

# Producer Led Watershed Protection Grant Program

## Collaborating with UW Discovery Farms

The UW Discovery Farms® Program, part of UW-Extension, works with Wisconsin farmers to identify water quality impacts of different farming systems around the state. Since the program was established in 2001, it has conducted edge-of-field surface water monitoring on 17 privately owned farms and has established two watershed projects. The research and communications from Discovery Farms supports a productive conversation between the ag community, researchers and policymakers that fosters decisions compatible with environmental management and productive agriculture.

Discovery Farms puts on several events a year, writes numerous popular press articles, and applies and receives grants from a wide range of entities. The program staff can act as a resource for choosing the elements of your watershed group so that you can hit the ground running.

### Discovery Farms Can Provide:

- Planning resources based on past experience such as:
  - Questions to ask yourself while starting a watershed program
  - Elements to consider including in grant applications and program work plans
- Educational materials or presentations with Discovery Farms findings and results for meetings, newsletters or mailings
- Advice on planning and executing events and meetings
- Answers to questions about federal and Wisconsin-specific programs, policies and issues related to agriculture and surface water quality

### Discovery Farms Cannot:

- Provide fiscal management
- Organize meetings or events for your group
- Conduct edge-of-field monitoring services beyond current program priorities and study areas

Discovery Farms welcomes collaboration and would be glad to be an educational resource for your watershed program. Discovery Farms has a steering committee and group of advisors that represent major ag, environmental, and government partners involved in water quality. The steering committee supports Discovery Farms' involvement in mutually beneficial relationships related to farmer led watershed efforts that continue strengthening agriculture's role in protecting and improving water quality.

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### Questions?

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