FOX-WOLF
WATERSHED ALLIANCE
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Basin Buzz

Brown County LWCD: (920) 391-4621
Calumet County LWCD: (920) 849-1442
Outagamie County LCD: (920) 832-5073
Winnebago County LWCD: (920) 232-1950

Upcoming Events

- Demonstration Farm Farmer Luncheon & Runoff Roundtable, January 26—FREE Event, all farmers welcome!
- Watershed Celebration - March 6 - Lambeau Field, Green Bay 4:30-8:00 - Register online www.fwwa.org
- To receive text updates on field days and more, sign up for the Fox Demo Farms Network Text List! *Text FoxDemoFarms to 88202*

Inside the Buzz

Join us!

Farmer Luncheon & Roundtable
January 26th
10:30 - 4:00

Liberty Hall
800 Eisenhower Drive
Kimberly

This FREE event is open to all farmers and includes Lunch and a Happy Hour from 4-5pm!

Contact Molly to RSVP by Friday, January 19th

(920) 465-2393
meyersm@uwgb.edu

FOX WATERSHED FARMER ROUNDTABLE

Inspiring Action • Improving Farms • Restoring the Bay

Join us for the **3rd Annual Farmer Roundtable!**

3rd Annual Farmer Roundtable meeting includes lunch, guest speakers and discussions about conservation practices to improve soil health, water quality and your bottom line!

- ***Meet Guest Speakers Jim Harbach and Gerard Troisi from Loganton, PA.*** Hear how this farmer and crop advisor have been reducing runoff and improving their farm by advancing no-till and cover crops in the Chesapeake Bay watershed since 1979
- ***Participate in a Local Farmer Panel and Breakout Discussions***
- ***Explore Local On-farm Case Studies and Demonstrations***

LOWER FOX Demonstration Farms Network
ALLIANCE for the GREAT LAKES
We Extend the CALUMET to ALL Mankind
Outagamie County Est. 1851
UW Extension University of Wisconsin-Extension
Winnebago County The Wave of the Future

Strip-Till:

A Conservation Approach for Northeast Wisconsin

Bodart Farms. Fall 2017, strip-till unit used after corn grain harvest.

Interested in keeping your soil and nutrients on your field, but not sure if a no-till system is for you?

Consider reaching out to Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) or Outagamie County Land Conservation Department (LCD) to learn more about your options. The counties have been working with Riesterer & Schnell to bring an Environmental Tillage Systems (ETS) strip-till unit to the Lower Fox River Watershed!

Trying the unit on your land is free to you and is a great opportunity to see if a strip-till system will work for your operation! This past fall, more than 800-acres in the watershed were strip-tilled with this unit!

Strip-Till Unit:

So, what is a strip-till unit and why would you want to try it on your land? Strip-till is a conservation system that minimizes tillage to the exact area where planting will take place. It works the ground in 8-inch strips. Similar to a no-till system, the strip-till unit leaves residue on the ground to protect the soil. It alternates between working the soil and leaving the ground intact. The residue acts as a food source for the soil biology and helps rebuild soil organic matter.

Increased soil organic matter increases infiltration rates and reduces soil erosion, keeping the sediment and nutrients on the ground working for you!

Things to consider if thinking about:

Planting Cover Crops After Corn Silage

☐ **Determine what herbicide to use THIS Spring.**
Spring herbicide application can limit your choice of fall cover.
Some herbicides will kill off your cover later in the fall, determining which type of cover you will plant in the fall prior to your spring herbicide selection/application will save you headache later!

Work with your crop consultant and/or LWCD agent.

☐ **Choose an early maturity rate corn for your 2018 crop.**
Early maturity rate allows you to harvest corn earlier, which gives you more time to establish cover crops.

i.e., Select 95-day corn versus 100-day corn.

☐ **What are you doing with your manure?**

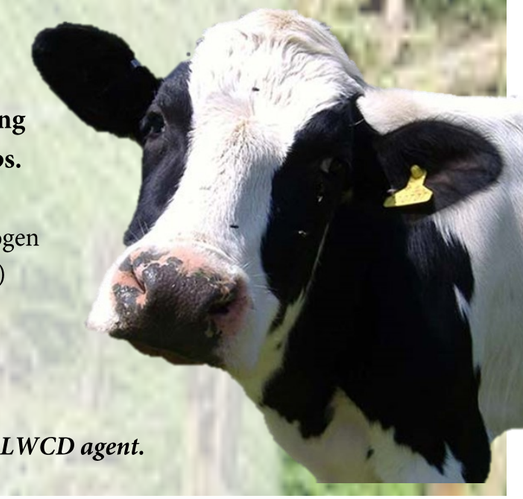
- Low-disturbance or surface apply? Applying manure to a growing cover? Talk to your County LWCD agents about your options - depending on the location of your farm, equipment may be available to rent.
- Incorporation? Apply manure BEFORE planting covers. It's important to note that this will delay when cover crops are planted, which will reduce the time available to establish cover crops.

Talk to your manure hauler early.

☐ **Choose your cover crop by determining the goals you have for your cover crops.**
Consider what is your plan for 2019?
Corn silage for 2019? Try planting a nitrogen rich cover crop (i.e., legumes or brassicas)

- Covers for soil health?
- Covers for forage?
- Covers for grazing?

Work with your Crop Consultant and/or LWCD agent.



Explore Cover Crops

Benefits of Cover Crops

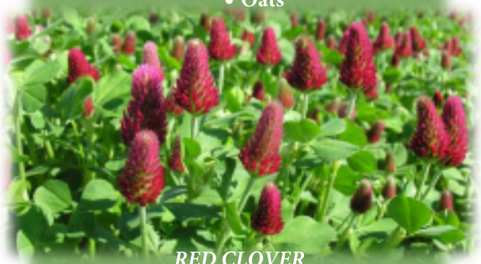
- **Improve yields by enhancing soil health**
- **Cut fertilizer costs**
- **Prevent soil loss**
- **Conserve soil moisture**
- **Reduce herbicide use**
- **Protect water quality**

Cover crops improve soil quality by reducing erosion, reducing soil crusting and compaction, reducing weeds, improving infiltration, and increasing soil organic matter.

Common Cover Crop Species:

For Forage
- Winter Rye
- Triticale

For Soil Health
- Clover
- Barley
- Oats
- Cereal Rye
- Radish



RED CLOVER is an annual or multi-year legume that improves topsoil. It is easily overseeded into standing crops or frostseeded into

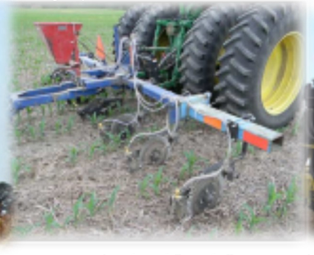
Items to Consider When Choosing a Cover Crop Species:

- **Seeding Date:** Select species such as radish and oats have better establishment when planted early. Winter Rye and Triticale can be planted until late in the Fall.
- **Termination**: Some species winter kill, while others will need to be sprayed or tilled in Spring.
- **Manure Management:** Manure can be applied to cover crops by using a vertical tillage injector or by applying manure and planting cover crops after.
- **Seeding Mixes: There is an added benefit to soil health when two or more species** are mixed together. Common mixes are radishes and oats, clover and radish, and barley and oats.

The **Midwest Cover Crop Council** has a free "Cover Crop Selector" tool for producers to select which cover crop species will best meet goals and work with crop rotations. Find it online:

Establishing Cover Crops

Cover crops can be established through many different application methods. The most common are drilling in cover crops or broadcasting seed after harvesting crops in the fall. Aerial applications, no-till drills, and manure slurry applications also work very well. A newer concept to this area is interseeding cover crops into standing crops. This allows for earlier establishment and more cover crop growth in the fall. If extremely dry field conditions exist, incorporating seed for maximum establishment potential is highly recommended.



For help with cover crop planning specific to your farm contact your agronomist, local Land Conservation Department or UW-Extension.

Farmers in the Lower Fox River Watershed used the ETS unit this fall to till their soil, while simultaneously incorporating nutrients (i.e., phosphorus and potassium).

While some strip-tilled into crop residue, others strip-tilled into standing cover crops. This system allows a farmer to receive the wide range of soil health benefits a living cover crop provides, while still incorporating their nutrients in the fall.

The strip-till unit has variable rate application capabilities. This helps to optimize inputs for agricultural production. By using variable rate applications, compared to broadcast applications, a farmer can maximize the efficiency of applying their fertilizer, while reducing costs. Using RTK guidance, a farmer can apply fertilizer in the fall and then return the following spring and plant the seed within an inch of the nutrient application. The accuracy of this equipment ensures that the seed is placed near the nutrients to maximize the seed's yield potential.

For those who strip-tilled their fields this past fall, they will have the opportunity to "freshen" the soil this spring. Rather than working the entire field, they will till the strips that were done this past fall. This will loosen the soil in the precise location where the seed will be placed, while allowing the strips of crop residue to stay intact.

It is important to note that strip-till is a system that can work in the fall and/or spring, so farmers interested in the strip-till unit, who did not use it this fall are still encouraged to contact Brown County LWCD and Outagamie County LCD.

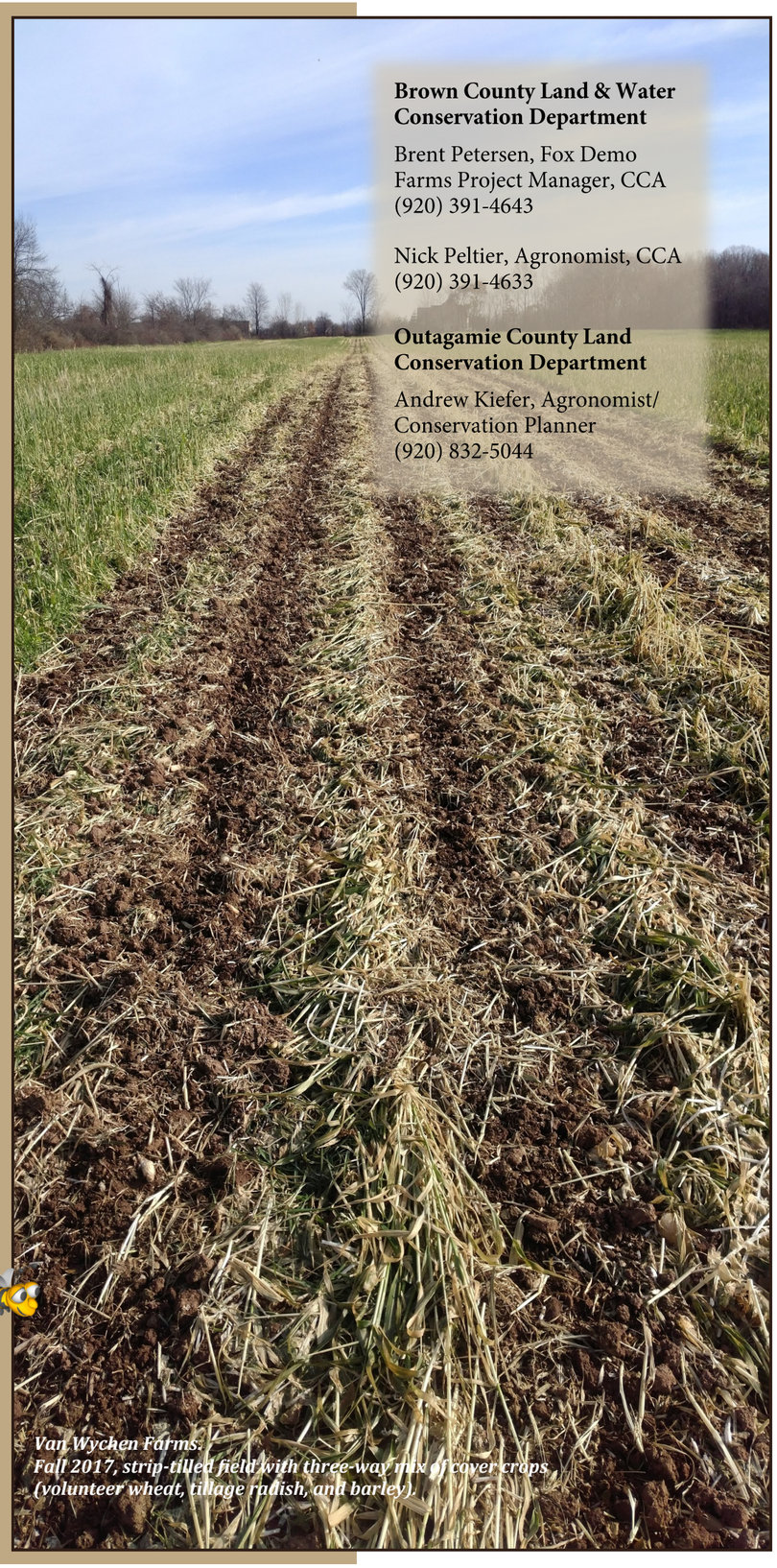
Brown County Land & Water Conservation Department

Brent Petersen, Fox Demo Farms Project Manager, CCA
(920) 391-4643

Nick Peltier, Agronomist, CCA
(920) 391-4633

Outagamie County Land Conservation Department

Andrew Kiefer, Agronomist/ Conservation Planner
(920) 832-5044



Van Wychen Farms. Fall 2017, strip-tilled field with three-way mix of cover crops (volunteer wheat, tillage radish, and barley).

Great Lakes RESTORATION

at work in the

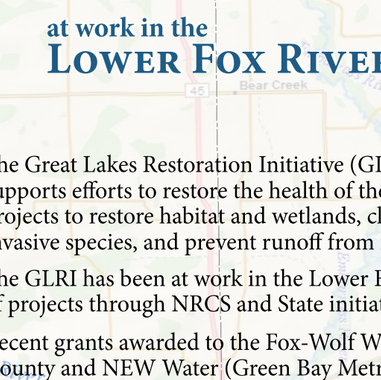
Lower Fox River Watershed

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is a federal program that supports efforts to restore the health of the Great Lakes by investing in projects to restore habitat and wetlands, clean up toxic pollution, combat invasive species, and prevent runoff from farms and cities.

The GLRI has been at work in the Lower Fox River Watershed in a variety of projects through NRCS and State initiatives for many years.

Recent grants awarded to the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, Outagamie County and NEW Water (Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District) have brought additional opportunities to landowners and producers in the Plum and Kankapot Creeks, Upper Duck Creek, Silver Creek (a tributary to the Duck Creek) and Upper East River Watersheds. BMPs including streambank restoration, cover crops, buffer strips, treatment wetlands and more are being installed to protect the land and improve water quality!

If you own or operate land in the Lower Fox River Basin and are interested in streambanks, waterways, cover crops, interseeding, buffers, nutrient management planning or other conservation practices contact your local County Land Conservation Department or NRCS office today!



SHAWANO

Lower Fox Subbasin

Dead Horse Bay-Frontal Green Bay

Green Bay

Lower Duck Creek

Trout Creek

City of Green Bay-Fox River

Point du Sable-Frontal Green Bay

Oneida Creek

Dutchman Creek

Baird Creek

Middle Duck Creek

Upper Duck Creek

Ashwaubenon Creek

Bower Creek

Lower East River

Apple Creek

Upper East River

Mud Creek

Garners Creek-Fox River

Plum Creek

Kankapot Creek

Little Lake Butte des Mortes

Lake Winnebago

0 5 10 20 Miles

NAD 1983 HARN Transverse Mercator

Cartographer: Amy Ording
01/19/2017

Contact your Land Conservation Department or local NRCS office to determine if funding is available for your project.

Brown County LWCD: (920) 391-4621
Calumet County LWCD: (920) 849-1442
Outagamie County LCD: (920) 832-5073
Winnebago County LWCD: (920) 232-1950
Outagamie County NRCS: (920) 733-1575
Brown County NRCS: (920) 884-9210
Winnebago County NRCS: (920) 424-0329
Calumet County NRCS: (920) 849-1444

An additional opportunity

Cost-Sharing Available for Alfalfa-Grass Mixes!

Why grasses?

- Adding cool-season European grasses (tall or meadow fescue & festulolium) to alfalfa fields, can be a win-win for forage production and soil health.
- Alfalfa-grasses mixes can offer reductions in winter kill, improvements in herd health, faster drying and easier harvesting, increased stand density and tonnage on hay fields while maintaining a high quality feed. Adding grasses also helps to build soil health and decrease soil erosion, compared to pure alfalfa stands.

Project Cost-Sharing and Partnership Info

- This project is targeting three subwatersheds: Apple, Ashwaubenon, and Upper East.
- Depending on the field location, you may be eligible for cost-sharing of 50% of alfalfa & grass seed costs (up to of $40/acre).
- Participating producers will receive technical assistance in partnership with an agronomist to assist in the transition to alfalfa-grass mixes.

For more information, contact Molly Meyers at 920.465.2393 or meyersm@uwgb.edu