



## CONSERVATION INCENTIVES 2017

Dear Landowner,

The South Kinni Farmer-Led Watershed Council is a group of farmers and landowners working together to improve soil and water conservation within the Rocky Branch and South Fork Watersheds. Our funding is provided through grants from the McKnight Foundation and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. We are pleased to offer agricultural landowners the following conservation incentives for 2017. These practices can help improve the quality of our watershed. Please check any incentive(s) you are interested in. (You may sign up for more than one.)

\_\_\_ **\$250 payment for signing up for a free, no-strings attached farm walkover for operations of at least 20 cropland acres with a conservation planner from the Pierce County Land Conservation Department.** This is an opportunity to get suggestions about improving soil and water conservation as well as agricultural productivity on your land. This is a one-time incentive and is not applicable to previous applicants.

\_\_\_ **\$4/acre for new soil samples, taken in 5-acre increments or less.** You may take the samples yourself or hire an agronomist. 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*. Please write the approximate number of acres you would like to sample = \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ **\$1.35/ft for Grass Waterway installation or repair.** Waterways will be surveyed and designed by a technician from the Pierce County Land Conservation Department and installed by a contractor of your choosing. Additional cost-sharing may be available through the Pierce County Land Conservation Department. Pierce County's 10' no-till drill is available to Pierce County residents at no cost if used for this incentive. Please write the approximate length in feet of waterway to install or repair = \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ **Creating a buffer strip or pollinator plot.** This incentive offers reimbursement for seed/plant costs up to \$250/acre along with an additional \$50/acre to maintain for a year. Examples include creating a buffer strip next to a waterway, converting cropland into a pollinator plot, or seeding down a steep bank that is eroding. Project area must be a minimum of 10,000 square feet and seed mixes must be approved by NRCS and applied at recommended rates. Pierce County's 10' no-till drill is available to Pierce County residents at no cost if used for this incentive. Please write the approximate number of acres to be seeded = \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ **\$500.00 flat rate incentive for new construction, repairing, or general maintenance of a grade stabilization structure (dam) that meets NRCS standards.** Examples of maintenance include clearing trees growing on the structure or replacing the pipe. This incentive requires an inspection and approval by a technician from the Pierce County Land Conservation Department prior to completed work. Additional cost-sharing may be available through the Pierce County Land Conservation Department.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$20/acre payment for planting a cover crop into a growing crop or following the crop harvest in 2017.** Cover crops may include any species of small grain (winter rye is recommended), radishes, hairy vetch, buckwheat, or any clover. Cover crop must be planted in a growing crop or after the harvest of the crop but no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>, or as recommended by the NRCS cover crop practice standard 340. Cover crop must be terminated shortly before or after planting of the following years crops. Verification of seeding along with seed tags will be required before payment. If you are interested, please indicate the number of acres to be planted = \_\_\_\_\_

The following conditions will apply to all conservation incentives:

1. Applicants must be willing to share soil testing data and/or Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for your farm to the watershed committee. This information will not be shared with the public, but will be used to help measure the progress of phosphorus reduction in the watershed.
2. Applicants will be required to submit a W9 tax form if incentive payment exceeds \$600.00. The W9 form will be kept on record by the WI Farmer's Union.
3. All conservation practices must meet NRCS standards in order to be cost shared.

Funding is limited and will be first-come, first-served. Payments will be received by December 31, 2017. We reserve the right to pro-rate payment amounts if sign-up exceeds funding availability. **Deadline for sign-up is April 7, 2017.** If you would like to learn more about the Farmer-Led Council, please contact Brad Peterson (715-307-3502) or Brian Bergseng (715-760-0505).

Sincerely,

South Kinni Farmer-Led Watershed Council

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

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

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

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

**Please submit applications to:**

**Dan Sitz**

**Pierce County Land Conservation Department**

**412 W Kinne Street**

**Ellsworth, WI 54011**

[dan.sitz@co.pierce.wi.us](mailto:dan.sitz@co.pierce.wi.us)