Why It Matters



The averageamountof soil lost PER ACRE annually on cropland





If your farmer doesn't think they will have the land for multiple years, they will hesitate to invest in long-term protections and investments in the soil.

Without those investments, erosion will leave the land less productive causing a **loss of value** to you and more costs to the community in flooding & pollution.

Tip:

A conversation with your farmer on erosion & a MULTI-YEAR lease will let your farmer know that you care about investing in the land and that they can safely commit to investing too.

LOCAL CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation

Tim Stieber - 715-531-1905

Askhim aboutcounty cost-share

& technical assistance for conservation.

St. Croix County USDA NRCS

Dana Swanson - 715-684-2874

Askher abouttechnical advice and federal incentives for conservation.

Dry Run Farmer-Led Watershed Council Coordinator

Becky Brathal - 715-492-8967

Ask her about connecting with local farmers interested in conservation.

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

715-425-5738 info@kinniriver.org
Ask them aboutprotectingyourland
with a permanent easement.

Renting Farmland

IN ST. CROIX COUNTY



FOR LANDOWNERS

A Guide to Renting Out Farmland to Protect Your Land, Your Farmer, & Your Community



www.farmerledwatershed.org
@farmerledwatershed

Produced in Collaboration with South Kinni Farmer-Led Watershed Council, UW-Madison Extension, and Pierce County Land Conservation Dept.

Lease Agreements

Lease agreements protect landowners and renting farmers by layingout expectations for the landowner & renter. A good lease will include:

- Rental Rate (\$\$)
 Conservation Clauses
- · Start & End Dates · Terms for Cancellation

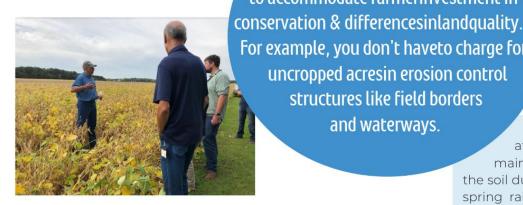
renter.

Parties Involved
 Land Description

A sample lease agreement can be found on our website: farmerledwatershed.org

Determining Rental Rate

Rental Rate depends on a variety of factors including the land use (e.g., pasture vs. row crop), potential productivity of the land (based on soil type, slope, drainage etc), local taxes, and your relationship with your Consider adjustingyouragreement



Talk to your farmer and local experts to discuss a reasonable rate.

What Can Soil & Water **Protection Look Like on Farmland?**

No-till farming

reduces soil disturbance and leaves more residue coverina the soil. It can look a little less neat, but it a great way to reduce erosion & pollution.

Tip:

structures like field borders

and waterways.



Conservation on farmland can look many different ways and no farmer or field is perfect. Even on unfarmed ground, there will always be SOME nutrient & soil loss.

Not all practices work well in every field and learning to manage them can take time. Here are a few to accommodate farmerinvestment in practices you can look for, talk to your farmer, & ask For example, you don't haveto charge for local experts about. uncropped acresin erosion control

> Cover Crops are planted after harvest or alongside a main crop to act as protection of the soil during the late fall and early spring rains. Cover Crops can also provide nutrients to the soil while creating stability and reducing compaction.

Seethe back of thispamphletforlocal experts who can answer your questions.



Managing nutrients & testing soils help farmers avoid runoff pollution by not overapplying based on the soils in the field.

Field borders & grassed waterways provide a space at the edge of the field with perennial groundcover. They reduce erosion & runoff while absorbing nutrients before they reach surface waters. They also can take unprofitable acres (especially along tree-lines) out of production to increase farmer profit and create a convenient lane for field checks.



