

FALL 2025

# FIELDS & SHORES

Official Newsletter of the Green Lake County Land  
Conservation Department

## YOUTH ARTISTS WANTED!

### 2026 County Poster Contest

Every year, the National Association of Conservation Districts hosts a poster contest that children K-12 can submit artwork based on a certain theme. This year's theme is "**Soil. Where it all Begins**".

The poster has certain criteria that it must include:

- The theme name must be visible and clearly seen on the poster.
- The conservation message should be clear from the design.
- Use your individual creativity!

Posters are due 12/19/2025 to the Green Lake County Land Conservation Department. Posters should be 12x18in or 14x22in and can be vertical or horizontally laid out. All posters from each age group will be considered to move on to the Lake Winnebago Area meeting and proceed to the next level voted to do so. There is a monetary prize for the first-place winners at the county, area, state, and national levels! The top 3 posters from each age group will be displayed at the 2026 Green Lake County Fair.

If you have a young person in your life that is interested or you have more questions, visit our website or call the office!

## NEW! GREEN LAKE FARMERS COALITION

In early September, a meeting was held with local farmers to discuss the implementation of a Producer-led watershed group. The goal of a group like this is to protect Wisconsin's water quality by supporting local producer's ideas and encourage farmer participation in a local watershed.

The watershed we are focusing on is the Upper Fox, so farmers and landowners from Green Lake and Fond du Lac County can join the group. With this grant, we hope to focus on nutrient management education, support for soil and plant tissue testing, and field days to get community members involved in the work that goes on!

We would love more input! If you want to know more or are interested in joining, please contact [ofischer@greenlakecountywi.gov](mailto:ofischer@greenlakecountywi.gov).

## THIS YEARS THEME

**Soil.**  
Where it all Begins



National Association of Conservation Districts  
Stewardship Week 2026

The NACD website has more details and gives ideas on what the art could include!



We are still waiting on logo creation, so if you have any media design abilities and would like to help, let us know!



## THINKING ABOUT N APPLICATION

Before pre-buying your fertilizer for next growing season, it may be a good idea to look into the maximum return to nitrogen, or MRTN. Due to the high fertilizer prices and low price of corn, it might benefit your farm to purchase a different amount than you have in previous years.

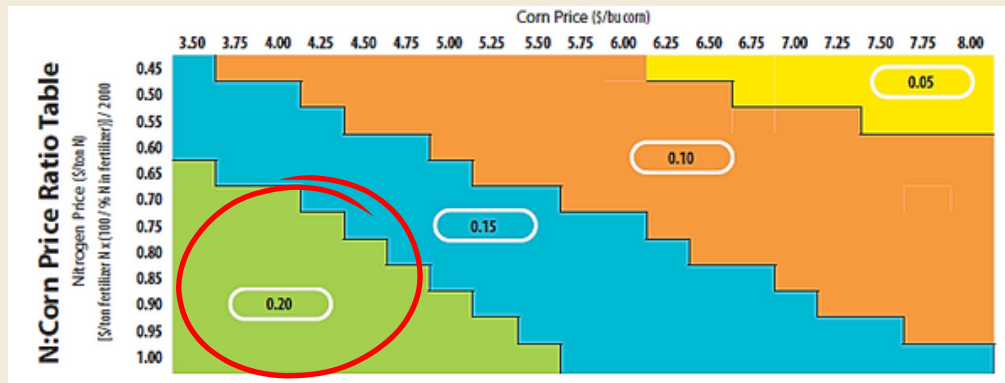


Photo taken from the UW-Extension Nutrient Management Fast facts magazine.

This year may be a good year to put in a test strip of corn. Think about doing an area on your farm where no

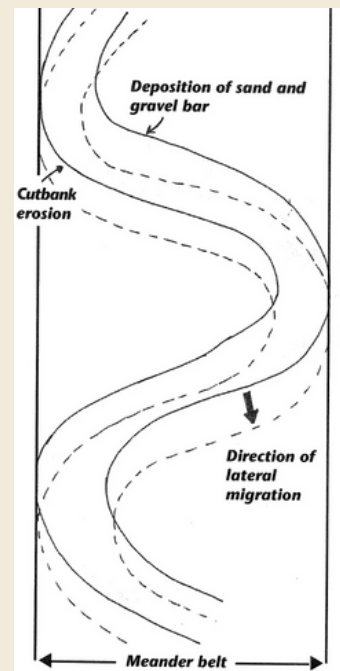
nitrogen is applied. This will allow you to see the base yield, which may surprise you!

## CONSTRUCTION: Streambank Restoration

As we know, streams are constantly moving. They meander back and forth across the landscape, carrying sediment with them as they flow. Fast flowing water strips soil off the outer bank-walls and deposits it where water is slow, building up sediment in that area. This means streams are always slowly drifting in the direction of the outer curve. Although erosion happens naturally, it can become a problem depending on how fast it occurs.

In the case of this landowner, erosion was occurring in White Creek on their property. Roots were exposed, trees were falling in, and the water was cutting away the outer banks. In order to fix the erosion, we had to reshape, stabilize, and add vegetation to the outer bank. This design takes a lot of different calculations, permits, and discussions with different agencies in order to get the practice installed. Due to the nature of the project, permits are required because of the potential of harming the ecosystem downstream. This project was completed in 2021.

If you have an eroding streambank that you would like us to come look at, please call the office to schedule a site visit!



Streambank before the restoration.



Streambank right after the restoration.



Streambank restoration after 3 months.



# FARMER FEATURES

The “Farmer Feature” section of this newsletter is to highlight what farmers are doing around the county!

## Woolly Thyme Farm

Woolly Thyme Farm, owned and operated by Dan Kuhfuss, is a certified organic farm in the southern part of the county. Dan started using cover crops in hopes to better utilize the nutrients from liquid manure that he applies to his fields, but to also protect the soil against wind erosion, build soil biology, and overall increase biodiversity on his farm. From his experience so far, rapeseed seems to be his favorite cover. Belonging to the brassica family, rapeseed can be spread directly to the soil surface and tends to germinate quickly with minimal moisture. It can grow well past freezing temperatures in the fall.

This year was Dan’s second year aerial seeding a cover crop mixture in early July. Using agricultural drones, a multi-species cover of radish, turnips, and rapeseed was seeded into his standing corn. “It doesn’t grow much until the corn starts to dry down and the canopy starts to open, but then it will take off,” Dan says. Each cover plays a different role in soil health. “I like legumes such as clover/vetch/beans for adding nitrogen, brassicas such as rapeseed/turnips/radish are great for building structure and breaking up compaction, buckwheat is good for making phosphorus available, and some of these covers will flower, which is great for our pollinators.”

## “Buckwheat Benefits” Field Day: Hebbe Farms

In September, local farmer Jim Hebbe hosted a field day talking all about his experience planting buckwheat as a cover crop. Summer 2024 was his first trial with buckwheat, which was planted after peas and before winter wheat, so around early-August. The winter wheat was planted directly into the standing buckwheat, which was then killed by freezing temperatures. In spring of 2025, as the winter wheat started growing again, so did the buckwheat. Because it had gone to seed the previous fall, buckwheat was growing all over again, kind of acting like a perennial even though it is an annual plant. This may be beneficial to farmers since they wouldn’t have to buy new seed each year. On a different field, Jim is trying this experiment again, but this time the buckwheat was planted a few weeks later than it had been last year. We are going to see if he notices changes in his soil health, and in the yield of his winter wheat.



Aerial seeding into sweet corn via drone.



Cover 1 week after aerial seeding.



“Buckwheat Benefits” Field Day at Jim’s farm, 2025.



Buckwheat completely flowered in 2024.



# Support GLC Food Pantry!



Don't have room in your freezer for all of the deer you harvested this hunting season? Don't let it go to waste! Bring it to the Green Lake County Highway Shop Wednesday, Nov. 26 **OR** Saturday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 between **11AM-1PM**.

Through the Deer Donation Partnership Program, people can drop their legally registered deer off to be processed and distributed to Green Lake County's food pantry. You will be providing venison to local community members in need through the donation of your deer.

If considering, please:

1. Field dress your deer like you would normally.
2. Register your deer and keep the confirmation number handy.
3. Drop off the deer at the Highway shop on **Wednesday, 11/26 or Saturday, 11/29/2025 between 11AM-1PM**. Other options available outside of those hours: LeRoy Meats (Fox Lake) or Beck's Meats (Oshkosh).

Feel free to look at our Facebook/Website for more information. Thank you for considering!

## Staff Highlight!

If you have farmed or owned land in the county for a while, you may know our County Conservationist, Todd Morris. In 2025, Todd celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> year with the county and is going on year 4 in his current role.

The farmers and co-workers he works with are the favorite parts of his job. "Co-workers are always working towards the same goal. Everyone has their own niche, and we all work together to come up with solutions to issues. I also enjoy working with farmers/landowners around the county. They are always willing to try new practices and work with our department to improve soil and water resources of Green Lake County."

In his free time, he enjoys golfing, hunting, and spending time with his family. He also has a small farm that includes 8 goats, chickens, 2 alpacas, and 1 highland heifer, so he's busy taking care of those girls too!



## We want to hear from you!

If there is anything you want to learn more about, please feel free to give us suggestions! It could be anything from program information, best management practices, local farmer highlights, constructions projects, community and youth outreach, native plants, and more!

Please email [ofischer@greenlakecountywi.gov](mailto:ofischer@greenlakecountywi.gov) with your suggestions, or if you'd like to be featured.

## Like/Follow us on Facebook!

Type in "Green Lake County Land Conservation Department" on the search bar or scan this QR code to go to our page!

If you want to look more into programs, cost-sharing opportunities, and other happenings in the department, please visit our page on the county website!



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