

APPLICATION FOR 2024 CONSERVATION INCENTIVES

In order to improve water quality in our area, we are pleased to offer the following conservation incentives for 2024. Please check any practices below that you are interested in learning more about. **If you do not wish to receive any incentive payments but still support the council's goals and work, please fill out and return an application to help us know we have community support.**

- ___ **\$250 payment for signing up for a free, no-strings attached farm walkover, for operations of at least 20 cropland acres with a conservation planner from the Pierce County Land Conservation Department (LCD).** This is an opportunity to get suggestions about improving soil and water conservation as well as agricultural productivity on your land. This is a one-time incentive for either the owner or the operator.
- ___ **\$1/acre for maintaining a Nutrient Management Plan meeting NRCS 590 standards.** This incentive will cover all cropland and pasture acres owned and operated within the watershed. You must submit plan in SnapPlus digital format. Additional cost sharing may be available through the LCD. Total number of acres covered in your Nutrient Management Plan = ____.
- ___ **\$1.00/ft for Grassed Waterway installation.** Waterways will be surveyed and designed by a technician from the LCD and installed by a contractor of your choosing. Additional cost-sharing may be available through the LCD. Approximate length in feet of waterway to install or repair = ____.
- ___ **\$100 per acre for creating a grassed buffer strip.** Buffer strips slow down runoff, filter nutrients, and prevent erosion. Examples would include creating a field border around a field or along a waterway. The width must be no less than 10' and no more than 90' wide. Approximate number of acres to be seeded (maximum 10 acres) = ____.
- ___ **\$400 per acre for planting a pollinator plot.** This incentive offers \$400 per acre to seed cropland with a pollinator mix. For previous applicants, this incentive will pay \$25 per acre to keep and maintain existing pollinator plots (burning or mowing). The seed mixes must be approved by NRCS and applied at recommended rates. Number of acres to be seeded or maintained (maximum 5 acres) = ____.
- ___ **Up to \$2000 for any proposed Nitrogen use efficiency test plot approved by the council.** Please submit a written proposal and the council would approve or deny by May 1st. An example could include working with an agronomist to apply different rates of N fertilizer in strips on a field, comparing full application to split application, or comparing different nitrogen stabilizers.
- ___ **\$40 per any test to improve nitrogen management. This could include a pre-plant nitrate test, pre-side dress nitrate test, Haney soil test, or fall stalk test.** Increase fertilizer efficiency by reducing amount applied while maintaining economic return. Samples must be taken by an agronomist (the council can help you find one). Applicant must also provide sufficient information regarding crop inputs in order to analyze results. Number of test (10 maximum) = ____.
- ___ **\$500.00 flat rate incentive for new construction, repair, or general maintenance of a grade stabilization structure (dam) that meets NRCS standards.** Examples of maintenance include clearing trees growing on the structure or replacing the pipe. This incentive requires an inspection and approval by a technician from the LCD prior to completed work. Additional cost-sharing may be available through the LCD.

Funding for cost-sharing practices has been generously provided by the McKnight Foundation and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

_____ **\$20/acre payment for planting a cover crop into a growing crop or following the crop harvest in 2024.** Cover crops may include any species of small grain (winter rye is recommended), radishes, hairy vetch, buckwheat, or any clover planted after a growing crop and terminated before planting a new crop. Cover crop must be planted in a growing crop or after the harvest of the crop but no later than October 15th. Verification of seeding along with seed tags will be required before payment. Number of acres to be planted = _____. Cover crop seeding services are offered by the following custom applicators:

- Daman Raebe (airplane) - 920-219-0459
- Kirby Zimmerman (Hi-Boy seeder) - 715-965-5230
- Rohl Custom Harvesting (drill) - 715-594-3140
- Andy Esterby (drill) - 651-764-1899
- Inquire with the council for information on drone seeding.

The following conditions will apply to all conservation incentives:

1. Applicants must be willing to share their Nutrient Management Plan including soil test data to the Council and LCD. This information will be used to help measure the progress of phosphorus reduction in the watershed.
2. Applicants will be required to submit a W9 tax form if incentive payment exceeds \$600.00. The W9 form will be kept on record by the Wisconsin Farmers Union.
3. All conservation practices must meet NRCS standards in order to be cost shared.
4. Pierce County's 10' no-till drill is available to Pierce County residents within the watershed of this council at no cost if used for any incentive.
5. This program is developed to assist in adoption of new conservation practices and reduce risk to farmers for the first three years of implementing that practice on each field. It is not meant to subsidize conservation indefinitely. By signing below, you agree that you will not apply for incentive funds to pay for the same practice on the same field for more than three years (starting in 2021).

Payments will be received by December 31, 2024. We reserve the right to pro-rate payment amounts if sign-up exceeds funding availability. **Deadline for sign-up is April 15, 2024.** To learn more, please contact Brad Peterson (715-307-3502) or Brian Bergseng (715-760-0505).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please submit applications to:

Dan Sitz
dan.sitz@co.pierce.wi.us
Pierce County Land Conservation Department
412 W Kinne Street
Ellsworth, WI 54011

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