



Dear Neighbor,

We are a group of farmers who have come together because we care about the land, the soil and farmers. We're writing to tell you about a new farmer-led committee that has gotten started in the Dry Run Creek watershed. A map is attached – if you're getting this letter, you're also in the watershed.

Our goals are to:

- 1) learn more about the Dry Run Creek watershed
- 2) learn where nutrients are coming from and where they are going
- 3) investigate and implement practices that can improve soil health while saving money

We'd also like to demonstrate to the public that farmers are conservation leaders – we care about our land and water and are doing everything we can to take care of it.

Our committee is directed by farmers, and is completely voluntary and non-regulatory. We're getting assistance from UW-Extension and the St. Croix County Land and Water Department.

On the next page is a list of incentives we are offering to all farmers in the watershed. If you'd like to participate, please fill out the sheet and return it by April 15th. The funding for these incentives comes from the McKnight Foundation, a private organization. Your participation and any information the council collects will stay with the council, and not be made public. Please contact Kyle Kulow (715-531-1908) or Julia Olmstead with UW-Extension (715-531-8869) with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Dry Run Creek Watershed Council

DRY RUN CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL  
CONSERVATION INCENTIVES 2014

Check the incentive you are interested in. You may sign up for more than one. Funding is limited and will be first-come, first-served. Deadline for sign-up is April 15th. There will be a \$50 cash bonus to the first ten respondents. This is a new project! We'd appreciate any feedback you might have about other incentives you'd be interested in. Please list them on the back of this sheet.

Please return in the enclosed envelope or mail to:

Dry Run Creek Watershed Committee, c/o Julia Olmstead, 1231 RDI Building, 410 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., River Falls, WI 54022.

\_\_\_ \$1.35/ft for Grass Waterway installation or repair [this amount will cover your share of the cost-share. St. Croix County will assist in getting the funds for the rest of the project costs, so the waterway will be no-cost to you with this incentive]

\_\_\_ \$4/acre for soil sampling and review, taken in 5 acre increments or less. [you may take the samples yourself, use a consultant, or contact the county. You must provide proof of sampling and analysis to receive the incentive, and must be willing to share your sample results with the council – the data will not be made public]

\_\_\_ In addition to these incentives, the council will be working to repair erosion on Dry Run Creek itself. We asked Extension to take soil samples of the creekbed last fall – the samples were very high in phosphorus, and we believe that the erosion in the creek is a big source of P pollution. We'll be doing some test sections of creekbank repair this summer. If you are interested in possibly being a demonstration site please indicate this as well.

\_\_\_ Check here if you're interested in receiving information about upcoming committee meetings. All watershed farmers are welcome.

The council plans to offer a cover crop incentive in the fall, which you'll receive another mailing about.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_