



Horse Creek Area Watersheds

We know you care about clean water and healthy soil. But making changes to your farming practices to protect resources can be a challenge. For this reason, the Horse Creek Council is providing you with the opportunity to receive monetary assistance to test your water AND protect it.

On the next page is a list of incentives we are offering to all farmers in these two watersheds. If you'd like to participate, please fill out the sheet and return it by August 20th.

The Horse Creek Area Watershed Council is a voluntary, farmer-led group that aims to help farmers and landowners enhance water quality in the Horse Creek watershed. Our Council is directed by farmers, and is completely voluntary and non-regulatory. We're getting assistance from the Polk County Land and Water Department for incentive program administration. The funding for these incentives comes from the McKnight Foundation, a private organization, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Your participation and any information the Council collects will stay with the Council, and will not be made public without your consent. Please note, incentives are only available for land within the two watersheds.

Our mission is to help producers to adopt best management practices dedicated to protecting water quality and improving soil health.

HORSE CREEK AREA WATERSHED COUNCIL
CONSERVATION INCENTIVES 2021



Please check the incentive(s) you are interested in. Incentives only apply to land within the watershed. You may sign up for more than one. Funding is limited and will be first-come, first-served. We reserve the right to pro-rate payment amounts if sign-up exceeds funding availability. **Deadline for sign-up is August 20th**. For soil sample incentives, a record of sampling and analysis must be submitted by December 1. Payments will be made by December 31. Payments for incentives will be administered by the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department staff.

Please return in the enclosed envelope or mail to:

Horse Creek Area Watersheds Council, c/o Brad Johnson, 480 200th St., Osceola, WI 54020

____ **\$4/acre for new soil samples**, taken in 5-acre increments or less, and review. You may take the samples yourself, use a consultant, or contact the county. You must provide proof of sampling and analysis to receive the incentive, and must be willing to share your sample results with the council – *the data will not be made public*.

Please indicate the number of acres you would like to sample for incentive payments - _____ acres

____ **\$1/acre payment for phosphorus indexing**. The phosphorus index is a number that indicates the potential for phosphorus loss from a field. It is calculated using soil sample results and other factors including distance to a water body, slope, soil type, tillage practices, etc. If you already have a nutrient management plan for your operation and you are actively updating this plan you would be eligible for this incentive.

Please indicate how many acres you have covered under a 590 approved nutrient management plan - _____ acres

____ **\$20/acre for planting a fall seeded cover crop** in a growing crop or following the crop harvest (**Maximum 150 ac**). Cover crops may include any species of small grain (winter rye is recommended). Multi-species mixes are eligible. Cover crop must be planted in a growing crop or after the harvest of the crop but no later than October 15th. Cover crop must be fall or spring terminated. Priority will be given to those who will be planting cover on highly erodible acres (HEL land) and any first time participants. Non-highly erodible acres will only be available to new participants to the program. Incentives for cover crop planting may be pro-rated according to available funding. Watershed council members can provide guidance in cover crop establishment. Council contact information can be found on the reverse side.

Please indicate number of HEL acres to be planted to cover crops – HEL acres _____

Non-HEL acres planted to cover crops (*only for first time participants*) - NHEL acres _____

____ **\$1,000 grant for planter improvements**. This one-time grant is made available to pre-approved applicants looking to upgrade their planter with accessories making it capable to plant with no tillage. This grant is focused towards producers looking to begin no tilling but do not have the appropriate planter set-up yet. Watershed council will review applicants and approved applicants must provide evidence of no-till planting and a paid receipt for accessories before payment is made. Appropriate accessories include; row cleaners, down pressure springs, aftermarket closing wheels, etc. Prior recipients of this grant are not eligible this grant a second time.

____ **\$80 stipend for well water testing (NEW!)**. This one-time stipend is made available to applicants looking to learn more about their well water quality and obtain a recent well water test. Applicants will receive a well water test kit and following lab results will have access to information to help interpret their results. The test result data will not be made public. Applicants will be contacted by the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department staff for sample instructions and kits. Lab analysis must be presented as proof of payment to be eligible for the stipend listed.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____