



Protecting **Groundwater** Quality

Program Plans for April 1, 2016 – Dec. 31, 2020



Our Mission

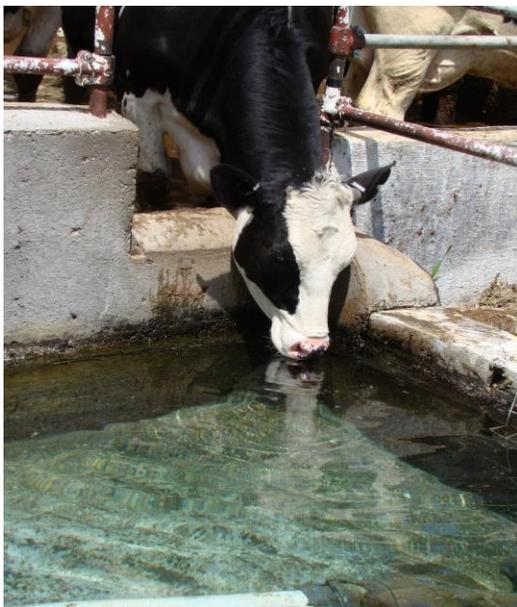
As farmers and caretakers of the environment, we are committed to protecting, nurturing and sustaining our precious soil, water and air. To foster environmental stewardship, we will promote practices with measurable outcomes that secure and enrich the future of our shared community.

Our Philosophy

Our culture is one in which farmers are empowered to continuously improve on practices that affect the environment. Through peer-to-peer mentoring and other forms of support, we challenge ourselves to be models of sustainability. Goals and expectations are high and so, too, is our commitment to each other's success and the well being of our community.

Who We Are

Peninsula Pride Farms (PPF) is a farmer-led, not-for-profit organization committed to working with farmers, businesses and agencies to improve soil and water quality. Our programs help advance new ideas, practices and technologies that balance water quality improvement with farm sustainability.

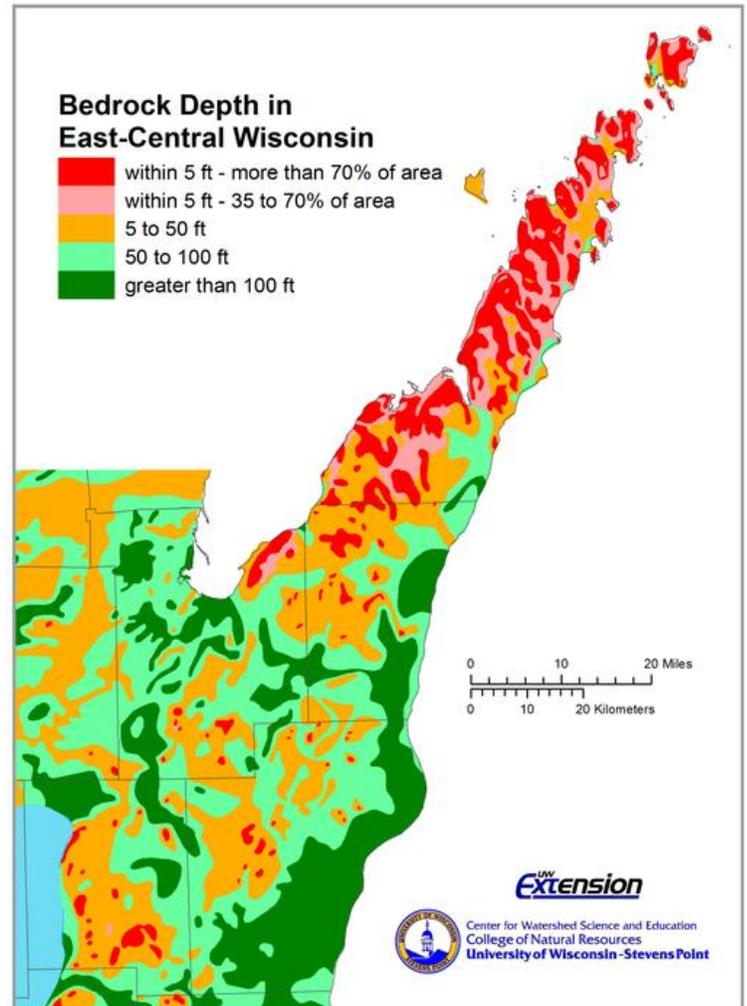


PPF tests and promote innovative conservation practices and on-farm treatment technologies that reduce the risk of nutrient and pathogen movement through our soils. The focus includes improving manure management, practices that reduce pathogens, increased use of nutrient management, cover crops, alternative manure application strategies and a program that assesses conservation efforts and rewards farmers for good stewardship. Documenting what is and what is not working in this region will lead to a targeted education and outreach program.

We support research, analysis and monitoring that will generate the data needed to make the best conservation management decisions on our farms. In addition, we will create a structure of farmer-to-farmer education and outreach that can help farmers here and in other parts of Wisconsin. Our goal is to empower farmers to implement practices and systems that protect and improve both surface and groundwater quality.

Achieving Our Mission

- Help farmers identify depth of soil over bedrock so applications of nutrients and soil amendments can be done at proper rate, timing, method and source
- Establish an emergency flow of safe water to homes impacted by E. coli in their well
- Identify physical factors that pose unacceptable risks to groundwater
- Identify practices that could/should be implemented to protect groundwater:
 - Apply manure and other soil amendments based on accepted recommendations
 - Adopt pathogen reduction strategies
 - Field evaluation prior to any soil amendment application
 - Know the depth to bedrock
 - Pre-tillage on fields with cracks or other macro-pores that connect to bedrock
 - Proper application rates and methods
 - Setbacks from karst features
- Other groundwater issues:
 - Identify sinkholes and other direct conduits to groundwater and adopt proper setbacks
- Document all practices that are protective of groundwater quality that are installed and working on farms



Measuring Success

- Identification and implementation of demonstration projects on scientifically based management practices
- Number of farms and acres with implemented practices that are protective of groundwater quality
- Development of a conservation incentive program with partners identified for cost sharing
- Evaluation and development of a water quality monitoring program that provides a variety of effective metrics
- Number of farmers reached through newsletters, field days, meetings, direct contacts, etc.
- Number of acres and farms involved in experiments and that have implemented new conservation practices

Increasing Farmer Participation

- Direct contact to solicit farmers to join the organization
- Working with agri-business and others to promote membership
- Hosting field days, tours and conferences sponsored by farmers and other agricultural organizations
- Working with farmers to evaluate how they can improve systems to reduce the potential for contamination
- Being viewed as honest, objective and a fair representation of farmers in this region
- Implementing best management practices on our farms so that others in the area can see how to apply them