

## Iowa County Uplands Producer-Led Watershed Group and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Nutrient and Pest Management (NPM) Program

The Iowa County Uplands watershed group formed in the spring of 2016. Dan Smith, the Southwest regional outreach specialist for the NPM program, provided technical assistance that helped the group achieve goals in nutrient management, educational outreach, cover cropping, and soil conservation.

One of watershed group's goals was to have all farmers have and use a nutrient management plan. The NPM program collaborated with Iowa County University of Wisconsin-Extension and Iowa County Land Conservation to help provide nutrient management education to the farmers in the watershed group. Additionally, many farmers have written nutrient management plans within these educational classes. The group has utilized NPM resources to make decisions regarding nutrient management, crop rotation, cover cropping and soil conservation.

Soil conservation education has helped the group meet a second goal of increasing no-till planting within the watershed. The group has no-till planted 600 acres — a number that continues to grow. No-till planting included corn, soybeans, wheat, new pasture, pasture renovations and cover crops.

The NPM program helped provide one-on-one education to farmers in small groups and at meetings, along with providing the general public opportunities for involvement through several field days. The NPM program provided posters, publications and assistance with research plots for field days. These resources have extended the educational reach of the Uplands group a broader audience in Southwest Wisconsin.

