

# 2024 CONSERVATION PROGRESS REPORT

Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program



## PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO GROW

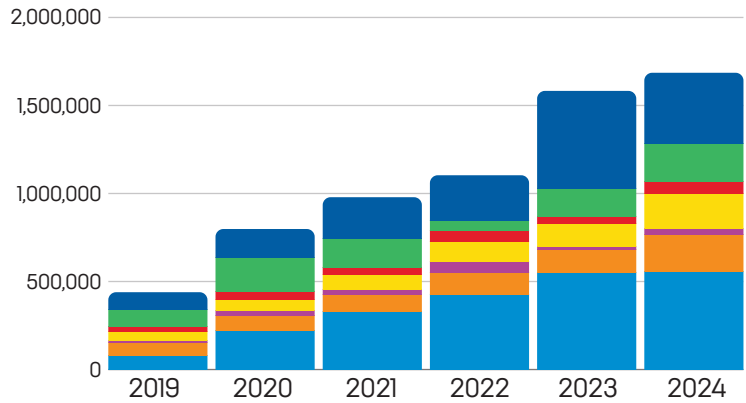
In 2024, there were **47 producer-led groups** funded by the program, comprised of **2,411 members** and **969,149 acres of managed farmland**, compared to 2,016 members and 782,674 acres in 2023.

The members utilized **\$667,526** in DATCP funds to implement conservation practices, and farmers invested an additional **\$2,706,197.40** in conservation practices as match.

## CONSERVATION PRACTICES INCREASED BY 6% FROM 2023

In 2024, conservation practices implemented by producer-led groups **grew to over 1.69 million acres.**

● Nutrient management ● Cover crops ● Low-disturbance manure injection  
● No-till ● Strip tillage ● Soil testing ● Other conservation practices



Conservation practices implemented by producer-led groups in 2024

## KEEPING SOIL AND NUTRIENTS IN PLACE

**34% INCREASE IN NO-TILL PRACTICES**



Minimizing disturbance to the soil to help prevent erosion from wind and water

**2% INCREASE IN NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT**



Applying nutrients at the right rate, time and place so they don't run off into waterways

**37% INCREASE IN COVER CROPS**



Keeping the ground covered to hold soil in place and feed soil microbes

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The 206,068 acres of cover crops planted and 196,196 acres of land under no-till management in 2023 potentially reduced an *estimated\**:

### DID YOU KNOW ?

This is comparable to 39,504 gas-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year.

**169,361**

tons of carbon dioxide equivalents of soil-based greenhouse gas emissions

**331,157**

tons of soil erosion occurring on farm fields

**235,405**

pounds of phosphorus from leaving farm fields

### DID YOU KNOW ?

One pound of P that reaches a water body can feed up to 500 pounds of algae, and one dump truck load can carry as much as 10 tons of soil.

## SOIL HEALTH SYSTEMS

Farmers in producer-led groups are integrating multiple practices onto their farms as part of a larger soil health system, including innovative or non-traditional soil health practices.

In 2024, producer-led groups implemented nearly 399,230 acres of these "other soil health practices," which include targeted nitrogen management, managed grazing and other perennial vegetation practices.



This report was developed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

\*All estimates are provided from models. Actual reductions in pollutants may be higher or lower.

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