

Dane Demonstration Farms Network

Dane County is seeking farmers who are interested in participating in on-farm research focused on conservation. Farms chosen to participate would be part of a network of farms collectively known as the Dane Demo Farms.

Goals of the Network:

- 1) Test effectiveness of current and innovative conservation systems
- 2) Provide the transfer of technology and information on the effectiveness of conservation systems to the end-users, land management agencies, agribusiness and the public
- 3) Create opportunities for partners to test research, technical assistance and program implementation on demonstration farm sites
- 4) Implement an information/outreach strategy to share information and lessons learned to stakeholders
- 5) Build interest and capacity to implement more conservation practices throughout the county
- 6) Identify barriers to implementation of practices and explore solutions with input from farmers, agribusiness, resource professionals, and other stakeholders

What is the farm committing to by being a demonstration farm?

- Try new conservation practices
- Welcome others on to your farm for field days and/or small tours
- Speak publicly about specific conservation practices and share what has and has not worked on your farm
- Research conducted on your farm, and allow researchers access your farm to collect data
- Data collected for research on your farm to be shared publicly
- Post signs provided by Dane Demonstration Farms
- Open to having photos and videos taken of you, your farm, equipment, etc.
- Commitment to an agreed upon rotational plan on any acres that flow to edge of field monitoring equipment
 - Any edge of field monitoring installed on your farm requires a legal agreement

What does a participating farm receive in return?

- Real world research results for your farm based on your interests
 - Soil health data, nitrogen efficiency information, carbon data, runoff water quality data, soil loss information, etc.
- Networking with other farmers that have shared conservation interests
- Positive public relations for agriculture both within the farm community, environmental groups, and the general public
- Promotion of any farmer group you are involved in

Farmer Compensation:

- 1) \$2,000 per year for participating
- 2) Stipends for participation in field days and tours
- 3) Demonstration Farm signage

We are seeking farms of all types and sizes to be a part of Dane Demo Farms. Farms that have successfully implemented **innovative** conservation on their farms are encouraged to apply.

What does innovative mean when it comes to conservation?

- A practice itself may not be innovative (example: cover crops) but how one manages the practice may be innovative (example: planting green)
- A practice may be innovative if it's not widely adopted within your neighborhood or the county (example: composting of manure)

If interested in learning more about becoming a Dane Demo Farm, please complete the form below and/or contact Kim Meyer at Dane County LWRD at 608-445-1474.

Dane Demonstration Farms Network Application

First and Last Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Type of farm: _____

Acres: _____

Innovative Conservation on your farm: _____

Return form to Dane County and Water Resources Department, 5201 Fen Oak Dr, #208, Madison, WI 53718, Attn: Kim Meyer, or email information to meyer.kim@countyofdane.com or call/text Kim Meyer at 608-445-1474