

Notice of Public Information Meeting Class II

To: Landowners in Rock County

During October 2002 and amendment thereto during 2013, the State of Wisconsin adopted the Statewide Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions. In agricultural areas of Rock County, there are now limits on the allowable soil erosion from cropland, requirements that animal waste be properly applied to fields or stored in a way that minimizes threats to surface and/or groundwater, and requirements for the diversion of runoff around barnyards, feedlots, and storage facilities. Amendments include the use of a phosphorus index and a tillage setback from surface waters.

Rock County, as required by Wisconsin State Statutes, is in the process of updating the Land and Water Resource Management Plan, which identifies how, when and where the Rock County Land Conservation Department will implement the Performance Standards. All agricultural land must comply with these standards. Landowners may be eligible for cost sharing to implement needed practices.

A Copy of the DRAFT Rock County Land and Water Resource Management Plan can be viewed on the web at:

http://www.co.rock.wi.us/images/web_documents/departments/land_conservation/Land_and_Water_Resource_Plan_2019_draft_October_2019.pdf

or at the Land Conservation Department Office, 440 N US Hwy 14, Janesville WI 53546 between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. Monday through Friday. Also, a limited number of copies will be made available to producers at no charge.

The Land Conservation Committee will conduct a public information meeting on the Land and Water Resource Management Plan on **November 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm** at the **Rock County Fair Grounds Craig Center**, 1301 Craig Ave, Janesville, WI 53545 Oral comments on the plan will be taken at that time. Written comments will be accepted until **November 15, 2019**.

Attachment: Summary of Wisconsin Runoff Pollution Abatement Rules

Summary of Wisconsin Runoff Pollution Abatement Rules

Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 151 establishes Runoff Pollution Abatement Procedures and Prohibitions; Wisconsin Administrative Code ATCP 50 establishes program standards and procedures for the implementation of NR 151.

Major points of rules:

Prohibitions:

- 1) No overflow of manure storage;
- 2) No unconfined manure stacks in water quality management areas;
- 3) No runoff from barnyards;
- 4) No unlimited grazing along streams, rivers, lakes or ponds.

Performance Standards:

- 1) Manure, commercial fertilizer and other nutrients shall be applied according to a nutrient management plan.
- 2) All lands where feed or crops are grown must be cropped at or below the established "T" for the predominant soil type for each field. In Rock County, the average "T" value for most soils equals 3 tons per acre.
- 3) All producers within a water quality management area must divert runoff away from contacting barnyards, feedlots, and manure storage areas.
- 4) Any new or alterations to an existing animal waste storage or closure of an existing facility must comply with the rules/local ordinance.
- 5) No tillage may be conducted within 5 feet of the top of channel of surface waters.
- 6) Croplands, pastures, and winter grazing areas shall average a phosphorus index of 6 or less over the accounting period and may not exceed a phosphorus index of 12 in any individual year within the accounting period.

Program Standards:

- 1) Landowners must be offered cost sharing if required to install Best Management Practices, if applicable.
- 2) Counties must insure the practices are installed according to State Standards as defined in ATCP 50.
- 3) Counties must adopt Land and Water Resource Management Plans.
- 4) Counties must maintain/update conservation standards for the Farmland Preservation Program.