GOAL: Improve Wisconsin’s soil and water quality by encouraging producer led conservation decision making and solutions

WHO CAN APPLY?

- A group of at least 5 eligible producers working to improve water quality through non-point source abatement activities. The definition of an eligible producer can be found on our webpage.

WHEN?

- Applications will be accepted at least annually. Check the DATCP producer led webpage for Request for Proposals announcements and application deadlines.

REQUIREMENTS?

- Assist other agricultural producers in a watershed to voluntarily conduct water quality improvement efforts.
- Group must form a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a collaborator listed on the right.
- Grant funding must be accepted and administered by a producer led group that is a legal entity, or has a legal entity acting on behalf of the group. “Legal Entity” is defined in the Request for Proposals.

GRANT AWARDS?

- $250,000 is available each year.
- Grants cannot exceed $20,000 per group per year.
- Producer-led groups must contribute 50 percent matching funds (1:1 ratio).

Questions?

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Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
COSTS THAT MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Please note: These are not exhaustive lists. We encourage innovative ideas and highly recommend reaching out to the program coordinator to discuss the suitability of your project.

START-UP COSTS

- Work planning
- Mission statement development
- Goal setting

IMPLEMENTATION & OUTREACH

- Learning/field days
- Bringing in experts to discuss relevant topics such as soil health, nutrient management and existing water quality monitoring data
- Measuring and promoting the economic and environmental benefits of conservation practices
- Developing innovative approaches to manure storage/stacking or sharing conservation equipment to increase or identify economic and environmental benefits of these practices
- Outreach activities such as conferences, workshops or field days to increase voluntary producer and agribusiness participation in your watershed project
- On-farm research with your collaborator to identify economic and environmental benefits and opportunities for conservation practices
- Cost-effective edge-of-field or in-stream water quality monitoring
- Farm walkovers to evaluate farm, erosion control, manure and nutrient management practices and identify solutions to resource concerns

INCENTIVE PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS

- Soil testing
- Cover crops
- Nutrient and manure management planning
- No-till
- Buffer strips
- Grassed waterways
- Manure composting
- Low-disturbance manure injection
- Other non-traditional conservation practices

STEPS TO SUCCESS

These steps have been critical to the success of existing producer led groups:

1. Identify your watershed’s specific resource concerns.
2. Identify potential changes or improvements you’d like to make in your watershed to address those resource concerns.
3. Organize a leadership structure within your producer-led group.
4. Develop a vision, goals and work/watershed plan for your project.
5. Execute your plan through education, outreach, and conservation practices.
6. Track and reward progress, participation, and successes.

Webpage resources and all grant information:

https://datcp.wi.gov/Programs_Services/ProducerLedProjects.aspx

Questions?
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