BACKGROUND

Producer-Led groups play an important role in **advancing conservation practices** and promoting soil health farming **systems** across the agricultural landscape in Wisconsin. These efforts help **improve water and soil quality** throughout the state.

CONSERVATION PRACTICES

In 2020 there was an **82% increase** in reported conservation practices implemented by farmers in Producer-Led groups compared to 2019.

**2019 Practice Acres:** 439,237 acres

**2020 Practice Acres:** 798,221 acres

**SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT REDUCTIONS**

Conservation practices implemented through the Producer-Led Program in 2020 helped reduce soil erosion and phosphorus loss from farm fields. Sediment and phosphorus has impaired water quality in Wisconsin waterbodies.

**NO-TILL ACRES**

62,587 acres (+19% from 2019) across 211 farms

Estimated* reduction: **84,860 tons of soil erosion** and **54,072 pounds of phosphorus**

**COVER CROP ACRES**

83,843 acres (+19% from 2019) across 423 farms

Estimated reduction: **75,364 tons of soil erosion** and **41,492 pounds of phosphorus**

**SOIL HEALTH SYSTEMS**

Many farmers in these groups adopt **multiple practices** to develop their own soil health management system for their farm, which can provide even greater benefits to water quality and the environment!

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**Note:** Sediment and phosphorus reductions are estimated using models. They are not measured reductions in pollutants. **For reference, one pound of phosphorus that reaches a waterbody can feed 500 pounds of algae; excessive algae impairs water quality. A soil loss of 100 tons is about 10 standard dump truck loads of soil; the nutrients in topsoil are most valuable when kept in farm fields and out of waterways!**