



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Sheila E. Harsdorf, Secretary

DATE: November 13, 2017

TO: Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

FROM: Sheila Harsdorf, Secretary *Sheila Harsdorf*
John Petty, Administrator of the Division of Agricultural Resource Management (DARM)

SUBJECT: **Land and Water Resources Bureau Report –County land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plans and the Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP)**

PRESENTED BY: Lisa Trumble and Brian Loeffelholz, DARM, Land and Water Resources Bureau

RECOMMENDATION: This is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.

SUMMARY / BACKGROUND:

This report covers the following programs within Land and Water Resources Bureau:

LWRM plans

Every county must develop a LWRM plan that identifies county conservation concerns and goals. DATCP approves LWRM plans for a 10-year period after consulting with the Department of Natural Resources and receiving a recommendation for the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB). In recent years, DATCP and the LWCB have strengthened planning and reporting requirements with the goal of increasing accountability. Counties must now submit annual work plans and reports, in a standardized format, to be eligible for annual DATCP grants. These standardized work plans include a more comprehensive description of planned activities related to livestock, cropland and other focus areas, together with more detailed benchmarks for performance. The LWCB has increased reporting requirements to improve its review of county activities. To receive favorable recommendations from the Board, counties must now answer written questions about LWRM plan implementation, and submit recent work plans including documentation of accomplishments.

CREP

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) seeks to improve water quality and wildlife habitat through the increased adoption of conservation practices along waterways. It is a cooperative effort with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and counties. Landowners receive financial incentives to install practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers, and wetland restorations while allowing adjoining land to remain in agricultural production. To enroll in the program, landowners have the option of signing a 15-year agreement or a perpetual easement. The program has been a cooperative effort between federal, state, and county governments for the past 16 years

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