All EQIP practices scheduled for FY2006 must be implemented or installed by September 30th, 2006 in order to receive cost share payments. A majority of EQIP contracts for Washington County are for Nutrient Management, which may entail either writing the initial plan or just updating an existing plan. Residue Management (No-till/Strip-till) is another common practice, all Residue Mgt. ac. under an EQIP contract will be field checked after planting.

- Joe Smedberg, NRCS Acting District Conservationist

If you have any questions or are unsure whether you have a practice scheduled for FY2006 contact the USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) at (262) 335-4801 or (262) 335-4807.

Greetings to all, Urban and Rural Residents interested in Agriculture!

Haly Schultz, RC&D Grazing Specialist.

Haly Schultz is the new Grazing Specialist for Washington County and surrounding counties, hired by Town and Country RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.). Town and Country RC&D covers the counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green Lake, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha in southeast Wisconsin and is a non-profit organization.

Her background in agriculture includes receiving an undergraduate degree in Animal Science from UW-River Falls in 2001; attending graduate school at Colorado State University, where she focused her studies on rangeland management and beef cattle production; and spending time in southern Africa working as an agriculture volunteer with the U.S. Peace Corps. Haly has worked on several ranches and farms, large and small, throughout Wisconsin and the western U.S. In the future, she and her husband hope to return to his family farm in central Wisconsin to raise grass-fed beef.

The grazing specialist position for Town and Country RC&D is being funded through a Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative grant. Haly will be working in collaboration with other grazing specialists and agriculture agencies in Southeast Wisconsin. Her focus will be on; 1) providing technical assistance to farmers wishing to convert to or update their management intensive grazing systems; and 2) educating both rural and urban groups on the benefits of grazing and grass-fed products. The main emphasis of her work will be with dairy, beef, and poultry producers in the Town and Country area, but encourages anyone with grazing questions to feel free to contact her. “I am truly passionate about seeing livestock flourish on grass and helping farmers obtain economical and environmental sustainability,” said Haly.

Visit Haly at the Washington County Public Agency Center, Land & Water Conservation Division, Suite 3200 in West Bend, WI 53095 or call 262-335-4808, email haly.schultz@rcdnet.net. Information regarding Town and Country RC&D can be found at www.townandcountryrcd.org.
Benefits of Managed Grazing for Wisconsin Dairies

Whether you are a traditional Wisconsin dairy farmer looking for a way to decrease your operating costs or someone hoping to enter into the dairy industry without a lot of start-up expenses, managed grazing is a great option to consider.

Managed grazing can be thought of in many different ways but basically it is putting in place a system that manages both the grass resource and animal behavior. It consists of breaking large pastures into smaller pastures called paddocks and then rotating grazing livestock through these paddocks in such a way as to maintain the forage resource while supplying high quality forage. In managed grazing systems, livestock are expected to gain the majority of their feed from pasture during the grazing season.

Economic Benefits of Grazing

Tom Kriegl (UW-Madison Center for Dairy Profitability) compiled the results of farmer financial surveys taken in 2000-2002 in the Great Lakes states, plus Iowa and Missouri. From these surveys, Kriegl compared the financial standings of traditional dairy confinement operations with those of grazing operations.*

As expected, grazing farms produced less milk per cow (Figure 1), and with smaller herds, less milk per farm than confinement dairies. However, grazing farms tended to have much lower costs, which equated to a higher net farm income per cow. Kriegl’s data shows (Figure 1) that per cow net farm income from operations** (NFIFO) was greater in each of the three years for grazing operations as compared to confinement operations. Kriegl’s study also found that net farm income from operations per hundredweight equivalent*** (CWT EQ), holding all labor and management costs as free, was greater for grazing dairies verses confinement dairies.

A second study by Tom Kriegl and Gary Frank examined data from 1996-2002 specific to Wisconsin dairy farms.†

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* Grazing operations were defined as those farms meeting at least 30% of their livestock’s seasonal forage needs through grazing and where cattle were provided fresh pasture at least once every three days.**Net Farm Income from Operations (NFIFO) is the income that is left over after all the costs except opportunity costs have been accounted for. NFIFO is the amount of income a family could consume from business earnings in a given year without reducing business net worth. ***Hundredweight Equivalent (CWT EQ) is calculated by summing the income from the sale of all products produced by the dairy farm and then dividing by the national average milk price.

The results of this study (Figure 2) further confirmed the results of the afore-mentioned study, but this time showing the advantage grazing operations had over two different types of confinement operations in terms of average net farm income from operations per hundredweight equivalent. This study defined managed grazing farms as operations where an attempt is made to harvest a significant portion of the herd’s forage needs via grazing and labor is provided mainly by the farm family. Traditional confinement dairies were those farms with 50 to 75 cows in a stanchion barn, using stored feed and mainly family labor. And, large modern confinement farms had 250 or more cows, relied heavily on hired labor and stored feed, and used parlors for milking and free-stall buildings for housing.

For those considering entering into the dairy industry, choosing to go with a managed grazing system to supply the majority of cows’ forage needs during the grazing season, means less start-up expense. As compared to confinement operations, grazing dairies require less of an investment in machinery and buildings. Kriegl states that “someone who invests in a well-planned grazing operation will likely be able to recover most or all of their investment if a few years later they decide to switch systems or quit farming.” Grazing systems also require less cost in terms of maintenance. In summary, Wisconsin graziers average about $200 more per cow net farm income and more than $1.50 higher net farm income per hundredweight equivalent of milk sold than confinement dairy farms.²

**Environmental & Wildlife Benefits of Grazing**

There are also several environmental benefits of managed grazing systems. As opposed to tilled land, perennial pastures decrease the potential for soil erosion from wind and water by providing a permanent ground cover. Pastures require the use of minimal pesticides and fertilizers and pasture plants take up nutrients from greater depths, thereby, reducing the amount of groundwater contamination and surface runoff. Since manure is deposited naturally onto fields as animals graze, less is built up in the barnyard (as in confinement operations) resulting in less potential for barnyard runoff. In terms of wildlife benefits, rested paddocks provide nesting habitat for native grassland birds.

**Animal Health & Welfare Benefits of Grazing**

Many farmers report improvements in herd health as a result of switching to a system of managed grazing. Graziers like the fresh air, freedom of movement, and exercise that their animals receive while out on grass. Many farmers experience a drop in the number of animals they cull annually due to health reasons; from about 35% of the herd to approximately 10%.² This could also be due to the fact that cows tend to live longer when managed in a grazing system. In addition, feet and leg problems are reduced when cattle spend the majority of their time out in pasture as opposed to standing on concrete.

² Pastures for Profit: A guide to rotational grazing, 2002. By Dan Undersander, Beth Albert, Dennis Cosgrove, Dennis Johnson, and Paul Peterson. Full text can be viewed at http://www.uwrf.edu/grazing/
BREAKFAST ON THE FARM
Being held on
Saturday, June 10, 2006
6:30 AM – 11:30 AM
At
PETERS STARLITE FARM
Francis & Rita, Ed & Mary and Family
2933 Pleasant Valley Rd., West Bend

Directions: 3 Miles South of West Bend on Hwy. 45 to Pleasant Valley Road.
Go East 1/4 mile to Farm.
OR
2 Miles North of Hwy. 60 on Hwy. 45 to Pleasant Valley Road.
Go 1/4 Mile East to Farm.

Contact: Mike Strupp 262.644.0015
Bernie Wolf 262.689.8553

Provided to you by:
Washington County Dairy Promotion Breakfast Committee

Managed Grazing
Animal Health & Welfare Benefits of Grazing...
(cont. from page 3)

Whatever form of agriculture you may be involved in, the big issue to consider is whether or not you and your family will be able to sustain that operation economically and environmentally into the future. With the growing pressures of residential and commercial development on agriculture, Wisconsin needs to keep agriculture as its backbone. Integrating a managed system of grazing into all or part of your dairy operation may be a way to meet these goals.

Fence Line Conversations...
Submitted by: Paul Sebo, Senior Project Technician

Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions - Runoff Rules and You!
Do you know if your farm is in compliance with the Runoff Rules? By now, all of you should have heard about the State’s Agricultural Minimum Performance Standards and Prohibitions. This new administrative rule became effective October 1, 2002 to address runoff pollution (also known as nonpoint source pollution), the major cause of polluted waters in Wisconsin and the United States. The Agricultural performance standards and prohibitions are intended to protect water quality by minimizing the amount of soil erosion, nutrients and manure from croplands, and other nonpoint source pollutants.

The performance standards include:

- **Sheet, rill and wind erosion** - All cropped fields must meet the tolerable soil erosion rates.
- **Manure storage facilities** - All new, substantially altered or abandoned manure storage facilities must be constructed, maintained or abandoned in accordance with acceptable standards.
- **Clean water diversion around feedlots and manure storage** - Runoff from fields and buildings must be diverted away from barnyards located within 300 feet of a stream or 1,000 feet of a lake.
- **Nutrient management** - Parties responsible for applying nutrients to agricultural fields must do so in accordance with a 590 Nutrient Management Plan.

The Manure Management Prohibitions require that any livestock regardless of size can not have any of the following:

- **Manure storage facility overflows**
- **Unconfined manure piles within 300 feet of a stream or 1,000 feet of a lake**
- **Direct runoff from a feedlot or stored manure into state waters**
- **Unlimited access by livestock to state waters that adequate sod or vegetative cover (80%) is not self-sustaining**

The County's Land and Water Conservation Division is charged with overseeing the implementation of these performance standards and prohibitions. We have, since 2002, been conducting resource evaluations to determine compliance with these rules on farms that have been participating in recent conservation programs. We are currently working on an official Implementation Strategy with the DNR and plan on stepping up our farm compliance evaluations. Expect to here more on this issue in the near future.

If you would like more information on Runoff Rules or want a compliance evaluation of your farm please feel free to call me at 262-335-4805.
**New Nitrogen (N) Rate Guidelines**

While the yield response of corn to applied nitrogen has not changed, the economics of corn production have. We have all seen the price of nitrogen jump by 50% since last summer and more than doubled in the past four years. Because of this price increase and growing water quality concerns, it is even more important to estimate the most profitable rate of nitrogen to yield response. The new Nitrogen Rate Guideline philosophy is based on maximizing return to N fertilizer. The new N rate guidelines are based on 1) Soil yield potential, 2) Previous crop, and 3) N:corn price ratio. Using these three pieces of information, a N rate can be identified that will, on average, Maximize economic Return to N (MRTN).

**Example:** If corn will be grown on a high yield potential soil, N costs $0.36/lb N and the outlook for corn is $2.40/bu (a price ratio of 0.15), and the previous crop was corn then the N application rate that would be most likely to produce the greatest economic return is 120 lb N/a. A range in profitable N rates for this situation is 100 to 135 lb N/a. If the situation were the same except that the previous crop was soybean, then the N rate should be 100 lb N/a with a profitable range of 85-115 lb N/a.

For more information on this topic feel free to contact the conservation office, or to download a spreadsheet for determining the Maximum Rate to Nitrogen (MRTN) it can be found on http://www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/ncomparision.htm.

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**Nutrient Management Workshops - A Self Certification Course**

The Washington County Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD) staff offers a self-certified course regarding nutrient management. Upon completion of the Nutrient Management Workshop, you can become self-certified as nutrient management planner for your farm. Producers are instructed on how to combine on-farm nutrient sources with commercial fertilizers to meet crop needs. This combination reduces the producers cost of fertilizer applications and reduces phosphorous runoff into nearby streams. The LWCD staff have been finding that past participates have been over applying starter fertilizer, which with a manure application phosphorus soil test levels are building up excessively, and shortchanging their crops on nitrogen, potash or other potential micro-nutrients needed.

In order to meet the Wisconsin state agricultural standards and prohibitions, farmers who grow agricultural crops need to:

- Meet tolerable soil loss “T” on cropped fields
- Follow a nutrient management plan designed to limit entry of nutrients into state waters (groundwater and surface water). The plan may be compiled by a certified agronomist or prepared by the farmer by completing a DATCP approved training course.
- Rely on soil nutrient tests from a DATCP certified laboratory

For more information on the Nutrient Management Workshop or needing updated Nutrient Management Maps for your fields call the Land & Water Conservation Division @ 262.335.4800.
Changes Coming to Washington County Code Chapter 18
– Non Metallic Mining Reclamation

Chapter 18 has been in effect since June of 2001. The purpose and intent of this Code is to adopt and implement effective reclamation requirements for nonmetallic mining sites. The Land and Water Conservation Division currently oversees 11 nonmetallic mining sites in 14 municipalities.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is currently working on proposed revisions to Chapter NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code – Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation. These revisions, if approved, could remove start-up language, refine certain administrative procedures, and clarify existing language. Two public hearings were held in April to receive comments on the proposed rule changes. The Nonmetallic Mining Advisory Committee has scheduled a meeting for Friday, May 26, 2006, to discuss the results of the public hearings. Upon finalization of the NR 135 changes, Washington County will proceed with the necessary process to update County Code Chapter 18.

Should you have any questions about the NR 135 changes, you can contact Tom Portle of the WI DNR at (608) 267.0877 - DNR website @ http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/mining/nonmetallic. For Chapter 18 questions contact: Scott M. Schmidt, Washington County Engineer/Surveyor at (262) 335.6881 or visit the County’s website @ www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd.

Soil Testing
Available....

Interested in Testing your Lawn or Garden? Call the LWCD @ 262-335-4800 for more information or stop in at our office. The kit is designed for you to take your own samples and mail them into the lab for a minimal fee.

Did you know that grass clippings are your free source of nutrients for your lawn? By leaving clippings on the lawn after you mow nutrients are being added (especially nitrogen) to the soil which stimulates microbiological activity. Research has shown that by leaving short clippings on your lawn approximately 1/2 inch or less, this practice naturally supplies up to 40 percent of a lawn’s annual fertilizer. If clippings are thick, wet and smothering the lawn, it’s advised to rake them up and compost them. A lawn mower that mulches your clippings into fine bits actually fertilizes your lawn as you mow!

A slow-release fertilizer can be substituted in exchange for the grass clippings. Select a slow release fertilizer that is at least in a 50% slow release form. This reduces the amount of soluble nitrogen that may leach into our groundwater.
Scouting Your Fields

Spring is a good time to scout your farm for needed conservation practices. With spring tillage equipment and planters coming out of storage this is an excellent time of year to identify and begin planning for needed conservation practices that could be implemented or installed later this spring or after harvest this fall. The tractor cab offers a great advantage point for determining where some basic conservation practices are needed. These practices include grassed waterways, field borders, water and sediment control basins, windbreaks, conservation buffers, and/or no-till planting, to name a few.

Grassed Waterways... Are there channels that developed in the field from the concentration of runoff water. Rills or gullies that generally develop in the same areas, year after year - get filled in by tillage in the spring, redevelop during the growing season, get bounced over by the combine during harvest and this cycle is repeated year after year. If this sounds familiar to you, consider installing grassed waterways in these areas.

Control Basins... Depending on site conditions a water and sediment control basin may be needed to control gully erosion. Control basins are typically installed in areas where there may be too large of volume of runoff water to be controlled by a grassed waterway or to lessen disruption to a fields farming pattern. Control basins are also used when runoff and sediment from upslope areas cannot be managed effectively.

Grassed Field Borders... Do the ends of your fields contain small rills that occurred within the row crops - that have been planted up and down hill instead on the contour? Or show signs of greater erosion due to less crop residue because of the additional tillage traffic? Grassed field borders can protect these areas. Additionally, grassed field borders have added benefits like providing a convenient location for filling planters, unloading combines into trucks or grain carts, or for turning combines, planters and other equipment around. Controlling field traffic in this manner can greatly reduce the likelihood of developing a compaction problem within the field. Grassed field borders may be installed temporarily or left from an old hay field to control just those row crop years and then inter-seeded with your alfalfa rotation. The harvested forage from these areas may also be just what your nutritionist is looking for in your TMR mix.

Windbreaks... shelterbelts and living snow-fences are similar practices, where rows of trees and shrubs are planted to protect an area from wind and/or blowing snow. Living snow-fences are often established along roads or lanes to control drifting snow; whereas windbreaks/shelterbelts are usually planted to protect farmsteads, feedlots and other structures. Windbreaks can be effective in reducing heating costs and improving livestock performance in the winter. They also provide wildlife habitat.

(cont. on page 6)
Scouting Your Fields... (cont. from page 6)

Conservation Buffers... such as filter strips and riparian buffers, placed along the edges of streams or other water bodies serve as a last line of defense for sediment or other pollutants that might enter the water. Buffers are very effective at trapping sediment and enhance the infiltration of runoff water; they also improve safety by keeping equipment away from the edge of the stream.

No-Till... all of the practices mentioned require a commitment of land and planting of permanent vegetation (grasses, shrubs, trees). No-till planting is a proven conservation practice that often just requires a change in management and some equipment adjustments. The first step in implementing a no-till system is to make sure that the residue from the harvested crop is uniformly distributed behind the combine. Use a straw spreader or chopper to avoid leaving windrows or piles of residue that can interfere with planting the following spring. A chaff spreader also may be needed for more uniform residue distribution, particularly when harvesting soybeans or small grains with a header more than about 20 feet wide. Planter adjustments generally include tightening the down-pressure springs, adding extra weight, and marking sure the furrow openers are sharp.

To find out more on how these practices may benefit your farm and for FREE technical assistance on any conservation practices call your local Land and Water Conservation Division or USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service office at 262.335.4800. Conservation is a good investment, for you and your future.

Clean Ways for Waterways Starts in Your Backyard ...
visit http://www.cleanways.org/ for information regarding
• What is Stormwater Pollution?
• What Can I Do?
• Where Does My Stormwater Go?
• Test Your Clean Water Knowledge
• KIDS CORNER

WASHINGTON COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS

West Bend Farmers Market
06/03/06 - 10/28/06
Saturday: 7:30 am -11:00 am
Location: Old Settler’s Park
Downtown West Bend
Contact: Tanya Albrecht - (262) 338-3909

Hartford Farmers Market
Saturday: 7:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: 147 N Rural St., Hartford
(Rec. Center parking lot)
Primary Phone: (262) 673.7193
Alternate Phone: (414) 333-7317

Village of Kewaskum Farmers Market
May - October
Saturday: 7:30 am -11:00 am
Location: American Legion Hall -
1538 Fond Du Lac Ave., Kewaskum, WI 53040

Village of Germantown Farmers Market
06/03/06 - 10/28/06
Saturday: 7:30 am - 1:00 pm
Location: Germantown Village Hall,
N112W17001 Mequon Rd., Germantown
Contact: Ann Woolweber - (262) 250-4750

An atlas listing farms and food-related businesses that sell their goods directly to customers in southern Wisconsin - The 2006 atlas will be posted on the following website soon: http://www.reapfoodgroup.org/atlas/

STATE OF WICSONSIN FARMER MARKET REPRESENTATIVES & CONTACTS

State Farmers Market Representative:
Kathy Schmitt
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
Division of Agricultural Development
P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708
Phone: (608) 224-5046
Fax: (608) 224-5107
E-mail: kathy.schmitt@datcp.state.wi.us

Other Contacts:
John Hendrickson
University of Wisconsin-Madison
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
1450 Linden Drive, Room 146
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608) 265-3704
Clean Sweep... in 2007 ???

Doing a little spring cleaning... or planning on it in the near future? Where do you go to drop off your unwanted hazardous waste when Washington County does not offer a Clean Sweep? Unfortunately, this year is one of those years a Clean Sweep is not being offered to County residents. Although, the Land & Water Conservation Division will be researching the possibility of partnering with other local municipalities and non-profit organizations in an effort to obtain state grant funding; and/or researching the possibilities of other funding source options available for a 2007 Clean Sweep. Nothing is definite at this point in time; and future decisions will most likely be made, contingent upon the availability of funding.

Grant Update:

• In May 2006, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will release 2007 grant application materials.
• Washington County is planning to apply for both Household and Agricultural Clean Sweep grant funds, there will be $710,400 available statewide for the 2007 grant cycle.

However, for small businesses, please keep this in mind, that this opportunity exists year round, regardless if a Clean Sweep is being offered through the County. If you are a small business and meet the definition of a Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) - generating less than 220 lbs./month, storing less then 2,205 lbs. of hazardous waste and would like to dispose of your materials at a reduced cost… you may obtain a VSQG Chemical Inventory Form by either calling (262) 335.4800 or visit the website at www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd under Hazardous Waste Disposal. A quote regarding your cost for disposal will be provided to you through a state certified waste hauler.

For residents needing recycling options available today, please check with your local municipality, they may already be offering curbside recycling or other recycling opportunities for you to consider. Please contact your local public works department in the city, village, or town officials in which you reside, for recycling information and hours of operation.

And in the mean time, if you can’t find an outlet, what do you do with your Hazardous Waste?...Keep your chemicals separate from one another, do not mix them together to save space, mixing chemicals may cause harmful chemical reactions and results. Washington County residents may drive to Port Washington and drop off their hazardous items for a fee at 1275 Mineral Springs Dr., Port Washington - Call the Ozaukee County Household Hazardous Waste Hotline (262) 243.8998 or visit www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/hhw for more information. Hours of operation: Monday’s from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Disposal fees are based upon the weight of your items, and calculated on a per pound basis.

Acceptable Hazardous Materials include: fluorescent bulbs, herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, wood preservatives, wood finishes, banned Agricultural chemicals, veterinary supplies, lead or metal based paints, mercury manometers, acid washes and engine cleaners. Some examples of these would be: 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, captan, chloradane, DDT, heptachlor, lindane, malathion, parathion, atrazine, round-up, penta, toxaphene. As a general rule, petroleum products and by-products are considered hazardous waste and need to be disposed of properly. Old gasoline and full aerosol spray paint cans are considered hazardous. Oil or lead based paint (clean up required by turpentine) is also a hazardous material.

(cont. on page 10)
Clean Sweep... (cont. from page 9)

Unaccepted items include: waste motor oil, tires, latex or water based paint, explosives, cylinders, gas grill propane tanks, radioactives (including smoke alarms), infectious biological or medical waste, freon 11 & 12. For household appliances, such as TV’s, microwaves, refrigerators, dish washers, stoves, radios and car batteries, contact your local municipality or recycling vendors for proper means of disposal.

As noted, Latex or Water Based Paint is not considered hazardous. If found to be unusable, remove the lid and place in a well-ventilated area. After contents have solidified, replace lid and place in with your trash. Paint can be dried more quickly by pouring 1/2-inch layer into a cardboard box lined with plastic or newspaper or into a box filled with sand, or vermiculite.

The Volunteer Center of Washington County also accepts used computers and computer components (monitors, CPU’s, printers, keyboards, scanners, cell phones, laptops and used ink jet cartridges), for a nominal handling fee. For more information, please visit the website @ www.volunteernow.net or call (262) 338.8256. These items are accepted during the following hours only: Monday’s: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm; and Fridays: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm.

Another option available to you... a grassroots community nonprofit organization website found @ www.freecycle - made up of individual city groups that promote waste reuse among their members. Members have the opportunity to give and get items for free via the internet, in an effort to keep unnecessary waste out of the landfills. Membership is free. The next time you want to find a new home for your items- whether it’s a chair, fax machine, piano, etc., consider trying sending an e-mail - offering your item to members of your Freecycle group.

The function of an upland ecosystem (plants, microbes and soils) treats/infiltrates stormwater runoff. The term bioretention or holding and filtering stormwater in plant systems was based upon how plant/soil filters were used successfully in the technology used in water treatment and wastewater treatment plants. Bioretention systems mimic forest or meadow functions. To learn more on how you can construct your own rain garden with perennial plantings in your backyard log onto the following website http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/raingarden/

LWCD Project Technician -
Paul D. Backhaus ... is the newly hired Land & Water Conservation Division Project Technician a “Home Grown Fellow”, having roots in West Bend, Wisconsin. Paul was recently hired as a LWCD Project Technician on 04/25/06. Born and raised in the area, he attended West Bend East High School, and furthered his desire of Natural Resources by attending the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.

In December of 2005, he graduated from UW Stevens Point majoring in Watershed Management and minoring in Soil Science. Paul is looking forward to preserving and maintaining the natural resources that he has been enjoying since an early age and will be preparing nutrient management and conservation plans for landowners in the future.

If you’d like to contact Paul Backhaus, he may be reached at (262) 335.4803 or email him at paul.backhaus@co.washington.wi.us.
Invasive Insects affect Family and City Budgets

The scariest insect threatening Wisconsin now is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Over 17 million ash trees have been cut down in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana due to this insect. People are concerned that EAB could wipe out every ash tree in North America! EAB will kill any kind of ash (Fraxinus species) even if they are perfectly healthy and vigorous. With ash making up 30% or more of our urban forests, this presents a significant risk! To date, no EAB has been found in Wisconsin. As a front line defense the State of Wisconsin is looking at restricting movement of firewood. People moving firewood has been the number one way the insect has spread so far. You should not move firewood around the state or take firewood camping. The State is also carrying out an extensive monitoring program to watch for the EAB invader. Scientists are working hard to better understand the life cycle and potential control methods. While there is no 100% control (nothing in nature is 100%) some products (Imidacloprid) work well to deter the insects, especially from individual uninfected trees.

- Dave Scharfenberger, Washington Co. Gypsy Moth Coordinator


What to watch for to see if Emerald Ash Borer is in your tree:
- Crown dieback (can be caused by various problems)
- Many new sprouts on trunk or lower crown
- D-shaped exit holes in bark, 1/18” wide
- Long cracks in the bark with winding galleries in wood under the bark.
- Adult EAB is metallic green and ½” long

***Emerald ash borer has been transported throughout Michigan, Ohio and Indiana in firewood, creating devastating problems.***

Conservation Camp Offered to Students

If you are currently a student entering grades 8-10 this fall and enjoy the outdoors, this may be your opportunity to attend Sand Lake Conservation Camp, located in Marinette County (one hour north of Green Bay). This informational/educational opportunity will offer a closer look and better understanding of our nature’s resources and our roles as citizens in conserving them. Children will get an inside look at the different careers available in the natural resources field along with 3 days of conservation fun. Some of the activities include:

- Touring a Fish Hatchery, Canoeing & Swimming, Compass and GPS (Global Positioning System)
- Aquatic Study of Insects and Water Quality, Managing & Measuring Trees with a Forester, Managing/Protecting Wildlife

Camp will be held on **Thursday, June 29 – Saturday, July 1, 2006**. The fee is $35 for the three days of camp. Scholarships have been reserved for the first 5 student applicants to attend Sand Lake Conservation Camp free of charge! Contact the Land & Water Conservation Division - (262) 335.4800 or visit the website www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd under Conservation Education - Related Links - SAND LAKE CONSERVATION CAMP for more information. Please call the LWCD regarding transportation arrangements.


Pictured above: Gypsy Moth & Caterpillar another exotic insect that has no natural predators or diseases to keep them in check. visit http://gypsymoth.wi.gov

(Pictured above: Top view of the Emerald Ash Borer)
Conservation Newsletter is published biannually for Washington County residents. Viewpoints of authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Land Conservation Committee or the Washington County Board of Supervisors. The Land Conservation Committee and the Land & Water Conservation Division staff encourage responses from the public.

Our Mission Statement:
To increase awareness and promote action to protect the land and water resources of Washington County.

Land Conservation Committee Members (LCC):
John W. Stern, LCC Chairperson
Richard L. Berchem, LCC Vice-Chairperson
Kenneth W. Brandt, LCC Secretary
Mark T. McCune, County Board Supervisor
Melvin K. Ewert, County Board Supervisor
Charlene S. Brady, County Board Supervisor
Daniel R. Knodl, County Board Supervisor
Michael Thull, FSA Representative

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Land & Water Conservation Division Staff:
Blaine Delzer, County Conservationist
Scott Schmidt, P.E., R.L.S., Engineer/Surveyor
Paul Sebo, Senior Technician
Stephanie Hofmann, Project Technician
Gary Kurer, Project Technician
Paul Backhaus, Project Technician
Fay Fitts, Administrative Secretary

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff:
Joe Smedberg, Acting District Conservationist
John Forsyth, Soil Conservationist

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