

# Clean Water Action Council

OF NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF WORKING TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

FALL 2015

## Can Agri-Tourism and the Preservation of Small Family Farms Save Us from CAFO Ruination?

*Introduction by CWAC President Dean Hoegger*

Northeast Wisconsin continues to see huge increases in the size of concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, with little or no monitoring of the effects of these industrial operations. While CAFO owners will tell you that their operations are the most regulated form of agriculture in the state, many Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources employees, off the record, will tell you a different story. That story describes permit and monitoring processes that do not protect the waters of the state and the citizens who live near these operations.

As these expansions continue, the untold costs continue to rise. Doug Gurian-Sherman of the Union of

Concerned Scientists, notes five significant costs to area citizens from CAFOs, which include (1) a major manure disposal problem; (2) odors that disrupt the quality of life and lower property values; (3) the loss of independent medium and small scale farms; (4) ballooning taxpayer subsidies; and (5) the spread of pathogens and disease.

In order to keep control of our local agricultural landscape, we must act to preserve our small and medium-size farms and promote and support the kinds of practices that will help these farms be economically successful and environmentally sustainable. This issue will explore some of those practices.

*Join us on October 28 when authors Lisa Kivirist and John Ivanko will share strategies for preserving family farms and our rural sense of place. See page 16 for details and registration information.*



# Preserving Our Small Family Farms through Agri-Tourism

By Lisa Kivist & John D. Ivanko  
Photographs by John D. Ivanko

Solutions to problems can sometimes be found in our backyards – or at the end of a country lane or on the menu of a local cafe. While the “bigger is better” mantra in agriculture continues throughout the state and nationally, often taking the form of CAFOs or corporate farms, an equally powerful real food and sustainable farming movement is afoot. Evidence of this contrarian farmer movement can be found in the explosive growth of farmers’ markets, farm-to-table restaurants, agri-tourism operations and a diversity of other sustainable farming and rural enterprises that seek not only to preserve the sense of place where they’re based, but often restore the soil, improve the watershed and create a more viable and resilient local economy.

To economically sustain Wisconsin’s family farms and the communities in which they’re based, increasingly these social change entrepreneurs are looking to venues like farmstays, U-pick operations and pizza farms. No matter what form the agri-tourism or sustainable farming operation may take, they provide experiential opportunities for folks to engage with agricultural life, connecting neighbors with neighbors and urbanites back to the land on which our sustenance is inexorably linked.

In many ways, the sustainable family farming movement is both a response to the well-documented and devastating social and ecological impacts of CAFOs and monoculture and chemical-based corporate farming operations as well as a recognition of the growing desires of many people eager to savor real food made by real people. These farmers and other community food entrepreneurs can tap into the growing market of folks seeking farm experiences and products while diversifying their income. In so doing, they help preserve a sense of place and build a more viable local economy.

“Agri-tourism creates a ‘win win’ situation for both the customer and the

host farm as well as providing the educational catalyst to transform our food system through connecting directly with one’s food source,” explains Jan Joannides, founder and executive director of Renewing the Countryside, a non-profit championing positive rural revitalization through healthy local food systems and a key partner behind the *Renewing the Countryside: WISCONSIN* book, showcasing some of the many organizations and businesses leading the way. “By spending the night at a farm stay, not only does the farm receive income for lodging, but folks coming out to the farm take home an intimate, flavorful and often hands-on experience and connection with where their food comes from. Education with income can be a transformative equation for change.”

Numbers back up this interest on the part of travelers and local community residents eager to know from where their food comes. According to the Census of Agriculture, farms selling directly to consumers increased 8 percent between 2007 and 2012, topping \$1.3 billion in direct fresh agricultural product sales. Wisconsin ranks number six in the nation with a \$46.9 million dollar slice of this opportunity pie.

The Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) supports the double-digit growth of sustainable farming operations both in Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest. From helping transition more farms to certified organic operations to promoting the merits of rotational grazing and pastured poultry, beef and pork, MOSES runs the largest event in the U.S. about organic and sustainable farming, the MOSES Conference held every February and drawing more than 3,000 farmers, advocates, educators, students, and others to La Crosse.



Pastured chickens with their portable hen house.

Perhaps it’s no coincidence that the nation’s largest farmer-owned food cooperative that sells under the Organic Valley Family of Farms brand is based in the small town of LaFarge, Wisconsin, and represents approximately 9 percent of the entire nation’s certified organic farming community with sales nearing \$1 billion. Many of the farms are powered by renewable energy, all

rebuild soil health through compost and other sustainable nutrient-building strategies and each farm, in their own way, value the health of their community in ways that are both practical and enduring.

Below are four inspiring examples from our own Wisconsin backyard where farmers, communities and business have come together to preserve our rural sense of place.

## **1. TOUR**

Farm tours provide an easy entry point into agri-tourism by providing organized opportunities for the public to come and experience the farm. As the market increases for organic and sustainably-raised products, such tour opportunities are following a similar pattern. Organic sales are growing at nearly 12 percent per year and 81 percent of U.S. families are choosing organic food at least sometimes, according to the Organic Trade Association. Wisconsin, again, reflects the pulse of this movement with 1,180 organic farms, more than any other state in the Midwest and second only to California, with this Wisconsin number increasing 77 percent since 2005.

Farm tours also provide opportunity for farms and rural communities to co-market and potentially expand into a large collaborative event. Such is the case with Soil Sisters: A Celebration of Wisconsin Farms and Rural Life, an annual weekend event showcasing women-owned organic and sustainable farms in south central Wisconsin. This event started as a one tour day with six area farms open for public tours. Thanks to increasing attendance, Soil Sisters expanded in 2015 into a full weekend destination event complete with on-farm workshops and culinary events in addition to the tour day now involving over 12 women-owned farms, each with farm stands with their products for sale. Governor Walker even proclaimed the week leading up to the Soil Sisters weekend as “Wisconsin Women in Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Week,” generating further media interest.

## **2. TASTE**

The “farm-to-table” movement cooks up agri-tourism ideas for farms as the public increasingly looks for authentic experiences savoring farm-fresh fare. According to National Restaurant Association’s 2015 Culinary Forecast of hot trends, it’s all about knowing your farmer with everything from “locally sourced produce” to “environmental sustainability” to “hyper-local sourcing” to even “farm/estate branded items” appearing on their top ten list. If the meal can be under the stars on the land and with the farmer that raised it, all the better.

One hot new trend in the farm-to-table movement that Wisconsin leads the nation in is “pizza farms,” typically when an existing farm diversifies to serve pizza baked in an outdoor wood-fired oven once a week. The pizza farm concept can work very well as the pizzas toppings can use what the farm fields have in abundance while providing a family-friendly, on-farm dining experience where folks

bring their own service wear, picnic blankets and other side dishes and beverages. Stoney Acres Farm, a diversified CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) certified organic operation in Athens, Wisconsin, started making pizzas on Friday nights from May through October in 2012. Today, they generate more than \$30,000 from their pizza-making enterprise alone.

“Diversification proves to be a win-win as it inspires us to continually be creatively challenging ourselves, thinking proactively about the future and always asking ‘what if,’” explains Kat Becker, co-owner of Stoney Acres Farm with her husband, Tony Schultz, of Stoney Acres Farm. “Doing a weekly, on-farm pizza night proved to be one of our most lucrative and fun ventures yet and brings together the ultimate combination for us: sharing what we grow and raise directly with our community right on our land.”

However, launching such on-farm food events can potentially stir up cost and regulatory complications via the Health Department since commercial kitchens and other facilities are needed. To address these regulations, Renewing the Countryside created a training program specifically to help farms think through and navigate such start-ups: Come & Get It: What You Need to Know to Serve Food On Your Farm, offering a free webinar, manual and other resources specifically for Wisconsin and Minnesota.

## **3. SLEEP**

After all the touring and eating, what could be better than bedding down and spending the night on a farm?

Enter the growth of the farm stay experience where farms offer bed & breakfast type lodging experiences showcasing local fare. Scottie Jones, founded Farm Stay U.S. to help make these experiences more mainstream travel options, like they are throughout Europe,



Farm stays. Keeping it simple and authentic.



Stoney Acres Farm pizza night

Australia and other parts of the world. Jones estimates there are about 1,000 working farms, ranches, and vineyards in the US that offer such lodging.

The farm stay experience brings the connection full circle by providing the opportunity for guests to intimately see the day-to-day workings of agriculture after the day is kicked-off with a hearty, farm fresh breakfast.

#### 4. GROW

The heart of agri-tourism remains the farm itself, fueled by the continued growth of the organic market. Sales of organic products in the United States broke through another record in 2014, totaling \$39.1 billion, an increase of 11.3 percent from the previous year. A major milestone reached: Organic sales now represent 5 percent share of the total food market, indicative of this movement moving mainstream.

Women in particular fuel organic movement growth as women make one of the fastest growing groups of new farmers, representing a particular dedication and commitment to sustainability and growing food for their own communities and using sustainable practices like rotational grazing.



Connecting a child to where his food comes from.

Growing isn't merely confined to cows on pasture or rows of tomatoes. Exploring ways to "grow" education by connecting kids or adults to the land via summer camps with a gardening component like the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) in Amherst, Wisconsin, where they engagingly blend education with experience.

Even art has its place in growing a broader appreciation of the culture of agriculture. Events like the popular Fermentation Fest in the Reedsburg area have attracted thousands of people to the rural countryside for pastured performances, temporary art exhibits and culinary workshops on fermentation, food preservation and numerous other skills.

The list of possibilities to economically steward our communities and landscape grows wide and deep, but embracing these options demand foresight and a deep commitment to blending direct, engaging experiences with sustainability. By providing ways to directly connect with

and preserve our Wisconsin rural heritage, we both create financially solid enterprises while ushering in the next generation of farmers who, in various ways, sow the seeds that preserve the sense of place we treasure.

*Lisa Kivirist and John Ivanko run Inn Serendipity Farm and B&B outside Monroe, Wisconsin, completely powered by the wind and the sun. They are the award-winning co-authors of *Homemade for Sale*, *Farmstead Chef*, *ECOprenuring* and *Rural Renaissance*.*

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*Lisa and John will be giving a presentation about preserving Door County's sense of place on October 28 at Crossroads at Big Creek. See page 16 for registration details.*

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#### Resources:

Soil Sisters: A Celebration of Wisconsin Farms and Rural Life, [www.soilsisterswi.org](http://www.soilsisterswi.org)

Come & Get It: What You Need to Know To Serve Food on the Farm, [http://www.renewingthecountryside.org/on\\_farm\\_food\\_service](http://www.renewingthecountryside.org/on_farm_food_service)

Farm Stay US: [www.farmstayus.com](http://www.farmstayus.com)

Fermentation Fest: [www.fermentationfest.com](http://www.fermentationfest.com)

## Irish Farm Bed and Breakfasts Can Be a Model for Wisconsin Agri-Tourism

By Charlie Frisk

In the 1990s the Irish government became concerned about the decline in profitability of family farms in Ireland. The government began a program to develop Agri-tourism as a means to supplement farm income. Workshops were held to educate farmers on how to set up and run bed and breakfast operations and a network was established to publicize and support Farm Bed and Breakfast businesses.

I am very familiar with the Irish system of Farm Bed and Breakfast operations because 12 years ago my wife Kathy and I went to Ireland for our honeymoon. For all but one of our nights in Ireland we stayed in Farm Bed and Breakfasts. It is really an interesting way to travel. We were always spending the night in scenic rural areas, we learned a great deal about Irish agriculture, and we developed friendships with Irish farmers. Our breakfasts were always outstanding; featuring farm fresh dairy products and eggs.

The Farm Bed and Breakfast system provides the tourist with reasonable travel costs and at the same time has been the difference maker that has kept many small Irish farmers in business. If you are interested in this type of travel experience simply Google, "Irish Farmhouse Holidays", and you will find all of the information you need.

*"Your Irish Farm Stay host will be knowledgeable about the farm and will be able to provide you with a 'learn to' farm experience."*

## Waseda Farms, a Model of Sustainability and Eco-Tourism

By John Hermanson



Waseda Farms is a diversified operation that delivers organic food, farm to fork, in Northeastern Wisconsin and beyond. What solidly connects them to our theme of agri-tourism is that they have an open farm concept thereby inviting folks to wander their pathways, see their fields, and paddocks while getting to know where their food really comes from.

People drive from the Green Bay area for a day of recreation and to fulfill their curiosity. Folks from Chicago vacationing visit and often bring home a cooler full of frozen meat. Their workers enjoy answering questions about their operation such as what varieties of vegetables they prefer to grow or what direction to take for a hike on their trail system.

Waseda Farms has a facility that more humanely handles their beef cattle. Dr. Temple Grandin, a well-respected livestock animal scientist, designed this unique small-scale system. The farm has enthusiastically shared this system with other farms.

Their retail store in DePere has a butcher that processes meat from their farm in Baileys Harbor, which

is for sale at their two retail locations and local farmers markets and select restaurants. They also have a deli in DePere that provides prepared foods for both locations.

Glacial till helped create hilly terrain in this typically shallow soiled karst topography. This 350-acre farm was originally inhabited by a dairy farm and later owned by the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Their stewardship left healthy soils along with hiking trails to areas where the members of the order meditated. There is a large cross on a high point on the farm whose pathways are signed with directional arrows showing the way to this landmark. Hiking the pathways you will see pastured cows and pastured chickens while close to the on-site retail store where you can find gardens that grow vegetables and berries.

Waseda Farms uses the Door County landscape for healthy and sustainable farming practices while offering the recreational opportunities of hiking and biking. Maybe someday these trails will connect to a larger system of Door County agricultural trails.

*You can learn more about their operations that also includes a retail location in DePere at [www.WasedaFarms.com](http://www.WasedaFarms.com)*



Diversifying crops can improve the profitability of small family farms.

## It's Time to Reconsider Liquid Manure Systems

By Gordon Stevenson

Sherlock Holmes, literature's most famous detective, was addicted to a 7% solution of cocaine according to the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Wisconsin's livestock industry has an addiction of its own; it is addicted to a 5% solution of manure.

In our culture, all of us have a similar addiction; we are addicted to the practice of water carriage to move waste material from one place to another. From the time of the Romans, and likely even before that, we learned that offensive waste material would magically disappear and no longer trouble us if there was enough flowing water available to dilute it and take it away. Most of us have multiple devices in our homes that do exactly that. The problem, of course is that those pollutants that were so conveniently washed away would turn up somewhere else and cause trouble.

Wisconsin's livestock industry has now fallen victim to the same disorder: reliance on water carriage waste management or so-called liquid manure management systems. They try to flush their problems away just like we do. Many of these systems operate with a 5% solution of dry matter to water. Other systems are even more dilute than that. Undiluted dairy manure is a very wet product to begin with. A typical Wisconsin dairy cow excretes about 20 pounds of dry matter per day and 100 pounds of water per day in the form of urine and feces. A 5% solution requires addition of about 250 more pounds of water to the mix.

The industry has adopted the 5% solution because it is cheap. Pumping and piping liquids is significantly less expensive than pushing, pulling and lifting solids, particularly if carriage water comes so cheaply, as it does in Wisconsin. Solid or semi-solid manure management systems costs about four times more to install and

operate than liquid or slurry systems according to some studies.

CAFO's are an ever-expanding source of a dilute soup of nitrogen, phosphorus, pathogens, oxygen-demanding substances, detergents, disinfectants, pharmaceuticals and other substances that cause pollution. And virtually all of it is spread in an untreated to condition on Wisconsin landscapes.



Untreated liquid manure being spread on a Door County field.

Like humans, CAFO's use a lot of water for waste management. CAFO's obtain water from high capacity wells in order to flush manure from dairy barns and clean milking parlors, milk storage tanks, and milk pipeline systems. They also need significant volumes of water to meet the hydration needs of the cattle themselves. All of this water is taken from groundwater resources by means of high capacity wells. We have learned that high capacity wells can cause residential water supply wells to go dry, they have caused lakes to dry up and they have reduced the base flow of streams.

Dilute manure also translates into the need for more and bigger manure storage structures. Wisconsin is now home to manure storage ponds that exceed 10 acres in area. It is well-known that all manure storage structures leak, putting groundwater at risk. There is also a high frequency of overtopping manure storages in Wisconsin. Some of these events have resulted in surface water pollution.

Dilute manure also means that greater volumes must be spread on the land. Liquid manure is significantly more mobile for transport from the site of intended application and can runoff more readily than solid manure. 75% or more of the water pollution events associated with livestock are the result of manure runoff from land spreading sites.

The nitrates, phosphorus, pathogens and other components of manure that had been so conveniently diluted and carried away have now turned up in places like the groundwater of Kewaunee County, the surface water of Green Bay, and the groundwater of the Central Sands. Programs and rules on the books are supposed to prevent



A manure lagoon nearing capacity

such things from occurring. They don't. The rules are based on agricultural production, not water quality. In addition, the state agency in charge of enforcing them is woefully under staffed. Those staff who remain are living under a Spanish Inquisition atmosphere; no one dares utter the words, "climate change." And the excessive water use of the livestock industry is a direct outgrowth of cheap food policy or the "feed the world" mentality that Wisconsin's livestock industry so proudly promotes.

It would be easy to say that we simply need to return to the old days of small farms with solid manure management systems. Small has not always been beautiful in Wisconsin. In my career, I saw dozens of horrendous water pollution problems caused by small farms. For instance, a farmer with two hundred head of hogs built a streamside concrete platform so that he could scrape manure directly from the barn to the stream. Another farmer with 40 head of dairy cattle had piled solid manure behind his barn for years until it started to cascade down the hillside and caused a fish kill in a nearby trout stream. Many farms like these are now mercifully out of business.

Livestock can and should have a continuing and sustaining role on Wisconsin's landscape, but it must be a role that is compatible with that landscape. The solution to the problem could include reinstatement of the common past practice of using large quantities of bedding like straw



A method of manure composting that prevents run-off.

and wood shavings with manure. That would significantly curtail the runoff potential of manure. Composting systems could stabilize the nutrient content of manure and render it much safer for land spreading.

And, of course, when practiced artfully, manure management with rotational or prescribed grazing systems is largely done by the livestock themselves. The animals consume plants and deposit the resultant nutrients directly back to the land in an almost closed-loop system. (see next article: “Rotational Grazing Dairy Farming Protects Our Waters and Is Economically Feasible”)

We need to change some circumstances if systems like these are more widely adopted. We need government policies that encourage landscape-compatible practices that do not squander water quantity or degrade water quality. We need agricultural nutrient management standards that are based on water quality protection, not agricultural production. We need a restored Department of Natural Resources whose Secretary has professional credentials, whose staff are in sufficient numbers to do the work, and who has the freedom to make decisions that are in the best public interest. We need a governor and a legislature willing to place a higher priority on the present and future condition of the environment than they do on short-term economic expediency. And we need citizens willing to pay what landscape-compatible food is worth. These are not easy solutions. But the 5% Solution is no solution at all. As Sherlock Holmes would have said, it's elementary.

*Gordon Stevenson is a retired Wisconsin DNR Chief of Runoff Management, a CWAC member, and a Director and Secretary for the Midwest Environmental Advocates.*

## Farm Scale Manure Composting\*

### Composting manure addresses many negative impacts of liquid manure systems:

- Pathogen destruction.
- Antibiotic resistance genes destruction.
- Nitrogen loss and odors.
- Transportation effects on Infrastructure

Estimated dairy manure composting costs can be competitive with paying to haul manure off site. Composting economics are positive when compost can be sold for greater than \$20/yard<sup>3</sup> and amendments are available at low costs.

*\*Frederick C. Michel, Jr. and researchers at the Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, The Ohio State University*

## Rotational Grazing Dairy Farming Protects Our Waters and Is Economically Feasible

By Charlie Frisk

In Northeast Wisconsin the large industrial style dairy farms so dominate the landscape that many people probably think that is the only way milk is being produced in this state. However, in some areas of the state, the primary growth industry is in grass fed rotational grazing systems.

What is rotational grazing and how does it work? In a rotational grazing system the land is divided into many individual paddocks by a mix of permanent and mobile electrical fences. The cows are rotated from paddock to paddock to allow the grass to recover from the grazing. With dairy cows this is easier than with beef cattle because the cows have to be brought into the milking parlor twice a day for milking, and they can be shifted to a new paddock as they are brought out from being milked.

### ADVANTAGES OF ROTATIONAL GRAZING SYSTEMS

1. Start-up costs are much lower. The farmer does not need to invest in plows, combines, and other equipment for raising crops for the cattle.
2. Rotational grazing operations can be carried out on land that is not suitable for row-crop agriculture such as areas with thin topsoil or hilly topography.
3. Rotational grazing operations are much more wildlife friendly. Rotational grazing paddocks support the plants and animals typically found on native prairies and savannas. Grassland nesting birds such as meadowlarks, bobolinks, and upland sandpipers thrive on rotational grazing operations.
4. Rotational grazing operations actually rebuild the soil rather than depleting the soil as conventional row-crop agriculture does. Legumes add nitrogen to the soil and the grazing and manure from the cows improves soil characteristics. The best topsoil in the world is always found in areas that were covered with grassland and were grazed by moving herds of wildlife. Rotational grazing duplicates this formula for building good soil.
5. Rotational grazing operations do not contribute to surface and groundwater contamination. Cow manure is widely scattered on the land at a level that it can be totally broken down by natural decomposers such as dung beetles. Rather than animal waste being a pollutant it is a natural soil builder.
6. Rotational grazing operations contribute more to local economies and the social structure of the small communities than massive CAFOs. An area that might support one CAFO could support 20-30 rotational

grazing dairy farms. That is 20-30 small family farms whose family members support local businesses and whose children attend local schools. The CAFO model results in a massive concentration of wealth in a few individuals with very little benefit for local communities. Most of the employees of the CAFOs are single males who frequently live outside of the area where the CAFO is located. The villages of Luxemburg and Kewaunee see very little economic input from CAFO employees even though they are located in the most CAFO intensive area of the country.

7. Rotational grazing operations allow the farmer to access other options to increase their income. Many farmers supplement their income with mobile chicken operations that utilize the same paddocks as the dairy cows. Honey production goes well with grasslands. Many farmers are developing bed and breakfast operations on their farms. The rotational grazing operation produces a scenic, tranquil environment that is attractive to many tourists. Door County would seem to be an area particularly suited to agro-tourism with its massive influx of tourists and land much better suited to grazing than to conventional row-crop agriculture.

8. According to the University of Madison's agricultural department, rotational grazing non-organic operations average the highest income per cow, rotational grazing organic operations the 2nd highest, conventional family farms 3rd highest, and CAFOs dead last. The CAFOs exist only because of economics of scale, if you have 10,000 cows you don't need to make as much money per cow to succeed.

With all of these apparent advantages why are we not seeing more rotational grazing operations in Northeast Wisconsin? One of the biggest factors is land cost. The CAFOs need huge acreage to spread their liquid manure. This has driven land rent and purchasing costs sky high. Land that would sell in other areas of the Midwest for \$3-4 thousand per acre goes for \$10-12 thousand an acre in Kewaunee and Brown County. Not only can rotational grazing not make a profit with those land prices, a conventional family farmer cannot afford to buy or rent land.

The biggest factor discouraging a more rapid expansion of rotational grazing is the federal government's agricultural subsidy system. Billions of dollars in subsidies go to corn and soybean production that then provides cheap forage for the CAFOs. Remove the subsidies and the CAFOs could not compete with rotational grazing operations. In the 1990s the country of New Zealand eliminated all agricultural subsidies. One impact of that governmental policy has been that today, virtually all livestock production in New Zealand is on rotational grazing operations.

**If the CAFOs were forced to pay for the true costs of their operations they would become much less profitable. At the present they are not being required to deal financially with their huge water demand and the damage that they are doing to surface and groundwater.** If the federal and state government would level the playing field by eliminating subsidies, and requiring dairy operations to pay for the real costs of water usage and pollution, rotational grazing dairy operations would rapidly become the leading source of milk production in Wisconsin.

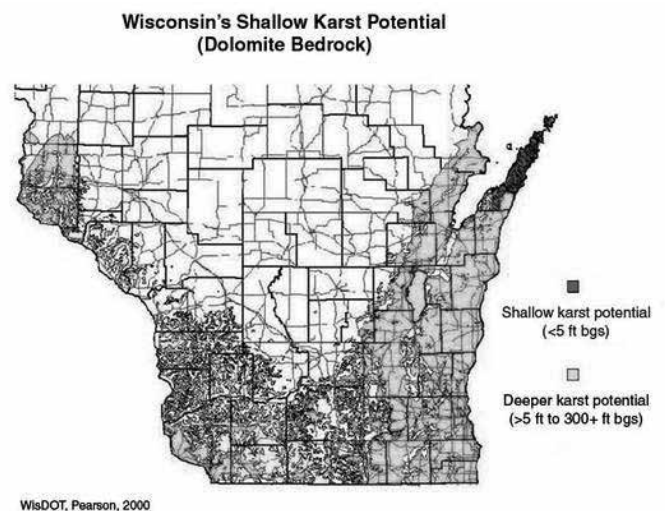
## Landowners Can Act to Protect Their Water and Limit CAFO Expansion

By Charlie Frisk and Dean Hoegger

In this country, access to clean water is viewed as an inalienable right. Turn on the tap and out it comes; water that is fit to drink, cook and bathe with. In Kewaunee County that right is a thing of the past. Of 620 wells that have been tested, 30% are unsafe. The reasons are high levels of nitrates and coliform and E. coli bacteria. Imagine how that would change your life; it is not just a matter of buying drinking water, you also have to buy water to cook, wash dishes, and use for bathing. Your water would be suitable for flushing toilets and possibly washing clothes.

The causes behind the contaminated wells are not fully proven, but common sense points to the proliferation of the large industrial type farms as being the major cause. These farms are classified as concentrated animal feeding operations and commonly called CAFOs. A single cow produces as much waste as 18 people. The 76,000 cows in Kewaunee Co. would produce 12 times the waste equivalent of the city of Green Bay, and that liquid manure is simply land spread on the porous karst terrain.

*The map below shows locations throughout Wisconsin where karst topography is found. The yellow regions show areas where karst can be found with five feet of the surface and the blue shows karst potential between 5 and 300 feet.*  
<http://people.uwec.edu/jolhm/Cave2006/Karst.html>



Karst is characterized by fractures, fissures, sinkholes, underground drainage systems, and caves in the limestone bedrock. It provides a direct pathway to an aquifer with little or no filtering of contaminants.

In addition to liquid cow manure, untreated human waste from septic and holding tanks is allowed to be spread on these same farm fields, causing further risks and confusion regarding the source of bacterial contamination. CAFO owners often point to well tests that are positive for human bacteria, yet they fail to acknowledge that land spreading of human waste is occurring.

Contaminated wells are not just a Kewaunee County concern. While it is not necessary to have karst topography to have polluted well water, it does increase the risk. Areas of Brown and Door counties have also had a high percentage of contaminated wells, and usually it has been in the karst regions.

If you were one of the unfortunate families whose wells became contaminated, you now own a house that is very difficult to live in and impossible to sell without taking expensive measures to remedy the well problem. You will need to drill a deeper well, and that will have uncertain water quality, or you would have to install an expensive water treatment system. These measures may be entirely at your expense if you do not qualify for limited State aid or can claim damages from a specific polluter.

One of the most significant measures you can take to protect your well water is to limit what can be spread on rented agricultural fields. **Land rental agreements may be the most powerful tool rural residents currently have to limit spreading of liquid manure. By placing limits or bans on spreading on your land, and convincing your neighbors who rent land do the same, you can greatly reduce the threat to your aquifer.**

An example of a land lease agreement samples can be found at:

<http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/>

As more residents ban liquid manure spreading in their lease agreements, it may be possible to limit further CAFO expansions, since part of the permit process for expansion requires operators to show that their CAFO has sufficient land, owned or rented, to spread this liquid waste. **Residents must also insist that the WDNR only consider written lease agreements to prove that operators do indeed have the required acreage.**

### Guest opinion:

## **Driving Toward Dinuba: Taking Action to Build Rural Communities**

Kara O'Connor Wisconsin Farmers Union

In 1946, the United States Senate Special Committee on American Small Business wanted to gauge the impact of the industrialization of agriculture on rural communities. A researcher for the committee undertook an analysis that compared two California towns, Arvin and Dinuba. The two towns were similar in climate, size, total agricultural output, and distance to larger cities, but farming in the two towns was very different. The area surrounding Arvin was characterized by a few large farming operations, while Dinuba was surrounded by many small diverse farms. What consequences did farm size have on quality of life in these two towns? Dinuba had more and better schools, churches, recreational facilities, civic organizations, public services, a better standard of living, greater individual ownership, and 61 percent greater retail trade. In short, where many farm families flourished, so did the neighboring town. Where farm consolidation was the order of the day, the town stagnated.

Ironically, since that analysis in 1946, American agriculture has been driving further and faster down the lonely road toward Arvin. Wisconsin was home to nearly 200,000 farms in the 1940's; there are fewer than 70,000 today. Wisconsin enjoys greater

rural community vitality than some neighboring states due to higher farm density are stronger than This is the paradox of the rural economy: even though most people would rather be driving towards Dinuba, no one person can get there on his or her own. It takes collective action and responsive democracy to build thriving rural communities.

What practical steps can we take right now to shift our bearings toward more family farms and more thriving communities?

### ***1) Stop subsidizing mega-manure storage facilities.***

The federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP, has a goal of reducing harmful nutrient runoff into ground and surface waters. This is a laudable goal in principle, but the current program rules often result in large payouts to the largest potential polluters to build large manure storage facilities. Local NRCS workgroups should instead distribute funds broadly to many farmers for practices such as terraces and grassed waterways, fencing animals out of streams, and managing barnyard runoff. Rural community vitality is about everyone sharing in the wealth, rather than all of the resources flowing to just a lucky few. If we want more farms to thrive, then more farms must have a chance to tap into government conservation programs.

### ***2) Impose payment limitations on federally-subsidized crop insurance.***

Federal crop insurance provides millions of dollars of taxpayer-subsidized insurance to the largest farms in the U.S. There should be reasonable caps on the total amount of crop insurance subsidies flowing to a single farm. Crop insurance caps would protect farms from catastrophic losses, without subsidizing farm consolidation and rural community decline.

### ***3) Support comprehensive planning.***

In 1999, the Wisconsin State

## So what might our region explore when it comes to sustainable agriculture?

Suggestions from CWAC member Michael Finney

### 1. Agro-tourism in all its forms

All around the world and United States farms are diversifying and connecting with communities while making extra income. Farm-stay vacations, summer farm camps, weddings, farm meals, corn mazes, pick your own, family farm days, the list is creative and endless.

<http://www.visitdairyland.com/>

### 2. Local healthy food initiatives

Farm-to-School, Farm-to-Restaurant, Farm-to-Table and local farmer's markets. As produce or value-added foods, local food is entering our communities. Food hubs throughout Wisconsin are bringing local foods to grocery stores and institutions like hospitals.

<http://wifoodhub.com/>

<http://www.live54218.org/healthy-eating/local-food/>

### 3. Managed grazing

Animals on grass provide healthier food, protect land and water, and have been shown to be economically viable. In many places, recreational trails for walking, trekking or x-country skiing that wind through pastoral fields are available to the public.

<http://grassworks.org/>

### 4. Organic Agriculture and Diversifying crops

From hops for local beer, vineyards, and local cheese, often the results are a "sense of place", protecting the land, and healthy foods.

<http://farmmarketkitchen.org/>

### 5. Clean water, healthy food practices on all sizes of farms

Just Google *Sustainable Ag, soil health, or cover crops* and take a look.

Greenlands Blue Waters is a Midwest initiative based on the concept of getting as much value as possible from farmlands by growing crops that keep the soil covered year-round: farming with a continuous living cover, something very important in our region.

<http://greenlandsbluwaters.net/>

Legislature began requiring counties to develop forward-looking comprehensive plans to guide housing, transportation, economic development, and agricultural, natural, and cultural resource development. Likewise, counties craft farmland preservation plans to ensure that prime ag land is retained for agricultural use. There is a bill in the Wisconsin state legislature right now that would weaken comprehensive planning. Call your legislators and ask them to oppose LRB-2555/3115, Senator Moulton's "Smart Growth Repeal" bill.

### 4) *Insist upon fair water access for all.*

The Wisconsin State legislature will likely take up legislation this year that will address permitting for high-capacity wells. Some agribusiness interests want to grandfather in their existing water rights, at the expense of those who will seek permits in the future to start new farms or businesses. This sort of "grandfathering" is a drag on innovation and a hindrance to new rural farm and business startups. Ask your legislators to oppose any bill that "locks in" water rights for some, at the expense of equal access to water for all.

## The Action in CWAC

By Dean Hoegger

### THE 2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

*If you have not yet paid your membership for 2015, please make your contribution today. Another \$2,000 is needed to make our membership contribution goal. If your newsletter label does not have a '15 after your name, or if you received your newsletter by e-mail and the notice does not indicate you paid your membership in 2015, please renew. If your renewal date is before 2014, please consider a generous donation in 2015 to cover previous years!*

*Our membership donations make up a significant part of our budget. Please help us continue to take action on your behalf to protect the environment and human health by renewing your annual membership.*

### VOLUNTEER

Please contact us at 921-421-8885 to volunteer in the office at 2100 Riverside Drive, Green Bay. You can help us with issue research, grant writing, outreach projects, member contacts, filing, record keeping, helping at exhibits and so much more! Volunteers are appreciated.

Read below about actions we have taken in the last three months. Be sure to contact us if an environmental issue arises in your community. CWAC is here to support citizen action. The following are our most significant activities since March.

### LEGAL ACTIONS

As a citizen organization, an important function of CWAC is to take legal actions on behalf of our members to protect human health and the environment. While

individual members may be reluctant to file a legal action, the CWAC board believes this is an important part of our mission as an organization. Here are some current legal actions.

## **EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE WATERS OF KEWAUNEE COUNTY CONTINUE:**

### ***Update on Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Petition Filed with EPA October, 2014***

After a significant delay, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource officials have begun holding meetings of workgroups that they formed in response to the Petition for Emergency Action filed with the EPA on October 22, 2015. At that time, CWAC joined five other citizen groups detailing the need for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to exercise its emergency powers under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Thus far, the “Short term solutions to get clean drinking water,” “Areas susceptible to groundwater contamination/Best Management Practices,” and “Compliance” workgroups have met. CWAC is attending the “Compliance Workgroup” meetings and continues to press for inclusion in the group. Both CWAC and Clean Wisconsin, signers on the Petition, have been denied participation in the group.

After the initial meetings were held in Oshkosh, the Petitioners have successfully had most of the meetings moved to Luxemburg in Kewaunee County. This will allow those most closely impacted by contaminated drinking water to attend the meetings.

Upcoming meetings are included in the events page and are posted in the CWAC Weekly Update sent by e-mail.

The petition and supporting documents can be found at: [www.cleanwisconsin.org/kewaunee-safe-drinking-water](http://www.cleanwisconsin.org/kewaunee-safe-drinking-water)

A comprehensive report about the vulnerability of ground water resources in karst regions of northeast Wisconsin can be found at:

[http://midwestadvocates.org/assets/resources/Kinnard%20Farms%20CAFO%20Exh\\_25.pdf](http://midwestadvocates.org/assets/resources/Kinnard%20Farms%20CAFO%20Exh_25.pdf)

Read The Rap Sheets: Industrial Dairies in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin. A coalition of local, state and national organizations led by the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project (SRAP) released a damaging report and recommendations for reform on the hazardous, uncontrolled growth of industrial dairy pollution and its impact on the residents of Kewaunee County, Wisconsin.

<http://www.sraproject.org/2015/06/the-rap-sheets-industrial-dairies-in-kewaunee-county-wisconsin/>

## **LEGAL ACTION TO PROTECT THE WATERS OF THE STATE**

Two CWAC Board members have been meeting with attorneys in preparation for a legal action to protect the waters of the state. The full details will be released in the CWAC Weekly Update in October.

## **CWAC'S EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

*Part of CWAC's mission is to provide education on environmental issues to our members and the community. Since the last newsletter, we have actively pursued this mission. Here is an update. Contact us to schedule a presentation for your group on a variety of environmental issues.*

### **HEALTH FORUM: PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM TOXINS IN THE HOME AND ENVIRONMENT**

The forum was held in August. Due to limited registrations, we revised the format to include five presenters instead of eleven and have rescheduled three presenters for Tuesday evenings in October. (See Health Forum page 13.)

### **DANGERS OF SPRAYING MANURE PRESENTATIONS**

CWAC staff and board members distributed literature at several exhibits and presentations this summer. Presentations on this topic are available to groups and town boards. (See next page, *CWAC Supports Residents' Efforts to Ban Manure Spraying*.)



Interns Monica Gutierrez and Brenda Staudenmaier at Green Bay Farmers Market with Director Dean Hoegger

### **FARMER'S MARKET EXHIBITS**

CWAC staff and interns exhibited at area markets with a focus on GMO education and promotion of the Health Forums.

### **COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS**

We presented “An Update on the Water Quality of the Fox River and Green Bay” to the Allouez/Green Bay Optimist Club in August. This and many other presentation topics are available for your group. For school presentations, we can tailor a presentation to meet the age, needs, and interests of your students including the history of the Fox River, the hazards of burn barrels, the zero waste movement, stream studies, environmental problem solving, and current local issues.

### **WEEKLY CWAC UPDATES**

Each Monday we e-mail a weekly update of actions, alerts, events, and the latest information on topics of concern. If you are a member with an e-mail address and you are not getting the CWAC Weekly Update, check your spam folder before e-mailing us to request to be put on the mailing list. E-mails are sent via Bcc to protect your privacy.

continued...



Visitors pass by the CWAC booth at Rock Our Water Event



Bill Staines, Dead Horses, and Cory Chisel performed at Rock Our Water Event

## CWAC'S PARTNERSHIPS

CWAC was a Rock Our Water partner for the concert planning and ticket sales. CWAC wishes to thank Bob Atwell for forming the group and promoting the event and member Bill Iwen who was an important contributor to ticket sales. \$5000 was raised for the Lower Fox River Monitoring Project at UWGB and another \$5000 went to Midwest Environmental Advocates for their legal actions to protect the waters of Northeast Wisconsin.

CWAC is also a partner in the Clean Water – Healthy Communities campaign to help inform and educate people about our water. The group includes representatives from citizen groups as well as individuals and is meeting monthly in Green Bay. Contact us if you would like to participate.



Traveling guns are portable and inexpensive

## CWAC'S ACTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

### **CWAC SUPPORTS RESIDENTS' EFFORTS TO BAN MANURE SPRAYING**

Seeking bans for manure

spraying at the town level has become the immediate goal and a major focus of our efforts this past year. We have supported the efforts of residents by speaking at town meetings and providing copies of our research to town officials, and in some areas, assisting residents with circulating petitions for a ban.

Towns and cities passing bans so far include the Door County Towns of Baileys Harbor, Brussels, Gardner, Liberty Grove, Sevastopol, Sturgeon Bay and Union. In Kewaunee County, the Towns of Ahnapee, Lincoln, West Kewaunee, Montpelier, and the City of Algoma have passed bans. The Town of Scott in Brown County also passed a ban.

This practice can also be a threat in your town, village, or city as well. Often town leaders will say that this is not a threat in their town because farmers are not currently doing this. As CAFOs continue to expand, there will be greater need to find land for spreading and new methods of getting rid of the millions of gallons of liquid manure each one produces. It is better to ban spraying before it becomes a practice.

Another argument is that CAFO owners do not have the equipment to do this. However, most contract out manure spreading and most of these contractors already have the pumping stations and hoses that are used with current spreading techniques. Acquisition of a travel gun for spraying operations would be a minimal investment.

We also plan on working with towns to lobby elected officials to protect the right of towns and villages to pass nuisance ordinances banning manure spraying.

**Contact us to help bring the issue to your officials to get manure spraying banned! We can do most of the work for you if you get the topic on the agenda. We have information prepared for you to give your elected officials.**

## COMMENTING AT HEARINGS AND TO MEDIA

One important function of CWAC's role in the community is to be prepared to comment on issues related to our mission to protect human health and the environment. In this quarter, CWAC attended hearings related to the Safe Drinking Water Act Petition to the EPA and participated in three radio interviews.

## CWAC OFFICE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNS, VOLUNTEERS, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The office provides us an excellent meeting and workspace. Our lease for 2100 Riverside Drive, Green Bay was renewed until June 2016. A big thank you to the building owner Jack Somerville! Contact us if you would like to host a meeting at the office and see our CWAC Weekly Updates for the return of "Dinner and a Movie" featuring videos addressing timely topics of concern.

We continue to share our space with sound massage therapist Chris Zimonick, which significantly reduces our rent. To schedule a session, please contact Chris @ 920-819-1341 or Chris@highheartproject.com. More information can be found at [www.highheartproject.com](http://www.highheartproject.com)

# JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT HEALTH FORUM

## *Protecting Your Family from Toxins in the Home and Environment*

Sponsored by CWAC and hosted by Resurrection Catholic Parish, 333 Hilltop Dr., Green Bay.

### FREE PRESENTATIONS

Registration is requested by e-mailing CWAC at [contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org](mailto:contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org) and placing the “event and date” in the header.

#### ☀ Tuesday, October 13th 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Learn how you can promote your family's health with a diet of local and sustainably-raised foods such as grass-fed beef, pastured pork, poultry and lamb. Dr. Roy Ozanne will be highlighting information from the Weston Price Foundation.

*Roy Ozanne, MD HMD Founder, Whole Health Programs Medical Physician, Classically-trained Homeopathic Physician; Environmental/Sustainability Expert, Organic/ Biodynamic Farm Consultant, Nutrition Specialist in the Principles of Dr. Weston A. Price, the founder of Whole Health Programs, and Sandhill School of the Healing Arts and Whole Health Programs.*

Dr. Ozanne has come to see that the health of our people, our environment, our economy and our society are intertwined. Health and vitality in each sector supports the others.

Truly integrated medicine is not just about combining alternative and conventional medicine, but integrating healthy approaches to living into all spheres of life.

<http://www.wholehealthprograms.net/>

#### ☀ Tuesday, October 20th 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Martine Davis will be presenting on toxic air exposure from within the home such as emissions from carpets, driveway sealants, home construction materials, and also from toxic air exposures from outside the home in both urban and rural areas. She will be discussing easy ways to identify pollutants in our homes and solutions to minimize our exposure.

*Ms. Davis is certified as a Building Biology Environmental Consultant by the International Institute for Building Biology & Ecology (hbelc.org) and a graduate of Illinois State University. She is IAC2 Certified by InterNACHI, has held certifications as a Certified Indoor Environmental Consultant (CIEC), Certified Microbial Investigator (CMI), Certified Residential Mold Inspector (CRMI) and was a licensed Lead Inspector and Risk Assessor for the State of Illinois. Her expertise includes indoor air inspections, mold and moisture investigations, sick building issues, odor investigations, and countermeasures for electromagnet and high frequency radiation exposure. She practices in Madison, WI.*

#### ☀ Tuesday, October 27th 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Patrick Fitzgerald will be presenting concerns about traditional lawn care practices and will provide information regarding viable landscape options that will enhance the habitat for all living creatures. He will be discussing potential health risks posed by exposure to toxic chemicals used in most lawn care products. Pat will discuss what we can do to identify, create, and support healthy lawns in residential, business, and public spaces.

*Mr. Fitzgerald initiated the formation of the Safe Lawns in Door County, a working group whose mission is to create awareness of the environment, health risks posed by traditional lawn care practices and to provide information regarding viable landscape options that will enhance the habitat for all living creatures.*



## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** Meetings, Events and Happenings

### **Friday, October 2nd, 2015 — all day** **2015 Wisconsin Sierra Club Autumn Assembly**

Perlstein Resort Nixon Road, Lake Delton, WI 53940

\$55 one day, \$70 weekend

<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/2015-autumn-assembly>

The Wisconsin Sierra Club Autumn Assembly is a fun, family-friendly event featuring indoor and outdoor environmental activities for people of all ages. Hosted by the Four Lakes Group, Autumn Assembly 2015 offers hands-on activist workshops with three great keynotes by James Edward Mills, Mike McCabe and Scott Wittkopf, breakout sessions, annual awards dinner, outings, and three optional tours of the International Crane Foundation, the Aldo Leopold Center, and the geology of the Upper Dells by boat.

Contact the John Muir Chapter office with questions or to register. [john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org) or 608-256-0565.

### **Tuesday, October 6, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** **The Wonder of It All: Water Quality in Southern Manitowoc County Streams: Students, Data, Issues, and Solutions**

Woodland Dunes Nature Center 3000 Hawthorn Ave,  
Two Rivers, WI 54241

**FREE** - donations are appreciated. The Lakeshore Water institute, a collaboration between UW-Manitowoc and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, has been collecting water quality data on streams in southern Manitowoc County over the past five years. During their talk, Rick Hein and Rebecca Abler will discuss the sampling completed by their UW-Manitowoc students, data collected, results, and potential impacts on area beaches and Lake Michigan. They will also identify potential avenues for action to improve water quality and discuss the value of having students working on real, hands-on scientific research in the community. Discussion and question session to follow. *Registration required by Friday, October 2nd. Sponsored by the Dominion Foundation and co-hosted by Woodland Dunes and the Friends of the Twin Rivers.*

### **Saturday, October 10, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** **1st Annual Walk for Literacy** **“Where the Wild Things Walk”**

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive,  
Green Bay, WI

This family-friendly fundraising event includes a walk through the scenic nature trails of the Wildlife Sanctuary, followed by children's activities in the Amphitheatre.  
*\$10.00 per Person/\$35.00 per family (two adults and up to four children) Same-day Registration: add \$5.00 to price listed above. For more info visit [www.literacygreenbay.org](http://www.literacygreenbay.org).*

### **Wednesday, October 14, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** **Food Preservation Making Sauerkraut**

UW Extentions Office, 1150 Bellevue St, Green Bay, WI 54302

*Hands-on class limited to 10 participants. Call to reserve a spot (920) 391-4610. Cost is \$15 per person.*

### **Saturday, October 17, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** **Owl Fest**

Woodland Dunes Nature Center, 3000 Hawthorne Ave,  
Two Rivers WI 54241

Join us for an exciting morning learning about Wisconsin owls! Enjoy kids activities, nature walks and a kids owl hooting contest. Meet live owls and raptors with presentations by Wildlife of Wisconsin. Baked goods available for purchase. This event is great for families, but all ages are welcome.  
*Members: \$15 family, \$5 individual*  
*Non-members: \$20 family, \$8 individual*

### **Saturday, October 17, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** **5K Spawning Run**

8 a.m. registration and packet pick up, 10 a.m. race, 11 a.m. Phoenix Fest

Host: The UWGB Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Immediately following the run/walk, race participants receive free tickets for food/drinks at Phoenix Fest. (Phoenix Fest is part of the Alumni Days celebration, and our events are in conjunction with one another). Phoenix Fest runs from 11a.m. -5 p.m. and will feature the band members of White Chocolate, Fat Brass and Big Mouth and the Power Tool Horns. Other attractions include a zip line, stunt jump, Segway tours of campus, photo scavenger hunt, intramural tournaments, shoe tree toss as well as a chili bar, corn tent and beer garden, and more!

*More information about the walk/run and a sign-up sheet can be obtained from Marian Shaffer, American Fisheries Society, 2420 Nicolet Drive Green Bay, WI 54311 Cell: (715) 923-2822 E-mail: [shafml03@uwgb.edu](mailto:shafml03@uwgb.edu)*

To join the Green Bay Conservation Partners listserv send e-mail to [join-gbcp@lists.wisc.edu](mailto:join-gbcp@lists.wisc.edu)

### **Tuesday, October 20, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** **Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Petition Compliance Workgroup Meeting #3**

These meetings will be in Luxemburg at 625 Third Street Luxemburg, WI (Fairgrounds)

The DNR has now agreed to hold many of the meetings in Kewaunee County. Please attend to show the EPA your concern for safe drinking water. There is opportunity for public comment.

## 🍁 MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 🍁 Meetings, Events and Happenings

🍁 **Friday, October 23, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Saturday October 24, 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

### **Halloween Candlelight Cave Tours**

Ledge View Nature Center W2348 Short Rd. Chilton, WI

Tours will depart every half hour. First come, first served. This is a fundraiser, educational rather than scary. Minimum recommended age is 5 years old with parent. No strollers, please. Wear old clothes—you may get dirty. Caves are accessed by ladders.

For more info visit [www.ledgeviewnaturecenter.org](http://www.ledgeviewnaturecenter.org).

🍁 **Saturday October 24, 6:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.**

### **Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary Halloween Event**

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive Green Bay, WI

Great family event! Indoor hike where participants encounter various animal characters being portrayed by kids!

*Pre-registration is required for a specific time slot.*

*Call (920) 391-3671. Fee: \$2.50 per child, \$3.75 per adult*

🍁 **Monday, October 26, 5:00 p.m.**

### **League of Women Voters Fall Social and Dinner Meeting, Program: Redistricting Reform**

Holiday Inn Stadium, 2785 Ramada Way, Green Bay  
Social: 5:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Presentation after dinner.  
Former Senior State Senators Tim Cullen (D) and Dale Schultz(R) will speak on redistricting reform.

“Creating legislative districts is a critical element of American democracy. How the lines are drawn determines whether voters in different communities get an equal say in picking their representatives and whether the representatives feel accountable to the people who elect them”....Midwest Democracy Network

#### **DINNER CHOICES:**

Boneless Pork Filet w/Wild Rice Pilaf & Baby Carrots  
Portobello Mushroom w/Wild Rice Pilaf & Green Beans  
Salmon Topped with Salsa w/ Twice Baked Potato & Green Beans  
*Mail a \$25 check made out to LWVGGB and your dinner selection to Julie Arneth, 2279 Mt. Olive Drive, Green Bay, WI*  
*Reservations are limited.*

🍁 **Tuesday, October 27, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

### **Herbal Soap Making: Hands on Fun!**

Woodland Dunes Nature Center 3000 Hawthorn Ave, Two Rivers, WI

Join herbalist Linda Conroy for this fun hands-on soap making workshop. We will start out learning the basics and then dive into a hands-on experience, making soap that you will take home. We will make soap with herbs, as well as fresh goat's milk. Everyone will go home with 6-9 bars of soap made

in class along with the instructions and recipes for making soap at home. All supplies provided.

*Registration and payment required by Friday, October 23rd*  
*Members: \$35; Non-members: \$40*

🍁 **October 28th, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

### **The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters**

#### **Green Tie Gala**

Discovery World Science and Technology Center  
500 N. Harbor Dr. Milwaukee, WI

Registration is already open for what will be an unforgettable night of bipartisan celebration and ceremony surrounding their work—from the ballot box, to the legislature in Madison, and back to communities all across our great state. If that isn't enough to get you excited, we'll be welcoming two conservation champions as guest speakers—former U.S. Representatives Tom Petri and David Obey

🍁 **Tuesday, November 17, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.**

### **Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Petition Compliance Workgroup Meeting #4**

(Fairgrounds) 625 Third Street Luxemburg, WI

🍁 **December 3-4**

### **Midwest Community-Supported Agriculture Conference: Moving Forward Together**

The Plaza, Eau Claire, WI

Wisconsin Farmers Union, working in partnership with a range of Midwest organizations, will convene the Midwest CSA Conference on December 3-4, 2015 in Eau Claire at the Plaza Hotel. The conference is designed to be hands-on, with a program developed by CSA farmers for CSA farmers.  
*The Early Bird rate for the conference is \$135 per person, which includes all meals. Bring additional people from your farm or organization for the discounted rate of \$95 a person. Daily rate is \$85/\$70. The Early Bird Rate, along with conference rates at the Plaza Hotel, go through November 11, 2015.*

**Legacies, memorials, and direct gifts  
to CWAC are deeply appreciated.**



*Please contact our Executive Director,  
Dean Hoegger at  
[contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org](mailto:contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org)  
for more information.*

## Meet Our Interns!



**Brenda Staudenmaier** continues her internship with CWAC this fall. She recently was awarded the Wisconsin Water Association Scholarship to pursue her Environmental

Engineering Water Technology degree at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. She heads 'Stop Fluoridation Green Bay' where she is the lead activist bringing awareness to issues surrounding Community Water Fluoridation (CWF). She is a volunteer ambassador for The Seasteading Institute working to establish permanent settlements on the ocean in order to create new nations with innovative startup governments. Originally from Peshtigo, WI, Brenda left her small town Wisconsin life in her 20s to pursue her passion for photography in New York where she worked for Vice Media and numerous other companies as a photographer. Her photos have been published nationally and internationally on blogs, magazines, and in books. She returned to the Green Bay area in her 30s where she currently focuses on her children, human health, environmental issues, and sustainability.



**Dave Zimmerman** is currently in his final semester as a paralegal student at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

After graduation from NWTC in December, 2015, Dave has decided to continue his education and will pursue a bachelor's degree in social work at UW-Oshkosh. An avid fisherman, Dave grew up on the lakes and rivers of Wisconsin, and is very passionate about the impact that pollution and other environmental factors are having on them. He enjoys fishing on the Wolf River and the Lake Winnebago system. Dave is the head boys' junior varsity basketball coach at Lourdes Academy and is looking forward to being a part of the program for his sixteenth year in November.



## Preserving Door County's Sense of Place While Promoting Sustainable Farming

Lisa Kivirist & John Ivanko



**October 28**

Meet the speakers at 6 p.m.

Presentation at 6:30

Crossroads at Big Creek

2041 Michigan Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI

**What's the key ingredient to cultivating a healthy, vibrant and economically prosperous future for Door County?** From pizza farms to pastured poultry, bed and breakfasts to farm-to-table dinners under the stars, innovative entrepreneurs foster creative economic solutions that both preserve Wisconsin's sense of place and provide innovative ways to connect the public to the farm. You are invited to harvest ideas and insight from successful ventures and cultivate a new vision for Door County.

Lisa Kivirist and John Ivanko are co-authors of the award-winning book *ECOpreneuring* as well as *Homemade for Sale*, *Farmstead Chef* and *Rural Renaissance*. This husband-and-wife duo are also farmers and innkeepers of the award-winning *Inn Serendipity Bed & Breakfast* and *Farm* outside Monroe, Wisconsin, completely powered by the wind and sun.

A national advocate for women in sustainable agriculture, Lisa leads the Rural Women's Project of the Midwest Organic Sustainable Education Service (MOSES), an award-winning initiative providing resources and networking for women farmers and food-based entrepreneurs. She is the Senior Fellow and Endowed Chair in Agricultural Systems at the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Minnesota and author of the forthcoming book, *Soil Sisters: A Toolkit for Women Farmers*.

John is the co-author and photographer for six award-winning multicultural children's books for the Global Fund for Children, including *To Be a Kid*, *Be My Neighbor* and *To Be an Artist*. As a freelance writer and photographer, John contributes to *Mother Earth News*, *Hobby Farms*, *Natural Awakenings*, and many others. He blogs for *MotherEarthNews.com*.

### REGISTRATION BONUS:

The first 35 registered attendees will receive a copy of the Renewing the Countryside: WISCONSIN book, a \$26.95 value. Edited by Jerry Hembd, Jody Padgham and Jan Joannides, *Renewing the Countryside: WISCONSIN* explores how the state is leading the nation in sustainably grown food, environmentally responsible businesses and homegrown, forward-looking answers to the challenges facing today's rural economy.

***This is a free event, but space and the book bonus are limited. Please register by e-mailing us at [contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org](mailto:contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org) and put "October 28 Event" in the header.***

*If you haven't already done so...!*

## Please Join or Renew Your Membership to Clean Water Action Council for 2015!

☐ Renewal    ☐ New Member    Date \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \$20 Individual    ( ) \$30 Family (**this amount would really help**)

( ) \$50 Sustaining    ( ) \$100 Donor    ( ) \$500 Benefactor

( ) Non-member donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Receive **FREE** newsletters with each membership.

Please choose one...

☐ Printed version    ☐ E-mailed version

### PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

(**BE SURE TO PROVIDE PHONE NUMBER ABOVE**)

☐ the newsletter    ☐ events    ☐ work at office    ☐ mailings

☐ joining or leading one of the committees    ☐ other

Send check or money order to: **Clean Water Action Council**  
P.O. Box 9144  
Green Bay, WI 54308

*CWAC is a registered non-profit organization.  
Your contributions may be tax-deductible. **Thank you!***

## COMMITTEES

**Non-Point Pollution:** Charles Frisk

**Special Events:** Bev Watkins

**Public Health:** Dean Hoegger

**Membership, Finance and Fund-raising:** John Hermanson

*Phone numbers are listed under Board Members*



Find us on Facebook for updates on hearings and current or upcoming events.

[www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org](http://www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org)

The newsletter, "Clean Water Action Council of N.E. WI" is published quarterly by the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc., P.O. Box 9144, Green Bay, WI 54308, a registered non-profit charitable, educational organization. *Contributions may be tax-deductible.*

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## CWAC INTERNS

Brenda Staudenmaier

Dave Zimmerman



## NEWSLETTER

Dean Hoegger, Editor

Bev Watkins, Graphic Designer

### Office location:

2100 Riverside Drive  
Green Bay, WI

## CONTACT US

**By phone: 920-421-8885**

*If you leave us a message, we will try  
to get back to you within 24 hours.*

**By mail:**

Clean Water Action Council  
P.O. Box 9144  
Green Bay, WI 54308

**By e-mail:**

[contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org](mailto:contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org)



of Northeast Wisconsin

Clean Water Action Council  
of Northeast Wisconsin  
P. O. Box 9144  
Green Bay, WI 54308



## **NEW EVENTS!!**

*See pages 13 & 16*

## **in this issue...**

Page 1:

- **Can Agri-Tourism and the Preservation of Small Family Farms Save Us from CAFO Ruination?**

Page 2:

- **Preserving Our Small Family Farms through Agri-Tourism**

Page 4:

- **Irish Farm Bed and Breakfasts Can Be a Model for Wisconsin Agri-Tourism**

Page 5:

- **Waseda Farms, a Model of Sustainability and Eco-Tourism**

Page 5:

- **It's Time to Reconsider Liquid Manure Systems**

Page 7:

- **Rotational Grazing Dairy Farming Protects Our Waters and Is Economically Feasible**

Page 8:

- **Landowners Can Act to Protect Their Water and Limit CAFO Expansion**

Page 9:

- **Driving Toward Dinuba: Taking Action to Build Rural Communities**

Page 10:

- **The Action in CWAC**  
Legal Actions, CWAC's Event Partnerships  
CWAC Educational Efforts in the Community  
CWAC's Actions in the Community  
Efforts to Ban Manure Spraying

Page 13:

- **Health Forum Info: Protecting Your Family from Toxins in the Home and Environment**

Page 14 & 15:

- **Mark Your Calendar!**

Page 16:

- **Meet Our Interns!**
- **Preserving Door County's Sense of Place Event Info**

Page 17:

- **Membership Form**

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