



***UW***  
***Extension***

Dunn County



**Red Cedar  
Demonstration Farm**

**Red Cedar Watershed  
Conference**

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**3/10/2016**



# Conservation of Natural Resources

- Dunn County Soil and Water Health Partnership



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**Agriculture & Natural Resources**

# Conservation of Natural Resources

- Dunn County Soil and Water Health Partnership - Our Goals
  - Demonstrate Soil and Water Conservation Best Management Practices for the Dunn County community, residents of The Neighbors and surrounding communities
  - Provide an opportunity for Soil and Water Conservation Education, On-Farm Research and Field Demonstrations
  - Showcase how Dunn County can be a Leader in Soil Health



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## Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – prior to 2015

- County-owned and City of Menomonie-owned farmland
- Rented to area farmer that was practicing conservation on the land.
- The Neighbors of Dunn County facility constructed in 2012/2013
- 15.4 acres near Jarrett Creek transitioned to cool season grasses and legumes in 2014



## Red Cedar Demonstration Farm - Nov/Dec 2014

- ~150 acres of both county-owned and City of Menomonie-owned farmland.
- Dunn County Board of Supervisors standing committee of The Neighbors of Dunn County approved rental of county-owned farmland
- CVTC is the lessor of this farmland and will be responsible for the management of the crops, including farmland rental payment to Dunn County.

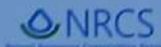
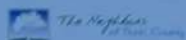
## Red Cedar Demonstration Farm - Nov/Dec 2014

- ~150 acres of both county-owned and City of Menomonie-owned farmland.

- 5 year Lease Agreement includes the following conservation practices:
  - “take reasonable efforts to minimize soil erosion from wind and water...(maintaining a minimum of 30% residue cover).”
  - “submit and follow a WI NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Plan”
  - “plant meeting the WI NRCS 329 Residue and Tillage Management No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed Standard. No-till will be used unless research, education or other unseen circumstances arise.”

# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm

Promoting soil health and water  
quality through education  
and demonstration



Sign donated in recognition of the George Weimer Family







# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – April 2015

- Soil Sampling
  - Over 160 samples tested by UW labs
  - Over 150 samples tested by NRCS (Dr. Haney) labs
- Additional Baseline Testing
  - Micro Nutrients
  - Compaction
  - Water Infiltration





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – April 2015

- Soil





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – May 2015

- Lime application paid by Dunn County
- Planting of Crops
  - Corn
  - Soybeans
  - Food grade oats





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – May 2015

- Field demo establishment
  - Cover Crop Mix



# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – June 2015

- UWEX \$2,500 grant purchase HOBO weather station
- Measures:
  - temperature,
  - relative humidity,
  - dew point,
  - rainfall,
  - soil moisture,
  - and more





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – July 2015

- Crops:
  - Soybeans
  - Corn
  - full season cover





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – July 2015

- Heavy Rains
  - Lodging of  
oats fields
  - Ponding





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – Summer

- Wildlife:
  - Cranes
  - Deer
  - Geese
  - Turkeys





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – August 2015

- Food grade oats harvested
- Drilled and broad application of cover crops to oats fields





## Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – August 2015



- UWEX partner on SARE Professional Development Program grant \$74,023
- “Increasing the Capacity of Agency Staff and Agricultural Professionals to Increase Farmer Adoption of Cover Crops in Wisconsin”

# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm – Sept 2015

- Open House & Field Day
- Mini SARE Wisconsin grant funding





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm –October 2015

- Harvest soybean  
and corn





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm –October 2015

- VRT Lime application
  - Assistance from UWEX BSE Specialist Brian Luck



Dunn County Demonstration Farm  
October 2015 Ryan DeGroote



# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm –Oct 2015

- Field demo establishment
  - Cover Crop Mix





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm –Oct/Nov 2015

- Application of cover crops/winter grain
  - Drill – soybean fields
  - Aerial – corn fields





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm –Nov 2015

- Seeded 12 acre field near Lake Menomin with native prairie grass and forbs to benefit native pollinators.





# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm –2016

## Crop Rotation:

- Corn
- Soybean
- Winter Rye



- “Enhancing soil health is one of the most important things we can do for this and for future generations. That’s because enhancing soil health allows us to simultaneously address so many of our most pressing natural resource needs. It allows us to address water quality, farm profitability, resilience to extreme weather, economic risk, wildlife needs, and many others.” Wayne Honeycutt, Ph.D., Deputy Chief for Science and Technology of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



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# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm

W2

W3

W4

W5

W6

W7

W1

NE8

NE10

NE9

SE12

SE11

SE13

2015 Aerial Photo  
1 inch = 500 feet

550TH ST

# Questions?

# Thank you!

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