

## **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a federal agency within the US Department of Agriculture. The NRCS works with private landowners to promote conservation of natural resources.

The agency protects groundwater by providing technical assistance to landowners for conservation practices and many federal conservation programs which provide financial assistance to landowners. Summaries and highlights of Wisconsin NRCS conservation accomplishments, by program, are available on the Wisconsin NRCS website at [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov)

### **National Water Quality Initiative**

The USDA's [National Water Quality Initiative](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/home/?cid=STELPRDB1117406) is committed to improving impaired waterways throughout the nation. Three watersheds have been selected in Wisconsin. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will manage the initiative by making funds available to farmers and forest landowners in the selected watersheds to begin needed conservation practices to reduce sediment and nutrients entering the waterway. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/home/?cid=STELPRDB1117406>

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)**

In 2012 and 2013, Wisconsin NRCS concentrated its effort in the Lower Fox River watershed. Two watersheds that lie within this basin were given additional funding; the Upper Duck Creek in Outagamie County and the Upper East River in Brown, Manitowoc and Calumet Counties. This focus resulted from a combination of resource concerns, potential for improvement and landowner participation. Working with our local and other federal partners, the overall strategy of GLRI is to achieve maximum conservation practices in the focus area, so that water quality improves downstream. GLRI Highlights for FY 2013 include:

- General signup in the Lower Fox, Manitowoc/Sheboygan and Milwaukee River Watersheds
- Financial Assistance = \$1,097,295 in 14 contracts covering 3,009 acres.
- Special Phosphorus Reduction Project conducted in five sub-watersheds in the Lower Fox River
- Watershed Financial Assistance = \$3,120,674 in 48 contracts covering 19,959 acres.

All GLRI EQIP applications submitted in Lower Fox Phosphorus Reduction Priority Watersheds received through July 1, 2013 will be evaluated for funding consideration.

<http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/GLRI/FY13PhosphorusWatersheds.pdf>

**To find out more information about NRCS, go to the home page at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov>, contact Renae Anderson at 608-662-4422 ext. 227 or [renae.anderson@wi.usda.gov](mailto:renae.anderson@wi.usda.gov).**