



Conservation Agronomy Training Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a cost to participate in the Conservation Agronomy Training Program?

No, there is no cost to participate in the program. However, participants are responsible for their own travel expenses. Additionally, the program will not compensate participants for their time.

What does the Conservation Agronomy Training Program consist of?

Program participants will complete seven online modules prior to attending three, one-day, in-person field trainings. Field day trainings are held in the months of June, August, and October. Participants must complete all online modules and participate in all three field day events to successfully complete the program.

Where will the program field trainings be held in 2026?

In 2026, the program field trainings will be held in Dunn, Monroe, and Sauk counties. Participants are expected to choose a single county and attend all three field days within that county. The program will rotate between different counties in 2027 and 2028.

Where does the funding for the training program come from?

This program is supported through EPA Gulf Hypoxia funding, made available through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which supports efforts to improve water quality and reduce nutrient runoff.

Will the Conservation Agronomy Training Program be offered again in the future?

Yes. Funding is currently secured to offer the program annually through 2028.

How many participants are accepted for the program?

The program will accept 75 total participants annually, with a maximum of 25 participants selected for each set of county-based field days.

Who developed the program training materials?

Program training materials were developed through a collaborative effort between DATCP, DNR, NRCS, and the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association.

Who should apply for the Conservation Agronomy Training Program?

The program is designed for early career conservation professionals, including county, state, and federal agency staff, as well as nonprofit partners working in agriculture and conservation. The training materials are tailored to individuals with a limited agricultural background and within the first five years of their conservation career.

What is the application process?

Interested participants must complete a short application form. Application can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/g/ZcH0NXN8UP>.

How are participants selected?

Participants are selected based on the applicability of the training to their professional work, interest in conservation agronomy, and availability to participate in all training events.

Do I need prior agricultural experience?

No prior experience is required. This program is designed for those without a strong agricultural background.

What topics will be covered?

The program will provide an overview of:

- Diverse crop production systems in Wisconsin
- Common conservation practices and the conservation planning process
- Farm system and natural resource concern assessments
- Engaging and communicating effectively with farmers
- Applying real-world solutions to meet farm conservation goals

Will I receive a certificate after completing the training?

Yes. Participants who complete all three field training sessions will receive a certificate of completion, which can be included on a resume or used to document professional development.

What should I bring to the field days?

- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Closed-toe shoes (may be muddy)
- Reusable water bottle

All other materials, including meals, will be provided.

Will meals be provided at the field days?

Yes. Meals and training materials will be provided during the in-person trainings.

Can the online modules be utilized as standalone learning tools?

Yes! The online modules were built with the intent to supplement the in-person trainings but were also built with the intent to be accessible for anyone who might be interested in learning about Wisconsin agriculture!

What if I am interested in being a host farm?

If you are interested in being a host farm, please contact Andrea Topper at andrea.topper@wisconsin.gov.

Who can I contact with questions?

Andrea Topper

(608) 405-0235

Andrea.topper@wisconsin.gov

