

## The Farmer's Share of Breakfast



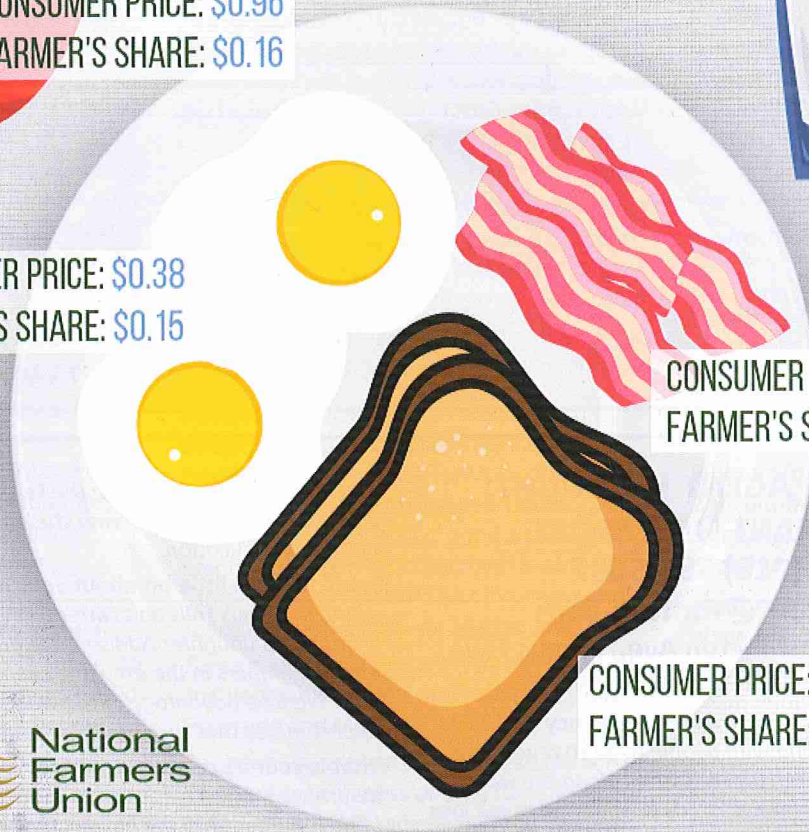
CONSUMER PRICE: \$0.96  
FARMER'S SHARE: \$0.16



CONSUMER PRICE: \$0.29  
FARMER'S SHARE: \$0.09



CONSUMER PRICE: \$0.38  
FARMER'S SHARE: \$0.15



CONSUMER PRICE: \$0.63  
FARMER'S SHARE: \$0.07

CONSUMER PRICE: \$0.35  
FARMER'S SHARE: \$0.01



**DID YOU KNOW** that farmers and ranchers receive only 14.8\* cents of every dollar that consumers spend on food at home and away from home? According to USDA, off-farm costs, including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing, account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States. Visit [nfu.org](http://nfu.org) to learn more.

Farmer's share derived from USDA, NASS "Agricultural Prices," 2018 | Prices based on September 2018 data.  
Retail prices based on Safeway (SE) brand except where noted. | \*Figure according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service



## **LSP's FARM TRANSITION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

*... Are you a farm family or landowner thinking about the future or next steps for your farm?*

*... Are you interested in planning for the next generation of farmers on your land?*

This participatory workshop series will focus on goals, financial needs in retirement, options for farm transitions, communication and resources to help you through the planning process.

Presenters include farmers in transition, several attorneys, a CPA, a Financial Planner, a holistic management educator, health care professionals, and LSP staff.

**Saturdays, January 19th, February 16th, and March 16th, 2019**

*Peace United Church of Christ, Rochester, MN*

*Fee: \$200/ family includes 3 full day sessions, lunch and course materials*

*For more information or to reserve a place contact Karen Stettler, 507-523-3366 or  
[stettler@landstewardshipproject.org](mailto:stettler@landstewardshipproject.org)*



# Cage-free out, pastured in as tastes change

By Lydia Mulvany and  
Deena Shanker

Bloomberg News

The bar is rising for what's considered a happy chicken, sparking the hottest trend in the market: the pasture-raised egg.

Pastured eggs come from hens that spend most of their time outdoors, dining on bugs and taking dust baths. That's a step up from cage-free, a label that consumers are finding is slightly less idyllic than they may imagine.

It wasn't that long ago that consumer demands for better animal treatment sparked the rise of the cage-free egg. Hens moved from the confines of 67 square inches to the wilds of the barn — but rarely, if ever, outside. The pasture movement goes further, sending animals outdoors.

Sales of pastured eggs, which didn't exist as a marketing tool a decade ago, jumped 32 percent this year through Oct. 8, according to Vital Farms, a leading U.S. pastured-egg seller, which cited data from researcher IRI. Free-range eggs, similar to pastured eggs except the chickens have less space, increased 8.5 percent. Cage-free eggs were up 3.9 percent, and the standard product from caged birds rose 0.3 percent.

At the same time, premiums are coming down. Pasture-raised eggs used to fetch a whopping \$12 a dozen at supermarkets. Greater competition among farms and lower costs drove prices down to below \$5 recently in some stores.

As giants like McDonald's Corp. and Walmart

Inc. pledged to upgrade, the cage-free hen population has exploded to 60 million in the U.S., double what it was in 2016. Cal-Maine Foods Inc., the biggest U.S. egg producer, said in June it had increased its cage-free capacity. Voters in California passed a ballot initiative this past month ensuring all eggs in the state are cage-free.

"Cage-free is going to be a commodity egg," said John Brunnquell, president of Egg Innovations, the biggest pasture-raised and free-range producer with 1.2 million chickens.

Increasingly efficient cage-free farms are driving down costs, and soon those eggs "will dominate the landscape," said Brunnquell, who supplies Whole Foods Market Inc.'s 365 private-label brand.

As that change takes place, demands for better welfare are likely to keep increasing. That's where the pastured egg comes in.

To be sure, even at \$5 a carton, pastured eggs still fetch a hefty premium that many consumers aren't willing to pay. Standard Grade A large eggs averaged \$1.78 a dozen in the 10 months ended Oct. 31, government data show.

There are also incentives for farmers to make the switch. Vital Farms says it has a long waiting list of farmers that want to supply the brand. Dan Arnsperger, president of Rogers, Arkansas-based free-range producer Happy Egg Co., said the company has 33 small farms in the U.S. and may add 15 to 20 next year. He estimates that 30 percent of shoppers are willing to pay the premium for free-range eggs because of animal-welfare concerns.

# Region

## Land Stewardship Project hosts workshop on farm transition

BY BRIAN TODD

btodd@postbulletin.com

Transitioning a farm from one generation to the next is a lasting legacy that helps keep our agricultural heritage alive. However, making that transition has become harder and harder.

Beginning Jan. 19, the Land Stewardship Project will host a Farm Transition Planning Workshop Series to provide an opportunity to reflect on the future as well as to do some active planning. The all-day workshops start at 8 a.m. each date.

The workshop at Peace United Church of Christ in Rochester will be held on three Saturdays, Jan. 19, Feb. 16 and March 16, with each session building on the last. Attendance at all three ensures the greatest understanding and planning opportunities.

"It is never too early to start thinking about your farm transition," said LSP's Karen Stettler. "This workshop series will provide an opportunity to join with other farmers who are

pondering their next transition steps and to develop goals while assessing future financial considerations."

Presenters at the workshop will include other area farmers who are implementing a farm transition plan, as well as experts representing the legal, financial and health-care fields as they relate to agricultural businesses. Workshop participants will have an opportunity to begin engaging in the planning process as well as learn about resources for continuing the process after the workshop has ended.

"The farm transition course helped us to better define our values and set goals for the farm," said Bill McMillin a Minnesota farmer who participated in a previous Farm Transition Planning Workshop.

The cost for the workshop series is \$200 per family. For more information and to register, contact Stettler at 507-523-3366 or stettler@landstewardshipproject.org or visit the LSP website at <https://tinyurl.com/y7z28ly2>.



# More than 80% oppose dairy farm expansion

But, among opponents, 80% are nonlocals

BY BRIAN TODD

btodd@postbulletin.com

LEWISTON — Public comments regarding the Daley Farms dairy expansion are overwhelmingly negative and in favor of a stringent environmental impact statement, says a spokeswoman for the Land Stewardship Project, an environmental group.

Out of the 618 public comments made on the environmental assessment worksheet for the planned dairy expansion, 531 “expressed their opposition, with most commenters asking specifically that an Environmental Impact Statement be ordered for the operation,” said Barb Sogn-Frank, factory farm policy organizer for Land Stewardship Project.

The proposed expansion, which would take the dairy from just more than 1,700 cows

and calves to just more than 4,600 cows and calves, also would include a liquid manure pit to hold potentially 46 million gallons of waste produced annually.

Sogn-Frank said her group questions whether a safe manure pit can be built that will guarantee to protect the water in the karst region. That’s a question asked over and over by those individuals who commented on the EAW.

Ben Daley, one of the principals at Daley Farms, said it is precisely that repetitive nature of the comments that makes them suspect.

First, he said, about 80 percent of the comments were made by individuals outside of Winona County.

“For an organization that touts local government control,” Daley said, referring to LSP, “they have 82 percent of their support from outside the area.”

Most of those comments, he said, actually were the same comments made over and over. An analysis of the comments shows most were made by copying a pair of form letters,

so hundreds of the negative comments were the same comment repeated many times.

The review of the Daley Farms EAW marked the first time the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency used online commenting. That, Daley said, makes it easier for anyone to comment, though those who have complaints seem more likely to comment than those who believe a family farm should be allowed to grow.

“When you’re angry about something, you’re more likely to comment,” Daley said. “This is just copy-paste. That’s what I’m seeing.”

Much of what is being said in those repetitive comments, he said, is misinformation. For example, the comment mentions a Department of Health study of wells in Winona County’s Utica Township. The initial study, he said, noted 46 percent of wells tested above the allowed 10 mg of nitrogen per liter.

But the final study, Daley said, showed just 19 percent of wells over the nitrate limit, and most of those were close to identifiable point sources that

were not Daley Farms. Some comments on the dairy farm project relied on the initial numbers, not the final numbers.

Finally, Daley said it bothers him when opponents of the project refer to his farm as a mega dairy or corporate farm. A total of 13 family members earn their living off the dairy, Daley said, with more members of the next generation wanting to move back to the farm and earn a living. Plus, another 30 or so individuals make a living at Daley Farms.

Still, as Sogn-Frank said, a vast majority of those making a public comment on the EAW are demanding an EIS — a more strenuous study — to ensure the environmental safety of the proposed expansion.

Daley noted with commenters from Pennsylvania and New York, he wonders just how familiar with his farm those questioning his proposal really are.

“It’s a little bit frustrating,” he said. “The people in the LSP office here in Lewiston have never been out here to see our operation for themselves.”

## It's time to clean up Iowa's pollution

When it comes to Iowa's water quality problems, the elephant in the room is the multinational pork industry. Iowa's roughly 24 million hogs produce 260 million gallons of feces and urine every day. Is it any wonder that most of our water is polluted with animal waste?

By not holding the pork industry accountable, the Republican leadership in Iowa has passed the cost of cleaning up our water on to taxpayers.

Exit polls from the Novem-

ber election (commissioned Nov. 6-7 by Public Policy Polling) are telling, the Iowa GOP needs to be listening:

1. Iowans believe in being part of their community (i.e. local control).

2. Polling showed a whopping 73 percent of Iowans want the governor and legislature to act on reducing farm pollution runoff.

3. 66 percent of voters indicated they would prefer funding education, infrastructure and clean water rather than

getting a decrease in their taxes.

It's clear that Iowans want clean water, but the polluters should pay to clean it up.

Not that you've all voted, it is not the time to sit back and relax. Now is the time to contact your elected officials to tell them to act on cleaning up our state. There is no down time in democracy.

**Pat Bowen**  
IOWA CITY

### LETTERS INVITED

Agri News invites readers to express their opinions on matters of public interest through the Letters to the Editor column. We encourage shorter letters and reserve the right to edit letters. A letter must contain the signature of the author, the author's address and a telephone number where the writer can be reached between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The telephone number won't be published, but it will be used to verify the letter. Anonymous letters will not be published. Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, Agri News, P.O. Box 6118, Rochester, MN 55903-6118, or e-mail them to [kallas@agrinews.com](mailto:kallas@agrinews.com).





December 2018

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your support of the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project (SRAP) over the last year. Together, we are growing a movement in rural communities across America that is working to stop the unfettered growth of new factory farming operations at the community level and to hold existing factory farms accountable for the widespread pollution that they produce.

**Factory farms are poisoning our water, fouling our air, abusing animals and destroying the fabric of America's rural communities. Together with thousands of residents across our country, we are standing up to this exploitative industry.**



Rural communities in our nation continue to be threatened by new and expanding factory farms and we at SRAP find ourselves on the receiving end of dozens of calls for help each year. Day and night, our staff is poised and ready to stand on the front lines with rural residents across the country who are victims of the industry.

**Despite this time of unrestrained growth of the factory farming industry, we can guarantee that SRAP staff will continue to tirelessly support rural residents and family farmers as they work to protect themselves from the impacts of industrial-scale animal operations.**

We currently have over 20 team members, who are actively engaged in anti-factory farming campaigns in 162 communities, located in 29 states. Between our community organizers and technical experts, we have a team unlike any other in the country on hand to assist rural communities against the influx of factory farming operations.

While from our perspective, the outlook on the ground can seem grim, one shiny, bright spot is that communities are saying NO WAY to the industrial animal agriculture machine. From Tonopah, Arizona to Sussex County, Delaware and in every state in between, we are witnessing rural residents and farmers leading the charge against the injustices of factory farming and standing up to the exploitation of our land, air, water, workers, animals, local economies and rural communities.

**Citizens are standing up, fighting back and reclaiming their communities from the extractive nature and false promises of industrial agribusiness. And, as a result, there have been a number of victories in 2018.**

Sometimes the greatest victories can't be seen. In Tonganoxie, Kansas we stood alongside residents who organized their entire community against a proposed Tyson Chicken processing plant that would have slaughtered 1.25 million chickens per week. In Wicomico County, Maryland after a two-year fight, residents we worked with celebrated when plans for a massive poultry farm didn't move forward due to community opposition. In Vernon County, Wisconsin our work with a community group to resist a proposed slaughterhouse resulted in the proposal being withdrawn.





**We've had some significant victories this year but 2019 will surely be a year of continued threats from an industry looking to export the wealth of our rural communities to line the pockets of multinational corporations.**

In the coming year, we anticipate that factory farm expansion will only continue. However, we are taking measures to be organized, prepared, and ready when new calls for help come in. Our staff members have been in close communication with impacted community members and are providing them with tools and trainings so during crisis, valuable time is not lost.

**At SRAP we have become experts at doing more with less. However, we rely on the financial assistance from our supporters to continue helping communities harmed or threatened by factory farms.**

The majority of the donations that we receive from individuals go directly to help cover our costs to travel to communities and work with citizens directly impacted by factory farms. We believe that there is no substitute for old-fashion, face-to-face kitchen table organizing and that is why we put the majority of our budget toward sending our organizers and technical experts to assist residents in impacted communities free of charge.

As we come into the end of 2018 and prepare for the next year, just as we are anticipating requests for help to increase, we are expecting to have even more expenses. With your help in supporting SRAP, we can ensure that our services to our communities will remain uninterrupted even as the growing demand of our time and resources is on the rise.



**We are able help residents across the country free of charge because people like you understand the importance of our work and support our organization with your dollars. You understand that rural communities need organizations like SRAP, who are on the front lines, working against the industrial animal agriculture machine.**

By making a tax-deductible donation to SRAP, you are making a statement that good food doesn't have to come at the expense of our air, water, welfare of farm animals or

rural quality of life. Together we can make an enduring difference in our food system by fighting factory farms and connecting communities with agricultural alternatives that respect the animals, the environment, and provide family farmers with a viable and honorable living.

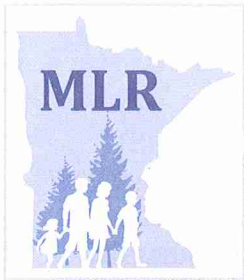
Thank you for being on our team and thank you for your support.

In solidarity,

Terry Spence, Interim Executive Director & The entire SRAP Team

**P.S. You can donate by sending a check to 249 Liberty ST. NE, Suite 212 Salem, OR 97301 or by visiting [www.sraproject.org/donate-to-srap/](http://www.sraproject.org/donate-to-srap/) and using a credit card. Remember, all donations received by 12/31/2018 are tax-deductible in the 2018 year.**





## MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates



**MLR protects Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links among lakes, lake advocates and policy makers.**

Greetings,

It is Fall, and we are sure that the busy days of open water season are finally beginning to slow down a bit for your lake association. I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you.

My name is Jeff Forester and I am Executive Director of MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR). MLR is the voice of Lake Associations, Coalition of Lake Associations (COLAs), and Lake and River Associations (LARAs) at the state capitol, and we get results. MLR is the only statewide organization exclusively focused on lake association issues. I am writing to encourage you to join MLR today and be a part of protecting the lakes we all love.

With a new legislature and Governor, this will be an incredibly important Legislative Session. The simple fact is that what happens in St. Paul impacts you out on the dock. There is a saying in St. Paul, "You can either have a seat at the table or you will be on the menu." For too long Minnesota's lakes have been on the menu. MLR is changing that and we urge you to join us in this work.

Federal tax code limits the amount of political advocacy a non-profit group can do. **But, by joining MLR, you will join hundreds of other lake association voices, organized by MLR, and become part of a chorus urging better lake protection and restoration without violating Federal tax code.**

MLR knows how hard Lake Associations, COLAs and LARAs work to protect the public waters:

- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) threaten lake and river ecology, economy and property values,
- Public boat ramps are difficult to manage well,
- Development pressure makes conservation efforts extremely difficult,
- Pollution, from many sources, often demands complex and expensive solutions.

We also know that Lake Associations do incredible work, and we documented this by funding a lake association study at Concordia College, Moorhead that showed that Lake Associations are the largest (close to 400,000 individuals), most generous (\$6.25 million given annually) and hardest working (1.2 million volunteer hours) philanthropic conservation group in Minnesota. You can see a copy of the report on our website.

The problem is that no one knew this. So MLR set out to tell them. In the last year we have written and placed stories about the good work lake associations do in the state's daily and weekly paper, with a number of Sunday

morning, front page, two part series. MPR has run two hour long stories and well as many other shorter pieces. Many local weekly papers have run stories on the good work lake associations do.

In 2010 we heard from our members that they were deeply concerned about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Lake Associations were working hard to protect their lakes but had little support from the state either financially or with a strong framework of laws. AIS not only impact local taxes by damaging water related infrastructure such as water intake pipes and hydro-electric, as well as mitigation costs, but there are a number of studies that document a decrease in property values following infestation.

**Lake Associations were told that they did not own the lakes, but once eurasian milfoil or zebra mussels were found in a lake, they owned the problem.**

Individual Lake Associations had only local capacity - they could not impact any statewide issues like AIS because they had no grassroots across the state AND there was no statewide organization speaking for them at the capitol.

So we began to build a horizontally and vertically integrated advocacy base. With Lake Associations working at the local level, Coalitions of Lake Associations (COLAs) working at the county level, and MLR working at the state level we can have a profound impact. We have built the largest organization of Lake Associations, county Coalitions of Lake Associations and individual lake advocates in Minnesota. The results have been profound:

- In 2012, Pull the Plug was passed, making it illegal to move water around the state,
- Doubled the fines for AIS violations,
- In 2014, the MN Legislature appropriated \$10 million annually directed to local communities to do AIS work LOCALLY. Counties can use this money to make direct grants to Lake Associations for AIS work, and the resulting work is increasing authentic partnerships between lake shore folks and local units of government like watershed districts,
- Secured \$4.5 million in Legacy funds for innovative AIS Pilot Projects,
- Secured funding to start the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center,
- In 2014, passed legislation to change the onerous delegation agreements between DNR and local units of government,
- Expanded low-cost/no-cost loans for property owners to upgrade leaking septic fields,

In 2019 MLR and our member lake associations will work to:

- Advance a bill to remove sales tax fees from AIS lake treatments,
- Push for required, certified decontamination of infested watercraft leaving infested water bodies,
- Restore the \$800,000 DNR grants to lake associations for AIS Education, Inspection and invasive aquatic plant management which the agency has phased out over the last four years,
- Protect the gains we have already made,
- Advocate to increase the fines for AIS violations to \$1000,
- Work to include incentives for shoreline protection or enhancement.



Our strategy is to combine the power Lake Associations and COLAs have at the local level with a broad grassroots base - what we are calling horizontal and vertical advocacy integration.

With two full time lobbyists, a statewide electronic database of concerned citizens, and a growing Lake Association, COLA and LARA membership, MLR has organized and focused intense grassroots pressure at the Capitol on behalf of our lakes and rivers. When this work at the state level is combined with COLAs working at the county level and local Lake Associations working at the township/city level a powerful synergy is created and real progress happens.

But there are still many lake issues to address. We need your organization in this work. Make the decision to become a Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocate today.

Member Organization benefits Include:

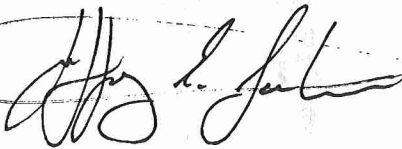
- Current/real time email action alerts and Legislative updates,
- Articles for association newsletters and meeting handouts,
- Resources/information for your local issues,
- Events like the Aquatic Invaders Summit,
- Statewide advocacy and leadership on lake issues such as Aquatic Invasive Species and shore line rules,
- A voice in establishing future statewide policy and legislative agendas through periodic conference calls,
- State of the art email action alerts to leverage the grassroots power of your organization,
- Seminars and free webinars with valuable information on AIS, lake ecology, and estate and trust law strategies,
- Website hosting (available at low cost to members).

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with your board or attend your annual meeting to discuss MLR and the work our coalition is doing. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, call me directly on my cell at 612-961-6144.

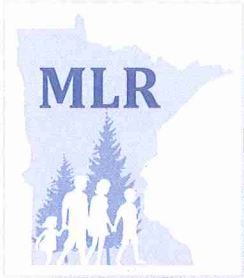
With a new legislature and Governor, we have the best opportunity in a number of years to advance our issues. If your organization has not yet become a member of MLR, please do so today.

Thanks for the good work you are doing and I look forward to meeting you personally and working with you to further protect the lakes and rivers we all love.

Sincerely,



Jeff Forester  
Executive Director  
MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR)  
612-961-6144



## MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates



**MLR protects Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links among lakes, lake advocates and policy makers.**

### **MLR Accomplishments**

In 2009 MLR began a new strategy to forge powerful links between lakes and policy makers; what we are calling vertical and horizontal advocacy integration. While working to build out a strong grassroots base with members in every legislative district in the state, we began to reach out to lake associations at the local government level and county coalition of lake associations at the county level.

Today MLR is the largest Lake Association and lake advocate group in the state. By unifying our message and advocacy at grassroots, local government, county government and the state level we have created a powerful advocacy system that is bearing profound results.

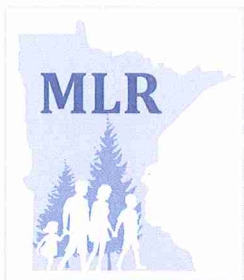
Minnesota's lakes have never before been unified as an advocacy force and it is long overdue. Together we are protecting Minnesota's most important resource, our lakes and rivers.

### **Legislative Action to protect MN's lake and river heritage:**

- \$10 million dollars ANNUALLY will come from the general fund directly to counties for local AIS work. This will be a game changer in AIS work at your lake association.
- Change in the language of Delegation Agreements that local units of government must sign with the MN DNR to do work at public boat ramps.
- Increased fines for AIS Violations,
- Increased authority to manage and decontaminate infested watercraft and water related equipment,
- Pilot project for marina owners to streamline and expedite management of infested watercraft,
- Special funding for starry stonewort management on Lake Koronis,
- Legislation that requires the Department of Transportation and MN DNR to work together to investigate using wayside rest areas for AIS education, inspection and decontamination.
- \$4.4 million in Legacy Funds for grants to support innovation and pilot projects around the state to control the introduction and spread of AIS.
- \$6 million in bonding to build a world class lab at the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota.
- Protected reduced assessed value on riparian conservation easements.

**If you or your organization is not currently a member of MLR, join today.**





## MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates



**MLR protects Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links among lakes, lake advocates and policy makers.**

### Membership Form for Your Organization

Through MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates your members gain timely legislative information and a voice in decisions made at the legislature.

*A Membership Contribution from your Organization to MLR is essential to provide ongoing year-round legislative advocacy.*

### JOIN TODAY and Make a Difference for Lake Advocacy

#### Membership Contribution Levels:

- ☐ \$100 per year (1- 50 members)
- ☐ \$150 per year (51- 150 members)
- ☐ \$200 per year (151- 300 members)
- ☐ \$300 per year (301 or more members)

#### Web Hosting Option:

- ☐ \$100 per year web hosting fee for members

As a member, your association can host your website on the MLR platform. If you don't currently have a website or want to re-design your website; design services are available at a low hourly rate.

Mail to: **MLR**, PO Box 22262, St. Paul, MN 55122

Make check payable to: **MN Lakes & Rivers (MLR)**

Note: MLR is a 501(c)4 non-profit. Contributions are not tax deductible.

#### Contact Information:

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization website address: \_\_\_\_\_

President name\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer name\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Person who distributes to members\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Or attach a list of your board members' contact information & board positions.

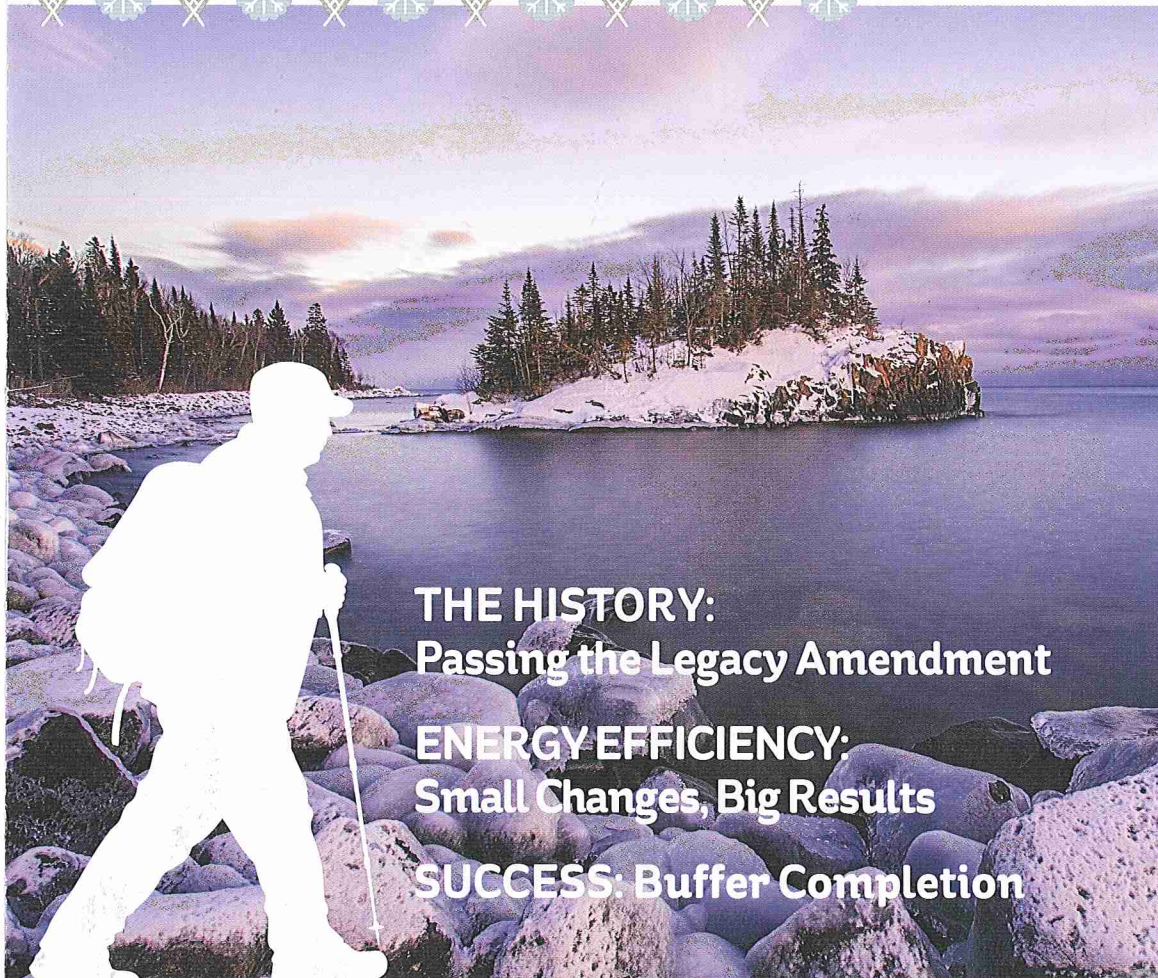
ORG.join.2018

MLR-MN LAKES & RIVERS  
PO BOX 22262  
ST PAUL MN 55122



# CONSERVATION MINNESOTA

Winter '18



**THE HISTORY:**  
Passing the Legacy Amendment

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY:**  
Small Changes, Big Results

**SUCCESS:** Buffer Completion

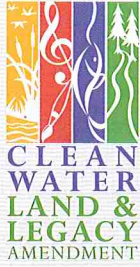


**CONSERVATION  
MINNESOTA**

Protect the Minnesota you love.®



## THE HISTORY: Passing the Legacy Amendment



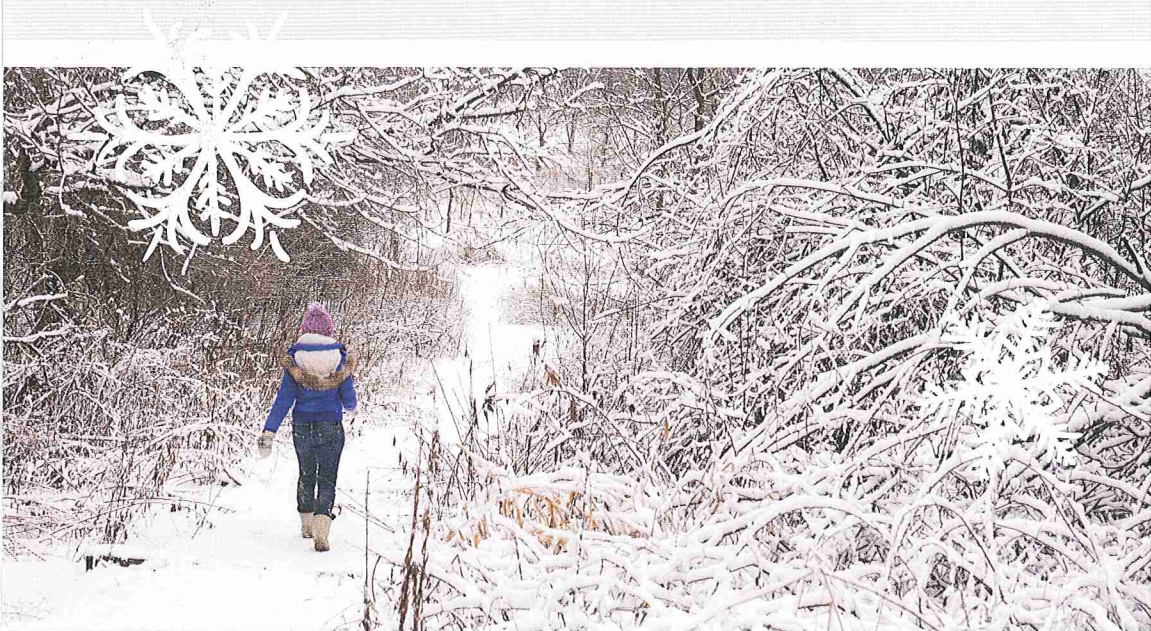
Ten years ago, in 2008, during the height of the biggest recession we've seen, Minnesotans overwhelmingly voted to increase their own taxes to invest in clean water, wildlife habitat, parks and trails, and our cultural heritage. The Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment was passed by Minnesota voters as a constitutional amendment that sets aside about 4 pennies from every \$10 in sales tax revenue to invest in our lakes, lands, and way of life.

Leading up to the passage of the Legacy Amendment, many communities and organizations, including Conservation Minnesota, noticed that Minnesota was not investing in the future. State spending on conservation programs had been declining, and Minnesotans who loved to hike, hunt, fish and spend time outdoors began to notice the need for investments. At the same time, thousands of duck hunters, upset about declining wildlife habitat, attended rallies at the Capitol demanding state lawmakers address our natural resource issues.

The Legacy Amendment now provides the substantial financial resources needed to put Minnesota on a path to clean water, increased wildlife habitat, connected parks and trails, and more vibrant communities. Four councils composed of citizens, legislators, agency representatives, and local associations recommend how the funds should be allocated.

Much of the funding is passed through to local governments and nonprofit organizations. Between 2010 and 2017 local governments like cities, counties, townships, and watershed districts received over \$420 million in Legacy Amendment funding. Many of the individual projects were able to leverage the Legacy Amendment funds to secure an additional \$2.5 billion in federal and private funding.

The Legacy Amendment has restored over 61,000 acres of wetlands, doubled the pace of monitoring lakes and rivers across the state, increased state park turnout by 25%, and increased attendance at local community arts and cultural events by 50%. These are just some of the reasons Minnesotans love the Legacy Amendment!







## ENERGY EFFICIENCY: Small Changes, Big Results

Energy efficiency is often considered the best form of clean energy, because every kilowatt of energy we save is a kilowatt of energy we don't need to generate. Even small improvements to our homes and businesses can reduce our energy bills and even prevent new power plants from being built. It's estimated that Minnesota utilities would have built at least 9 additional power plants if it weren't for energy efficiency initiatives.

In Minnesota, utilities are required to reinvest a percent of their revenue back into energy efficiency efforts for rate payers; this is known as the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP). These programs include rebates to customers that increase efficiencies and provide LED lightbulbs and low flow shower heads.

Recently, Conservation Minnesota's regional manager, Anna Richey, who also serves on the Rochester Energy Commission, has been diving into energy efficiency head first. Over the past year the Energy Commission has worked with local utilities and the Destination Medical Center on a pilot outreach program targeting low income rental housing. Since the cost of utilities is rarely disclosed to renters or homebuyers ahead of time, it can be the difference between what is classified as affordable and what is actually affordable.

*Changing out light bulbs and retrofitting water fixtures will save renters involved in this program between \$150 and \$170 per year!*

The pilot project swapped out incandescent bulbs, old showerheads, and sink aerators in 60 rental units. The Energy Commission estimates each tenant will save between \$150 and \$170 annually on their utility bill. Because of CIP, Minnesota Energy was able to send sink aerators and showerheads and Rochester Public Utilities supplied the LED bulbs for the units' ceiling fixtures.

Olmsted County is eager to see the results and partner with the Energy Commission to upgrade more housing units going forward. By establishing baseline metrics for these units, community wide information will become available on potential savings through a handful of simple changes.

Utilities are trying to be good partners by making resources available where they can so everyone can do something to reduce energy consumption and save money, and ultimately, that makes all housing more affordable. We look forward to seeing how this partnership will grow in the future!



## SUCCESS: Buffer Completion

Minnesotans take pride in being a leader in protecting clean water. Buffers along our lakes, rivers, and streams are one important conservation practice that helps keep our water clean. The buffer law, originally passed in 2015, has increased vegetation around waterways, helping to filter out runoff pollution like phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment.

As of August 2018, over 99% of land adjacent to public waters (like Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams) was in preliminary compliance with the updated buffer law. At the same time, statewide compliance was over 95% when accounting for all types of water bodies. Minnesotans across the state take their responsibility for cleaning up and protecting our state's valuable water resources very seriously, and all of Minnesota's waters stand to benefit.

*Public waters buffer compliance has reached 99%.*

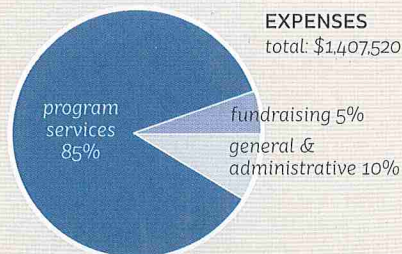
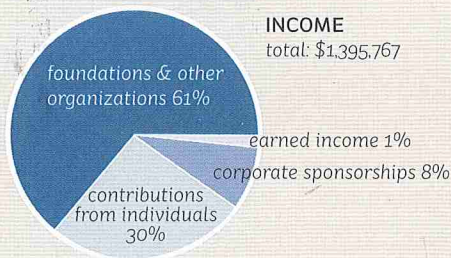
Conservation Minnesota and our members have always been strong advocates of the buffer law. And as attempts were made to repeal or rollback the law, we continued to defend it and will continue to work to improve it.

One of the most important components of the new buffer law is a provision that allows flexibility for landowners interested in installing alternative practices—instead of buffers—as long as there are equivalent water quality benefits. Local units of government, like Soil and Water Conservation Districts, provide guidance and connect landowners to available resources to get buffers, or alternative practices, in the ground.

While many of the compliance deadlines for the new buffer law have passed, there is still some state funding available to assist with buffer installation or alternative practices. Conservation Minnesota will continue to work at the state legislature to deliver resources to landowners and local governments who are working to help protect all of Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and other water resources.

## FINANCIAL CORNER: Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in Review

THANK YOU! Our unique programs and services are made possible by the generosity of community members, institutions, and businesses who, like you, care deeply about our lakes, land, and way of life. We do not receive any funding from government sources. For additional information please visit [ConservationMinnesota.org/Finances](http://ConservationMinnesota.org/Finances).





## New Beginnings



That may be an odd headline for our winter newsletter. Beginnings are usually more of a spring theme and not what comes to mind as we brace for that inevitable January week where the high temperature never gets above zero. (That week is my favorite to share with friends from other states!)

But times of change are always an opportunity for a fresh start. And election day in Minnesota brought dozens of new faces to state government, along with a new executive team of Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan. In addition to new faces in government, there were lots of new people showing up at polling places, particularly women and younger Minnesotans. These voters made it clear to pollsters that building a clean energy future that protects our climate is a top priority.

Much has been made of the fact that Minnesota is now the only state with divided government, a DFL House and Republican Senate. But that doesn't mean we have to actually be divided when it comes addressing the top issues for voters. So, I suggest we make the most of this new beginning by coming together to build healthy and prosperous communities powered by clean energy.

One thing that didn't change on election day, Minnesotans once again led the nation in voter turnout. We appreciate all of you who responded to Conservation Minnesota's extensive non-partisan voter turnout programs that reached almost 100,000 people this year.

Thank you for all that you do to protect the Minnesota we all love for future generations to enjoy!

Sincerely,

Paul Austin

**The work of Conservation Minnesota is guided by your values and priorities. We listen to Minnesotans and focus on solving the conservation problems that matter most to you.**

LEARN MORE AT [CONSERVATIONMINNESOTA.ORG](http://CONSERVATIONMINNESOTA.ORG)  
OR CALL US AT 612-767-2444



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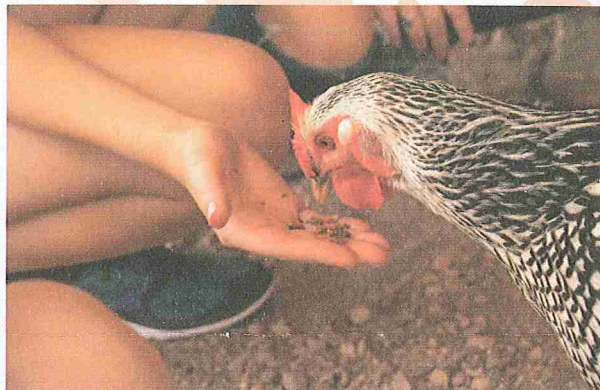
COMPASSIONATE  
ACTION FOR  
ANIMALS™

November 28, 2018

Dear Brad,

As you read this letter, millions of chickens like Betty sit in windowless sheds, unable to spread their wings. Hidden away, they're unable to share their stories and create a movement for change.

That's where Compassionate Action for Animals comes in. We share animals' stories on social media, in our e-newsletters, and through direct outreach done by our volunteers.

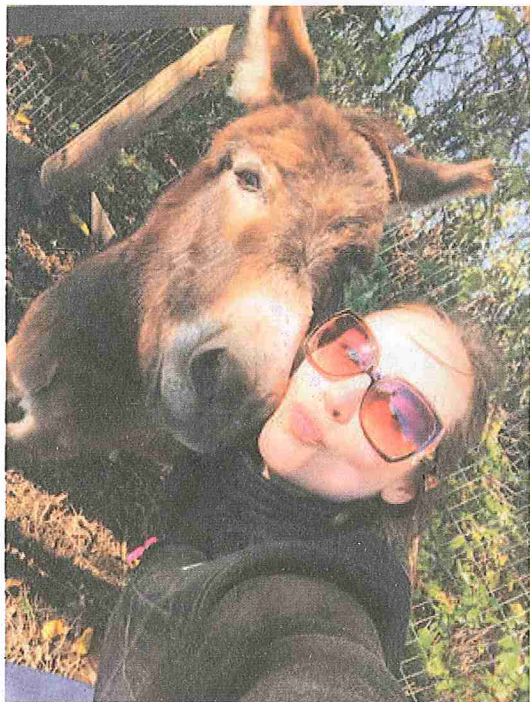


Betty, a resident of Spring Farm Sanctuary

*"I attended Twin Cities Veg Fest 2016. I spoke with vendors and individuals who opened my eyes to the cruel treatment of farmed animals. I decided to go vegan that day and it was the best decision of my life!"*  
– Angelica Agents

**By making a gift of \$60 today you're helping people like Angelica make a commitment to plant-based eating.** And thanks to a special matching gift, your donation will go twice as far in reducing the suffering of animals like Betty.

This year Twin Cities Veg Fest became the largest vegan festival in the midwest with over 9,000 attendees! But our work is even bigger than that. We're creating a movement of change that expands day by day as we empower volunteers like Paige and Yunuén.



CAA Volunteer Angelica Agents taking a selfie with Amos, a resident of SoulSpace Farm Sanctuary

*"CAA has made me a more confident advocate for animals. Meeting people who care so much and actively try to make a difference is so inspiring to me! I used to feel uncomfortable speaking about my beliefs to others and CAA gave me the knowledge and support to do so now."*

*"Being a part of the pay-per-views showed me how these videos make an impact. Having conversations with people afterwards and seeing how eye opening it is, seeing people decide they want to live more cruelty-free shows how much of an impact CAA is making."* – Paige Dispirito

*"Through volunteering at CAA, whether it be passing out leaflets, pay-per-view, or even cooking our famous vegan tacos, I have gained confidence in my belief in animal rights. I speak out for my animal friends because THEY TOO deserve for their voices to be heard. The animals need us – CAA, me, and YOU – to speak up for them."*  
– Yunuén Avila



By making a gift today, you can speak up for the animals. Your donation helps us share animals' stories, creating change in both individuals and institutions, as Abraham's story shows.

*"When I moved to Minneapolis, I knew very few people here interested in animal advocacy. Then, I found CAA. Through CAA, I met a ton of people doing awesome work for animals locally. Through volunteering and attending potlucks and dine-outs, I met new friends who helped me maintain my commitment to animals!"*

*Through CAA, I've had the opportunity to talk about compassionate food choices with the public, lead events as a volunteer, and learn more about our food system. I love the trainings I can get as a volunteer, where I get to hear about the best ways to talk to the public about animals.*

*I've been impressed with how CAA has created change through its Wholesome Minnesota program, where they work to get large institutions, like school districts, reduce the animal products they serve. This program has not only gotten Richfield Public Schools to adopt a policy, it has created dozens of new leaders in new communities, who are talking to their own institutions about compassionate food choices." – Abraham Rowe*

We need you to be a part of this change. Your gift today means that together we can:

- Increase the amount of plant-based food served by schools and institutions by supporting the growth of our Wholesome Minnesota program
- Launch a mentor program that will provide one-on-one diet change support for individuals
- Train volunteers who will continue to expand our video outreach and leafleting programs
- Bring over 10,000 people to Twin Cities Veg Fest 2019!

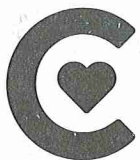
We need to raise \$24,000 by December 31st to make these programs a reality. Every dollar you give will go twice as far to help animals thanks to an anonymous donor! Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope or visit [exploreveg.org/donate](http://exploreveg.org/donate).

With the animals,

*L Matanah*

Laura Matanah  
Executive Director, Compassionate Action for Animals  
(612) 276-2242

P.S. Make your gift and then follow us on social @exploreveg to hear more stories of compassion and change!



COMPASSIONATE  
ACTION FOR  
ANIMALS™



exploreveg.org

We encourage people to cultivate empathy for animals  
and move toward a plant-based diet.



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Compassionate Action for Animals  
2100 1st Avenue S, Suite 200  
Minneapolis, MN 55404



**Join CAA in helping farmed animals! Please check all that apply.**

- ☐ I would like to join CAA's Circle of Care with a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_ .  
☐ I would like to make a one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_ .  
☐ Yes, I have included CAA in my estate planning.  
☐ I would like to remain anonymous.

Please charge my \_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_ AMEX

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV (security code): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

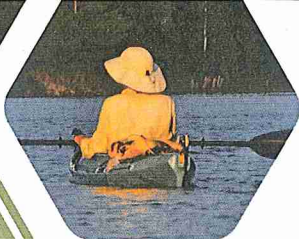
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support!*

Please make checks payable to Compassionate Action for Animals.

*We are a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law.*





## DEAR SUPPORTER,

As I sat down to write this update, my team kicked into high gear because The Department of Natural Resources unexpectedly issued permits for the PolyMet mine.

WE SUPPORT  
COMMUNITIES  
PROTECTING  
THEIR WATER  
AND AIR.

WE NEED  
YOUR  
FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT  
MORE THAN  
EVER.

**Please make a  
financial contribution  
by December 31st  
with the enclosed  
envelope**

**Or visit  
[www.mncenter.org](http://www.mncenter.org)**

**Our legal team is analyzing thousands of pages of documents permitting the PolyMet sulfide mine proposal.** Minnesota has never permitted a copper-nickel mine, and it poses unique threats to our water and health. MCEA is the only team in the state with the skills and ability to navigate this complex legal and regulatory process.

**Our communications team is out front making sure the public knows this is not a done deal.** At the DNR's press conference announcing the permits, MCEA was the only organization present. We have reached millions with our message that it is not time to mourn. It is time to act.

**Our fundraising team is working to raise an additional \$110,000 to expand our legal capacity to fight PolyMet.**

As you know, PolyMet is not the only place where we are making an impact. Together, in the next year, we can:

**Secure retirement dates for the last three coal plants in Minnesota**

**Demand action to protect our climate from greenhouse gas pollution**

**Expand our work to provide legal services to support local communities protecting their water and air**

**Defend our environmental laws and go on the offensive to expand them at the Legislature**







# THE MINNESOTA CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL UNIQUE TOOLS THAT AMPLIFY THE POWER OF FIGHTING TO PROTECT THEIR COMMUNITIES

Last month, for example, we stopped an attempt to prevent local farmers and residents from having their say on a massive dairy expansion. It's a story that illustrates the unique role that MCEA plays.

The Daley Farms dairy expansion would triple the size of the largest dairy in Winona County, creating a mega-feedlot with 6,000 cows. Those cows would create a lot of manure – the equivalent of the waste created by a city of 60,000 people. That's more than all of the people in Winona County! Neighbors concerned about pollution of their drinking water wanted to respond.

Local residents, including farmers in the middle of harvest season, asked for time to respond, and the state agency agreed to extend the public input period. Industrial agricultural interests banded together and filed a motion in court to deny the public the ability to have their say.

We learned of the case at 10AM on a Monday. Wednesday morning, we were in court arguing for the community's right to participate. **We won and stopped big business from trying to cut off the public's right to have their say on the future of their community.** This is the type of behind-the-scenes advocacy our team is built to do. And we are always prepared and poised to do it because no one else can respond in the same way.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW  
MCEA IS PROVIDING LEGAL  
TOOLS AND EXPERTISE  
TO COMMUNITIES.

WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT  
OUR RECENT VICTORY IN FILLMORE COUNTY...

**[WWW.MNCENTER.ORG/MCEAIMPACT](http://WWW.MNCENTER.ORG/MCEAIMPACT)**





# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY HAS POWER AND IMPACT OF MINNESOTANS PROTECTS THEM FROM POLLUTION.

Our legal team levels the playing field. Many businesses and industries are aggressively fighting environmental laws. The same industries that go to court to cut off public input are actively working to weaken environmental protections at the legislature. We are the only organization with in-house lawyers who can go toe-to-toe with industrial interests and protect communities. Your support provides the resources we need to be leaders in the courtroom and at the legislature.

**This story is just one example of how our team is protecting our air and water.**

**We need your continued support. Please make a gift by December 31st so MCEA's team is prepared and ready to go.**

MORE AND MORE,  
OUR WORK IS  
BECOMING A  
STORY OF DAVID  
VERSUS GOLIATH —  
AND OUR TOOLS  
ARE NEEDED  
TO LEVEL THE  
PLAYING FIELD.



*"I AM A PROUD CLIENT  
OF MCEA TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE. WORKING  
WITH MCEA IS A GREAT  
OPPORTUNITY TO GO  
TO A BIGGER SCALE AND  
MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT."*

**Shaza Hussein,  
Youth Climate Activist and one of 11 youth  
petitioners demanding climate action now  
whom MCEA represents**



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# YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS A WISE INVESTMENT – AND NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER.

WE DEPEND ON  
SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE,  
LIKE YOU. PLEASE GIVE  
GENEROUSLY TODAY!

## SUPPORT

People Like You!	\$993,299	40%
Earned Income and Other Sources	\$283,100	11%
Fundraising Events	\$86,500	4%
Foundation Support	\$1,119,000	45%
Fiscal Year 2018 Total	\$2,481,899	

## EXPENSES

The MCEA Team and Our Work	\$1,592,460	79%
Management and Administration	\$243,539	12%
Fundraising	\$191,285	9%
Fiscal Year 2018 Total	\$2,027,284	

I am so proud of what we have accomplished together this year. When I first became CEO of MCEA I will confess I was overwhelmed. But I don't feel that way anymore. Not at all. I am honored and empowered to be the CEO of MCEA. I am privileged to be part of such a brilliant and dedicated team, grateful for the leadership of our board of directors and humbled by all your investments. And I am more convinced than ever of the impact we have on our state every day, as well as the opportunities ahead of us.

We can stand up to PolyMet. We can close the last 3 coal plants in Minnesota. We can level the playing field and make our voices heard.

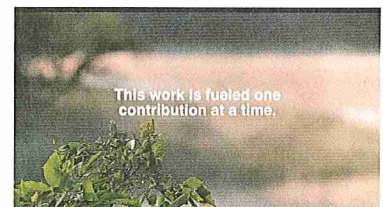
The time is now.

Kathryn Hoffman

***p.s. Together, we have fought big industry in court and won. Your past support has helped us close fossil fuel plants. We have been successful for over a decade in protecting Minnesota from the pollution that would be created by the PolyMet mine. Please make our future victories possible with the enclosed envelope or at [www.mncenter.org](http://www.mncenter.org)***



OUR WORK IS PRIMARILY  
FUNDED BY PEOPLE LIKE  
YOU. HEAR SOME OF THEIR  
STORIES AT...



**[WWW.MNCENTER.ORG/IMAKETHISPOSSIBLE](http://WWW.MNCENTER.ORG/IMAKETHISPOSSIBLE)**





Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
1919 University Ave. W., Suite 515  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

**Thank you for Rising Up!**



Together, we will use the law and science to defend Minnesota's environment.

Stay connected with us:

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter@MCEA1974

MNCENTER.ORG | 651-223-5969



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NOTE: Contributions to MCEA are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**\*Monthly Contributions:**

I am Rising Up with MCEA, as a monthly sustaining donor,  
so we can make more possible.

☐\$15 ☐\$50 ☐\$125 ☐\$300 ☐\$500 ☐Other \_\_\_\_\_

**\*One Time Contribution:**

☐\$75 ☐\$250 ☐\$500 ☐\$1500 ☐\$2500 ☐Other \_\_\_\_\_

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(No credit card needed for monthly contributions via voided check.)

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_





# STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2018

[crawfordstewardship.org](http://crawfordstewardship.org)

## Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater Watch Take action to test your drinking water!

By Forest Jahnke

Thanks to extensive well testing in Kewaunee and other counties in Eastern Wisconsin, a groundwater health crisis has been established, and the Department of Natural Resources even created a rule package to attempt to mitigate the situation, which will be implemented over the next few years. Here in Southwestern Wisconsin, very little public data has been gathered to date to assess the state of our drinking water. This needs to be fixed.

Fortunately, some counties are taking action. Iowa, Lafayette, and Grant counties are funding

a tri-county Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater & Geology Study (SWIGG), conducted in collaboration with UW Extension, the Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey, the US Geological Survey, and the US Department of Agriculture. The three counties' current testing have all found concerning levels of bacteria and nitrates present in drinking water, and this study will gather further data on these important measures of groundwater quality.

As for Crawford County, we have a long way to go, and our county representatives and administrators need to hear from

all of us that the quality of our drinking water is a priority and that action is needed. With less than 1% of our wells tested, we do not even have the data to know if we have a problem or not, but the concerning results from neighboring karstic counties are more than enough to justify a study.

**WHILE WE PUSH FOR THE COUNTY TO TAKE ACTION, CSP IS FORGING AHEAD TO BEGIN THIS PROCESS:** In March 2019, we will be conducting our first ever Drinking Water Education and Testing Program. Current 2019 plans include re-

duced rates for CSP supporters wishing to test their private well in Crawford County and Education programs to explore groundwater basics, to interpret drinking water test results, and to discuss appropriate drinking water treatment options, if needed!

*Crawford Stewardship Project will be covering 80% of costs associated with recommended well tests for the first 50 supporters to register. Contact Program Coordinator Forest Jahnke (608-632-2183 or [fjahnke@crawfordstewardship.org](mailto:fjahnke@crawfordstewardship.org)) to sign up!*

## A Flood of Converging Crises... and Opportunities

*With floods and foreclosures, farmers face a challenging future, and find ways to move forward*

By Forest Jahnke

I was gathering information on the regional farming crisis for this article, when our area, and many throughout the Midwest, was hammered by rains again and again, leading to record-smashing floods worse than any of the handful of extreme floods we've lived through in the last decade.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of these issues, I turned to some pioneering farmers of Crawford County to hear their perspectives on both the flooding and farming crisis in Southwest Wisconsin.

Harriet Behar has not only been keeping bees and chickens, stewarding her land, and farming diverse organic vegetables at Sweet Springs Farm since 1981, but she also sits on the Clayton Township Planning Commission, the Crawford County Land and Water Conservation Committee, and is the Chairwoman of the National Organic Standards Board.

Tom Martin, a second generation beef

*"Opportunities" continued page 4*



Courtesy of Richland Co artist, Ken Stark





We are humbled by the generous support we receive from this impressive list of 227 individuals, families, businesses, and organizations. Crawford Stewardship Project appreciates every dollar of funding and minute of time contributed to our campaigns by supporters like you. This is what makes us a truly grassroots organization, and what will fuel our progress into the future. THANK YOU!!!

Lisa Aarli & Gail Owens	Sam Diman & Perry Nesbitt	Rikardo Jahnke & Ilana Pestcoe	Robin & Liz Metz	Dylan Skrede
Karen Acker	Dragon Fire Pottery	Lamar Janes & Lynda Schaller	Dave & Maggie Mezera	Ira Slater
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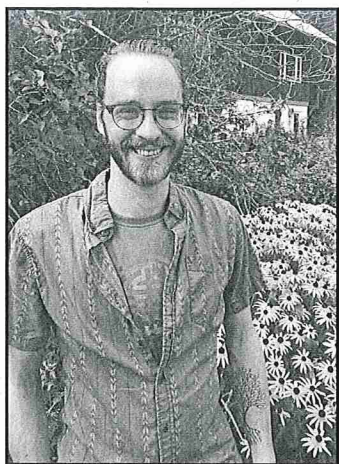
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- **Water Quality Monitoring** Omarú Heras

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## Welcome Eli Mandel

### Community Engagement

I was born and raised in Crawford County. Growing up in the hills and valleys of the Driftless Area seeded in me a deep connection with the land. Working on organic farms from a young age taught me a hard work and conservation ethic, which I built upon while attending UW Madison, double majoring in Environmental Studies and Political Science and graduating in 2014. With worldly, academic, and practical experiences my dynamism, empowerment, and engagement will enhance CSP's mission, vision, and goals.

Moving back to my home area was a conscious choice to engage with and give back to the wonderful people and land of SW Wisconsin. I believe strongly in an open and free democratic process, the need for local control over decision-making and natural resources, as well as the utmost importance of protecting our ecosystems; especially our right to clean water, air, and soil.

I look forward to continuing to learn and fulfill my role as CSP's Community Engagement Coordinator, working with our amazing community on the important local projects that are vital to the health and prosperity of our home.

## CSP Welcomes Omarú Heras, Water Quality Monitoring ...and finds alarming levels of *E. coli* in local streams!

By Omaru Heras

This season, Crawford Stewardship Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) Program, in its 9th year, found the most concerning results ever seen: 82,000 –Boydton Creek- and 19,000 –Richland Creek- *E. coli*\* colony forming units (cfu)/100mL.

According to the state criteria for recreational use to protect humans from illness caused by fecal contamination due to contact with surface water: "*E. coli*\* geometric mean (126 cfu/100mL) and statistical threshold value (410 cfu/100mL more than 10% of the time), shall not be exceeded in any 90-day period from May 1 to Sept. 30."

The second highest level of Phosphorus\*\* of 1 mg/L was also attained this year. The safety standard is 0.075 mg/L.

The WQM Program also monitors dissolved oxygen, pH, transparency, air and water temperature, habitat assessment, macroinvertebrates, and stream flow.

This is a call to urgent action for a more structured and reliable way to protect and manage water bodies in Crawford County and elsewhere. We encourage our supporters to join the 2019 WQM Program, be part of the water testing in Crawford County and to spread the word. For more information, contact: oheras@crawfordstewardship.org, (608)-632-7021.

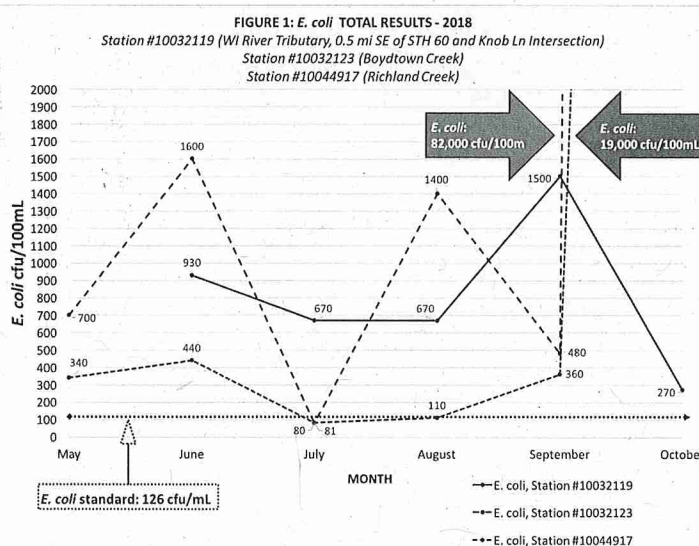
Crawford Stewardship Project thanks, for all their support and commitment of this program, all our volunteers and allies Valley Stewardship Network (VSN), and the WI Department of Natural Resources Water Action Volunteers (WAV) program.



Omarú Heras

I studied Biology/Biochemistry in Life and Earth Sciences, earning a bachelor of Sciences at the University of Reunion Island (France), and have been working with environmental organizations for more than 2 decades, especially focused in water management, catchment, sanitation and monitoring in the last 5 years.

The monitoring of extremely hazardous and polluted watersheds in Mexico, with absolutely no management regulations and located on a very susceptible post-volcanic geology, provided me with the skills and motivation to engage myself more deeply on this field. I am eager to explore ways to assess the water that flows through the Karstic Geology of our area.



\**E. coli*: coliform bacteria found in the feces of humans and animals. Their presence indicates that fecal wastes are contaminating the water, resulting in health risks (i.e. gastrointestinal diseases and hepatitis).

\*\*Phosphorus (P): naturally occurring nutrient that in excess can cause algae blooms, depleting the supply of oxygen in streams, rivers and lakes, endangering aquatic life. Algae toxicity can cause severe respiratory, digestive and skin problems to humans. Sources: Untreated wastewater, nutrients from livestock, runoff, cleaning and agrochemicals, faulty septic systems, etc.



## "Opportunities" from page 1

farmer and President of the Wauzeka School Board, is planning his farm for his children and many generations to come. "Like my Dad always said: 'Treat the land even better than I did, because the land does not belong to us.'"

Both have weathered the recent storms relatively well, and are certain that their forward-looking farming practices are what has kept their farms fairly intact while watching neighboring lands wash into our waterways.

### *do you see, going forward? How can we adapt?"*

A localized food economy ranked high on both farmers' priorities. "I've always believed in the perfect sense of circulation of local dollars," states Tom, "and there are great new opportunities in the area, like the pastured pork co-op [Driftless Back to the Land Cooperative] and Solar Meats

local houses of worship, shop at local stores, and build the fabric of a community."

Shifting to agronomic solutions, Harriet points out how perennial honey bee habitat and cover cropping have resulted in "continual increase in organic matter and soil biological life that has helped to mitigate the negative effects of heavy rains, since our soils tend not to erode as readily."

"I'll never plant another row crop," says

Tom who has now planted his entire

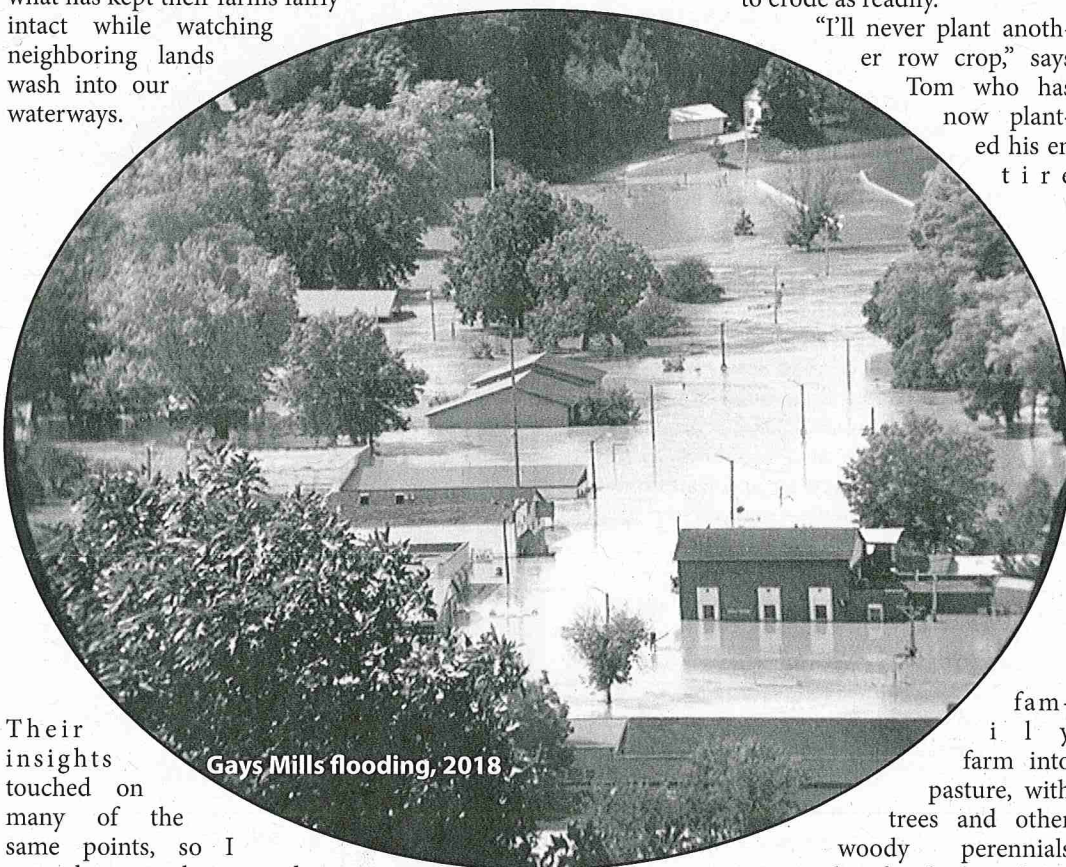
Improving pasture management by using rotational grazing techniques, which prevent overgrazing and the resulting bare soil, should be encouraged for all pastured livestock operations, even those that are not for ruminant animals, such as pork and poultry."

Tom spoke at length of his desire to reintroduce species and how crucial natural diversity was to his farm. For Harriet as well, "protection of biodiversity both above and below the soil line is essential. Practices that enhance soil biological life such as organic farming that does not use toxic materials that kill both soil biology and beneficial insects/wildlife habitat, cover crops, sod crops, and rotational grazing, can result in stable economic returns for farmers."

Both also agree about the importance of techniques like terracing, berms, keyline design, thank-you-maams and other landscaping to slow the flow and allow for water infiltration, as well as leaving or creating natural mitigation areas such as ponds and wetlands. "We have to do what we can to hold back the water."

Both Harriet and Tom stress that we have a responsibility to do more proactively, not just mitigate harm. "Farmers and landowners need to consider not just lessening soil loss by using conservation techniques, but how can they continually improve the health of their soils. We are beyond the need for benign farming practices, we must move to active improvement," states Harriet, and Tom fully agrees.

"We have to treat our soils better. Building the soil and soil structure is a long term challenge for us, our children, and grandchildren. This is the way we can help the land heal itself. We only have one earth, after all, and food from the earth is not only our right, it is our responsibility."



Gays Mills flooding, 2018

Their insights touched on many of the same points, so I wove them together around common themes.

I started off asking about the problems, however, so much great information was generated in this interview that, with limited space in our newsletter, we decided to print only the opportunities and solutions section. You are encouraged to access the full interview online at [crawfordstewardship.org](http://crawfordstewardship.org)!

**Forest:** "How can we make our farms and watersheds more resilient in the face of climate and economic forces? What opportunities

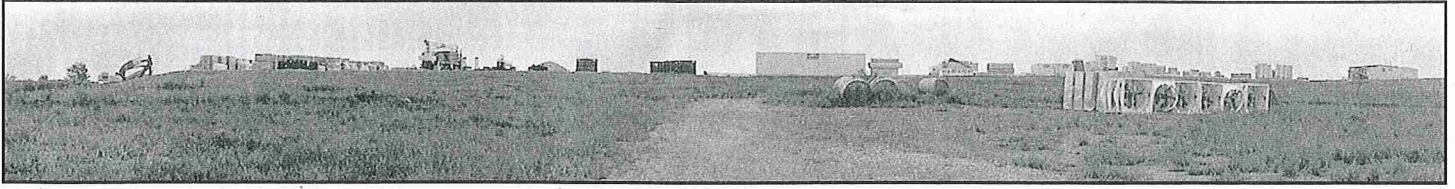
in Soldiers Grove will be a huge boon for local livestock producers like me." But for these solutions to really take off, the state and federal government need to support policies that really support "the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker" in our communities.

These local economies, notes Harriet, "provide better economic returns for farmers and result in more owner/operators in a region, who send their children to the local schools, attend

farm into pasture, with trees and other woody perennials mixed in for shade and nut crops, as an additional income stream. "The practices we've implemented over the last 20 years have allowed us to handle intense storms like these with minimal runoff, while I watch surrounding fields melt away. On our sensitive geography, we really need to keep our soil covered."

Harriet expands on this theme: "Pastured ruminant livestock operations (dairy, beef, sheep, goats) inherently include hay and pastures, and can result in productive operations that work well in our hilly region.





# Industrial Agriculture Update

*Empowered communities make all the difference*

By Forest Jahnke

As industrial threats loom, community organization matters. This is what we have seen repeatedly, and the last months have been no exception. As we see more passionate citizen advocates getting involved in local decision-making, this gives us sustained hope. Despite the issues posed by expanding industrial animal agriculture in our area, we have faith in organized communities ability to protect our most basic rights to clean air and water.

Highlighting this was the recent decision of Premium Iowa Pork ("value-added" branch of Lynch Livestock) to abandon its plans to operate a 700 hog/day slaughterhouse in a cave-riddled karstic area north of Viroqua. Lynch Livestock (a massive vertically integrated corporation based in Iowa) had

already bought out the local butcher shop in 2017 and had most of the necessary permits, but they were not expecting the kind of community resistance that manifested.

Concerned Citizens for Smart Growth formed, and with back-up from Crawford Stewardship Project and a mobilized and educated community, began asking hard questions and raising the alarm over concerns. Eventually, after resorting to sending legal threats in the mail to key organizers, then attempting to re-frame their operation to something more palatable, Lynch Livestock directors said they would not open their doors in a community that did not want them.

Now we can focus our efforts to the south, where Grant County has fairly passively accepted 11 Concentrated Animal

Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to date. In Grant County, the resistance is only beginning, and deserves all our support, as they are on the front lines of industrial hog operations spilling over the Mississippi River from Iowa.

Pipestone Systems, the nation's third largest pork producer, opened Blake's Point and is constructing Timberwolf RE, two farrowing facilities (feeder pig factories) in 2017 with an estimated 5,500 "animal units" (roughly 14,000 sows) each. Put together, these twin facilities will produce 280,000 piglets per year to be raised within a 50 mile radius.

Worse yet, Timberwolf RE is in the process of installing their buildings and underground 7.3 million gallon manure lagoon directly on top of a large officially recognized sinkhole.

Crawford Stewardship Project and many neighbors testified at the permit hearing that this was crazy, and their own testing data showed evidence of vertical fractures in the bedrock, but our Department of Natural Resources went ahead and permitted the operation.

This is why we are so excited to be supporting the organizational development of Grant County Rural Stewardship! Their recently-finalized mission is to, "protect the natural resources of Grant County through community outreach and promotion of sustainable practices to ensure quality water and healthy land for diverse populations". We are helping GCRS as we can, sharing networks, information, and strategies, and are ready to back them up in their future struggles.

## Karst Campaign Making Waves

By Forest Jahnke

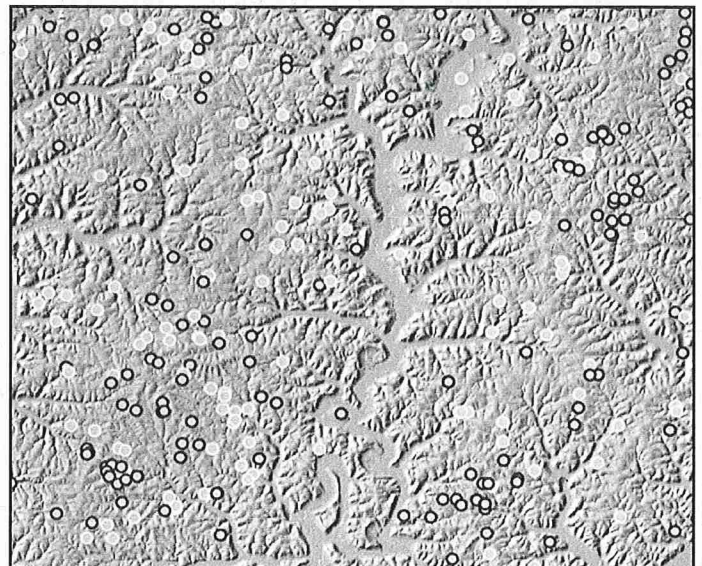
Crawford Stewardship Project has hosted four Karst Citizen Science events which, with the help of our wonderful associates at Legion GIS, have resulted in beautiful maps of potential sinkholes and sinkhole concentrations throughout the county. With these in hand, along with a small mountain of existing studies and data, we plan to finalize our Karst Landscapes and Groundwater Susceptibility Survey of Crawford County this winter.

Already, our methodologies are being picked up by others to gather similar information. We are excited to be working with Dr. Lynnette Dornak, Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville to incorporate some of our meth-

odologies into her classroom to identify potential sinkholes in Grant County! We anticipate more collaborations like this in other surrounding counties, and are already hearing interest.

Meanwhile our public education has continued to successfully bring in interested people to both learn about our karst geology and be a meaningful part of improving the data we are gathering. Our Karst Exploration in Seneca brought in fifty people who helped us test out the methodologies we are developing for citizen scientists to go out and do sinkhole field verification. We test-ran our preliminary methods and discussed what we all saw after exploring some fresh and actively growing sinkholes and one gi-

*"Karst Waves" continued page 6*



Check out sinkhole locations and much more at  
[karstography.legiongis.com!](http://karstography.legiongis.com!)



Crawford Stewardship Project  
P.O. Box 284  
Gays Mills WI 54631

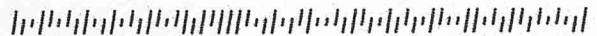
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"Karst Waves" from page 5



**Don't think sinkholes are an issue? This October one collapsed and trapped a man in his own yard in Montfort, before he was rescued!**

ant old sinkhole.

All of this information, as we continue to gather and improve it, goes up on our CSP Karst Viewer, an online platform where you can turn on and off data layers to see different aspects of our geology and watersheds. Check it out under the Karst page on our website or directly at [karstography.legiongis.com](http://karstography.legiongis.com)!

Of course, all this data is of limited use if our "decision-makers" ignore it, so CSP continues our advocacy to municipal, county, and state government. After this April, when 71 of 72 counties overwhelmingly approved the Conservation Congress resolutions to designate all karstic Wisconsin as sensitive areas and to fund hydrogeological studies in counties lacking them, the mandate from the people paying attention is clear.

This is a serious public health issue, with implications for all of our drinking water, and our area's geological sensitivities must be recognized and protected. The new state guidelines for protecting already-contaminated groundwater in Eastern Wisconsin are only a small first step towards recognizing and dealing with the scope of the challenges ahead. Crawford Stewardship Project is committed to taking the steps necessary to protect our groundwater, pulling our "leaders" along, if need be.

Love the Land



Music & Dance Benefit

Saturday

February 2, 2019 • 7 - 11pm  
Gays Mills Community Commerce Center  
16381 Hwy 131, Gays Mills





Blooming Prairie Public Utilities

# Right Light Guide for General Use Bulbs

**Today there are many lighting options available.**  
The right bulb for you depends on how much light you need,  
what color light you want, and its costs and features.

## STEP 1 Decide How Much Light You Need

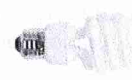
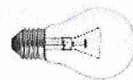
**Focus on Brightness.** Different amounts of light are needed for different uses. Instead of thinking about light bulbs based solely on the amount of energy they use, focus on their brightness level.

**Lumen** is the measurement of brightness.  
Higher lumen bulbs produce brighter light.

**Watt (W)** is the measure of power consumption.  
Lower wattage bulbs can lower your electric bills.

If you like your bulbs' current brightness, choose LEDs with similar lumens to reduce your energy use. You may also consider a bulb that is less bright to save more.

Note: Lumen output listed on packages may vary. Light bulbs listing anywhere from 800 to 860 lumens are similarly bright, for instance.



Brightness		Incandescent	CFL	LED
<b>450 lumens</b>	☀	40W	9-13W	4-8W
<b>800 lumens</b>	☀	60W	13-16W	8-13W
<b>1100 lumens</b>	☀	75W	17-23W	11-15W
<b>1600 lumens</b>	☀	100W	23-28W	16-20W

Least Efficient

Most Efficient

## STEP 2 Decide What Color Light You Want

**Choose Light Appearance.**  
You'll be pleased with your new bulb by choosing a light appearance that you like. All of these colors are available for LEDs and at most brightness levels.

Note: Choose warm or soft white (2700-3000 K) to match the color of incandescent bulbs.

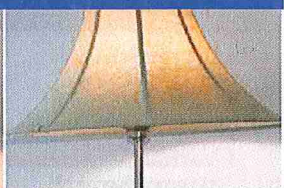
### Different Colors, Same Brightness



**Soft White, Warm White**  
Living Room,  
Bedroom



**Bright White, Cool White**  
Kitchen, Bathroom,  
Dining Room



**Natural, Daylight**  
Office, Laundry,  
Workshop, Garage






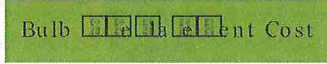
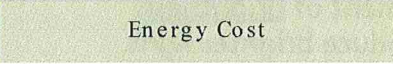
← Warm Color		Light Appearance		Cool Color →	
2700K	3000K	3500K	4100K	5000K	6500K



## STEP 3

## Think About Costs and Benefits

Compare Types of Light Bulbs. You can think about product, replacement, and energy costs over 10 years for different bulb types. Why 10 years? Because LEDs can last that long. Older incandescent bulbs have been phased out and are no longer available.

Cost Over 20 Years	Bulb(s)	Energy	Pros (+) and Cons (-)
LED	 1 bulb in 20 years	 \$35 total cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rebates are available for ENERGY STAR LED bulbs</li> <li>Saves 75% of energy use over incandescent</li> <li>Lasts 25 times longer than incandescent</li> <li>Great for dimmed, recessed, or enclosed fixtures</li> <li>Performs well in cold temperatures</li> <li>- Higher bulb cost</li> </ul>
CFL	 3 bulbs in 20 years	 \$12 total cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saves 75% of energy use over incandescent</li> <li>Lasts 10 times longer than incandescent</li> <li>- Recessed enclosed fixtures reduce bulb life</li> <li>- Contains mercury Recycling required</li> <li>- Performs poorly in cold temperatures</li> </ul>
Incandescent	 22 bulbs in 20 years	 Bulb Replacement Cost  Energy Cost \$84 total cost	

Note: Cost comparison is based on a 20-year life-cycle and takes into account power consumption, hours of use per day, residential electric cost, bulb cost, and replacement cost. For detailed cost calculations and a full pro/con list, visit <http://lightinginbloomingprairie.com>

Buy Our Certified Bulbs. The Lighting Facts label on all bulb packaging clearly shows light appearance and brightness. The label also includes the ENERGY STAR® logo when a bulb meets the required certification levels for high efficiency, performance, and reliability.

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
Brightness	800 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$1.10
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh	
Cost depends on rates and use	
Life	10 years
Based on 3 hrs/day	
Light Appearance	
Warm	Cool
2700 K	
Energy Used	10 Watts



## STEP 4

## Find Rebates and Resources



Blooming Prairie Public Utilities

333 Second Avenue NE  
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Contact Blooming Prairie Public Utilities at 507-583-6683 to find rebates & more at [www.SaveEnergyInBloomingPrairie.com](http://www.SaveEnergyInBloomingPrairie.com).

Also, visit the CERTs lighting website at [Lighting.MnCERTs.org](http://Lighting.MnCERTs.org) to learn more about lighting options and find bulb recycling locations.



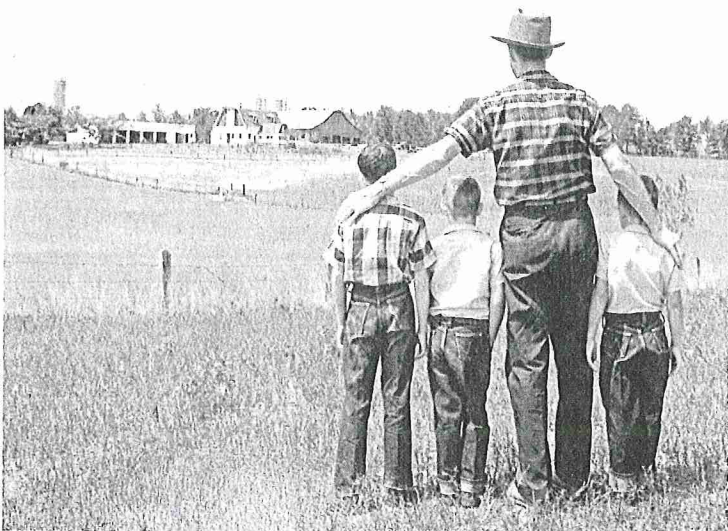




**“Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance.”**

ECKHART TOLLE

PHOTO: JOHN MCKINNEY



*The Progressive Farmer* is featuring photos this year from its vast archives. This photo was taken in 1957.

Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

MARCEL PROUST

Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

If you count all your assets, you always show a profit.

ROBERT QUILLEN

O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth forever.

PSALMS 136:26 (KJV)

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our everlasting gratitude.

JEFF MILLER

We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count.

NEAL A. MAXWELL

Things turn out best for people who make the best of the way things turn out.

JOHN WOODEN

When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.

WILLIE NELSON

In life, one has a choice to take one of two paths: to wait for some special day—or to celebrate each special day.

RASHEED OGUNLARU

The deepest craving of human nature is the need to be appreciated.

WILLIAM JAMES

At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

This a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before.

MAYA ANGELOU

The world has enough beautiful mountains and meadows, spectacular skies and serene lakes. It has enough lush forests, flowered fields, and sandy beaches. It has plenty of stars and the promise of a new sunrise and sunset every day. What the world needs more of is people to appreciate and enjoy it.

MICHAEL JOSEPHSON

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 (KJV)

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorns have roses.

JEAN-BAPTISTE ALPHONSE KARR

Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.

CHARLES DICKENS

Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.

ROBERT BRAULT

I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.

G.K. CHESTERTON

He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.

EPICTETUS





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*Advocating for Clean Water and Air*  
[www.dodgecc.org](http://www.dodgecc.org)





## Farmers and consumers share responsibility for water pollution and purification

Water is one of our two most precious commodities, the other being air, and we human beings are wastefully spoiling both without regard to the fact that they are limited in supply and essential to our existence.

Here in Dodge County we are most wasteful of potable, palatable water, and, unless we do something relatively soon, the time is coming when we will experience the consequences of this waste.

We are not alone in this wastefulness, but that doesn't mean we can continue to ignore it.

Every homeowner is entitled to potable, palatable water. No one has the right to pollute our sources of such waters, but it is happening and has been happening for generations.

I grew up in Haverhill Township in Olmsted County. We had a wonderful spring that supplied the most delicious water I have ever tasted. It also served as the source of coolant for our milk.

Today that water is polluted and unusable for the household without extensive treatment.

No one intentionally pollutes our water, but many farm operations do it unintentionally.

This is a serious problem and urgently needs to be addressed, but it is not just the farmers' problem.

Farmers who are producing livestock—chickens, turkeys, hogs or cattle—are doing so to meet the demands of consumers who eat the meat.

One way to solve the problem of water pollution by farmers would be to ban the production of meat for human consumption, but we know that is not going to happen.

We need to find a realistic solution to the problem, and the first step toward doing that is to accept the mutual contributions of both the farmer and the consumer to creation of the problem and to recognize the responsibility of both the farmer and the consumer for solving the

problem.

One solution I wonder about is the possibility of having a county-wide waste treatment system where municipal sewage and livestock waste could be processed and turned into clean water and reusable solid waste product that could become fertilizer or fuel.

We have readily available, sustainable electrical energy to power such a facility.

If we could develop such a system and make it cost effective, it may offer additional opportunities for generating income, as there are many counties throughout the U.S. with the same problem.

We have the sanitation technology for such a system in every city in the U.S., so it is not unreasonable to consider similar countywide systems.

There are undoubtedly other potential solutions if we all give the problem of water pollution by the livestock we eat some consideration.

The important thing is that we all have to accept our

share of responsibility for the problem of water pollution by livestock operations and start working together to solve the problem.

In the meantime, we should avoid adding to the problem by allowing the construction of additional feeding operations unless there are realistic plans that will be in

place to prevent release of additional waste into our precious water resources.

When we let problems such as pollution of homeowners' water supplies continue unabated until they are forced to take legal action, we all lose. The only way to prevent things from progressing that far is to accept our mutu-

al responsibility and work together to find a solution that works for everyone, and there usually is one if we will just listen to each other and avoid thinking of each other as enemies.

Larry Dobson

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[www.communitynewscorp.com](http://www.communitynewscorp.com)



# Make a Disaster Plan for Your Pets

How to keep pets safe in natural disasters and everyday emergencies

## 1 START GETTING READY NOW: ID YOUR PET

Make sure that cats and dogs are wearing collars and identification tags that are up-to-date. You'll increase your chances of being reunited with pets who get lost by having them microchipped; make sure the microchip registration is in your name. But remember, the average good samaritan who finds your pet won't be able to scan for a chip, but they will be able to read a basic tag!

## Put your cell phone number on your pets' tag.

It may also be a good idea to include the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area—in case you have had to evacuate.

## Put together your disaster kit.

Use our checklist to assemble an emergency kit for yourself and your pets.

## Find a safe place to stay ahead of time.

Never assume that you will be allowed to bring your pets to an emergency shelter. Before a disaster hits, call your local office of emergency management to see if

you will be allowed to evacuate with your pets and verify that there will be shelters in your area that take people and their pets.

## Contact hotels and motels

outside of your immediate area to find out if they accept pets. Ask about any restrictions on number, size, and species. Inquire if a "no pet" policy would be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of animal-friendly places handy, and make a reservation as soon as you think you might have to leave your home.

## Make arrangements with friends or relatives.

Ask people outside of your immediate area if they would be able to shelter you and your pets—or just your pets—if necessary. If you have more than one pet, you may need to arrange to house them at separate locations.

## Consider a boarding kennel or veterinarian's office.

Make a list of day-care/boarding facilities and veterinary offices that might be able to shelter animals in disaster emergencies (make sure to include their 24-hour telephone numbers).

## Plan for your pets in case you're not home.

In case you're away during a disaster or evacuation order, make arrangements well in advance for someone you trust to take your pets and meet you at a specified location. Be sure the person is comfortable with your pets and your pets are familiar with them. Give your emergency caretaker a key to your home and show them where your pets are likely to be (especially if they hide when they're nervous) and where your disaster supplies are kept.

**If you have a pet-sitter, they may be able to help.** Discuss the possibility well in advance.

## 2 IF YOU EVACUATE, TAKE YOUR PETS

**Rule number one: If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets.** You have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area, and you may not be able—or allowed—to go back for your pets. Pets left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost, or killed.

**Pledge to take your pet with you when disaster strikes.**

(over, please)



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES



### **Rule number two:**

**Evacuate early.** Don't wait for a mandatory evacuation order. Some people who have waited to be evacuated by emergency officials are limited in the options available for their animals. The smell of smoke or the sound of high winds or thunder may make your pet more fearful and difficult to load into a crate or carrier. Evacuating before conditions become severe will keep everyone safer and make the process less stressful.

### **3 IF YOU STAY HOME, DO IT SAFELY**

If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together.

- **Close off or eliminate unsafe nooks and crannies** where frightened pets may try to hide.
- **Move dangerous items** such as tools or toxic products that have been stored in the area.
- **Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say trouble is on the way.** Keep dogs on leashes or harnesses and cats in carriers, and make sure they are wearing identification.
- **If you have a room you can designate as a "safe room," put your emergency supplies in that room in advance,** including your pet crates and supplies. Have any

medications and a supply of pet food and water inside watertight containers, along with your other emergency supplies. If there is an open fireplace, vent, pet door, or similar opening in the house, close it off with plastic sheeting and strong tape.

- **Listen to the radio** and don't come out until you know it's safe.

### **4 AFTER THE DISASTER**

Your home may be a very different place after the emergency is over, and it may be hard for your pets to adjust.

- **Don't allow your pets to roam loose.** Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone, and your pets may be disoriented. Pets can easily get lost in such situations.
- **While you assess the damage, keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers inside the house.** If your house is damaged, your pets could escape.
- **Be patient with your pets after a disaster.** Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible. Be ready for changes in behavior caused by the stress of the situation. If your pet(s) seems to be having any health problems, talk to your veterinarian.
- **If your community has been flooded, check your home and yard for wild**

**animals who may have sought refuge there.** Wildlife can pose a threat to you and your pets. Check out our tips for humanely dealing with wildlife issues.

### **5 BE READY FOR EVERYDAY EMERGENCIES**

**You can't get home to your pets.**

There may be times that you can't get home to take care of your pets. Icy roads may trap you at the office overnight, an accident may send you to the hospital—things happen. But you can make sure your pets get the care they need by making arrangements now:

- **Find a trusted neighbor, friend, or family member and give them a key.** Make sure this back-up caretaker is comfortable and familiar with your pets (and vice versa).
- **Make sure your back-up caretaker knows your pets' feeding and medication schedule, whereabouts, and habits.**
- **If you use a pet-sitting service, find out in advance if they will be able to help in case of an emergency.**

### **PLANS AREN'T JUST FOR PETS**

Disaster plans aren't only essential for the safety of pets. If you're responsible for other kinds of animals during natural disasters, disaster plans for feral or outdoor cats, horses, and animals on farms can be lifesavers.