laskowski has accepted the position of Soil Conservationist, and is scheduled to report to the Rhineland office, on May 8th. Lindsey replaces Tim Botting, who worked in Rhineland from August 2020 until September 2022, before moving with his young family to New York. Lindsey has one year of experience, working out of the USDA Service Center in Green Lake. She graduated from UW—Stevens Point, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Soil and Land Management. She will provide conservation technical assistance to private landowners in Florence, Forest, Oneida, and Vilas counties.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The application deadline for the next round of funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is May 19, 2023. Interested applicants should contact NRCS, as soon as possible, to allow time for the development of a conservation plan. Additional information may be found on our website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/wisconsin>.

The EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance to farmers, forestland owners, and other rural landowners to address natural resources concerns and opportunities. Common projects include the development of rotational grazing systems, erosion control and water quality improvement, wildlife habitat development, and tree planting, thinning, and other forest stand improvement activities, as well as the development of forest management plans and fish & wildlife management plans. A full list of eligible conservation practices and financial assistance payment rates may be downloaded from the national NRCS website, by navigating to [State Payment Schedule](#), on the EQIP webpage, from the website listed above.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The application deadline for the next round of funding for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has not been announced, but recently has been set for the second quarter of the fiscal year (i.e. Jan-Mar). Applications are accepted on a continuous basis, with applications considered during the subsequent round of funding. Interested applicants should contact NRCS, to ensure eligibility in advance of the next round of funding.

The CSP is essentially a conservation rewards program, for working agricultural lands, which provides financial payments for operators' existing level of conservation, plus incentives to implement additional conservation enhancement activities. It is the largest conservation program in the United States, with 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled in CSP. The minimum annual payment is \$1,500 per operator.

Similar to EQIP, a full list of eligible CSP conservation activities and financial assistance payment rates may be downloaded from the national NRCS website. Navigate to CSP, from the Wisconsin homepage [<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/Wisconsin>], or access the CSP page, directly: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wi/csp>.

Contact Us

Please contact us, if you have questions or would like additional information:

- Michael Stinebrink, District Conservationist:
 - Office: 715-362-5941 x111
 - Cell: 920-420-1087
 - Michael.Stinebrink@usda.gov

- Lindsey Laskowski, Soil Conservationist:
 - Office: 715-362-5941 x116 [as of May 8]

Signup for NRCS Email Updates

You may signup to receive email updates from NRCS, including announcements of program application deadlines, at the following webpage:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/usdanrcs/subscriber/new>.