



Protecting **Surface** Water 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 research-based conservation practices by demonstrating pilot projects and showcasing the phosphorus and nitrogen savings, soil quality benefits and practices that are protective of surface water. Our focus includes improving manure management; increasing the use of approved conservation practices, including nutrient management, cover crops, low-disturbance manure injection and alternative forms of tillage; and a program that assesses conservation efforts and rewards farmers for good stewardship.

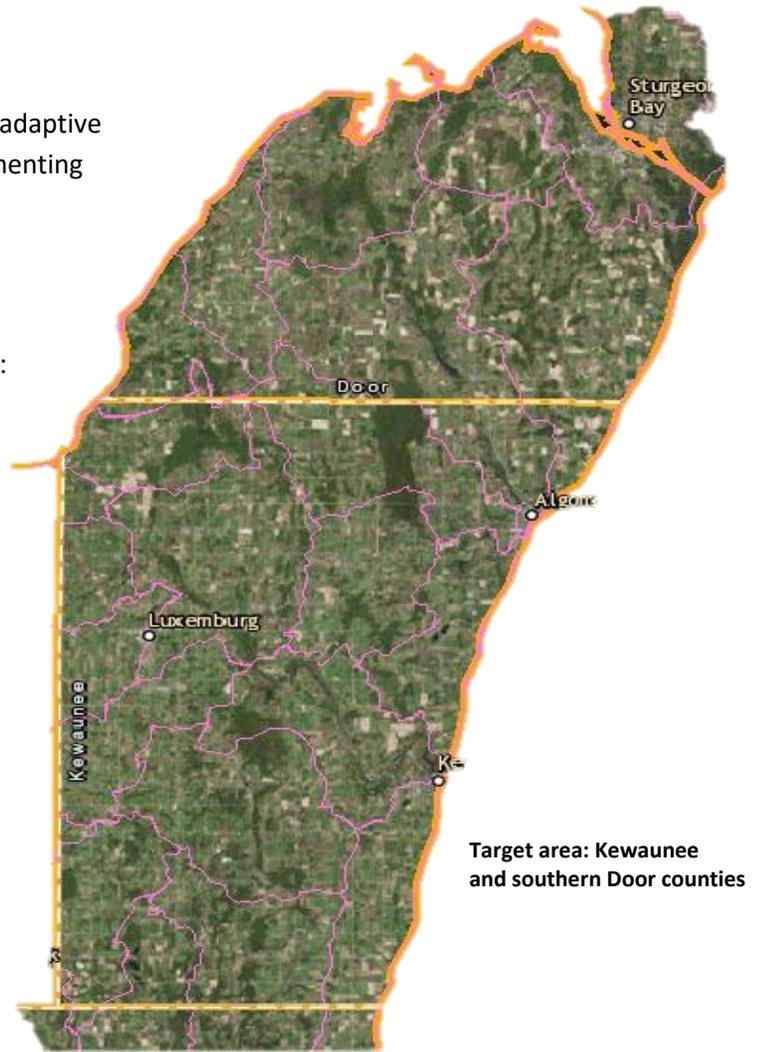


We support research, analysis and monitoring that generates the data needed to make the best conservation management decisions on our farms. In addition, we create a structure of farmer-to-farmer education and outreach that can help farmers here and in other parts of Wisconsin.

Our goal is to empower farmers to adopt practices and systems that protect and improve both surface and ground water.

Achieving Our Mission

- Develop partnerships that support a research-based adaptive management cost-share program for farmers implementing practices that reduce nutrient and sediment loss
- Identify physical factors that pose unacceptable risks to surface water
- Identify practices that could/should be implemented:
 - Practices that reduce sediment and nutrient loss
 - Practices that improve nutrient application
 - Set back distances and management strategies
 - Other farming system or management recommendations
- Other surface water issues:
 - Nutrient loss through tile drainage
 - Tile drainage management
 - Tile drainage treatment systems
- Document all practices that are protective of surface water that are installed and working on farms in these areas



Measuring Success

- An annual report containing the number of acres implementing the conservation practices (on cooperating farms) will be created. This report will contain estimates of the reduction of pounds of phosphorus that would have been lost to the watershed if the cost-shared practice had not been implemented. The goal is to get farmers and their consultants to evaluate the effectiveness of practices through the scientifically based SNAP program. This model is used by state agencies to compare potential phosphorus loss before the implementation of the practice and after implementation. Phosphorus reductions will be provided for each cost-shared practice
- The SNAP program can also provide an evaluation of soil loss and allow farmers and consultants to evaluate how a new practice could affect soil loss and reduce particulate phosphorus loss
- Number of farmers reached through newsletters, field days, meetings, direct contacts, etc.
- Farms and acres implementing cover crops, reduced tillage, no-till and low-disturbance manure incorporation
- Number of acres and farms that experimented with and 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