

Manitowoc County Project Area

University of Wisconsin – Extension



Soaring Eagle Dairy



Saxon Homestead Farm

What is a “Discovery Farm?”

Discovery Farms are working Wisconsin farms in different geographic areas, facing different environmental challenges. The Discovery Farms Program takes a real-world approach to finding the most economical solutions to the environmental regulations placed on farmers.

Our Mission

The Manitowoc County UW-Discovery Farms Project will gather on-farm research data which may be used to determine the environmental and economic effects of currently available Best Management Practices. This data will be used to evaluate and improve Best Management Practices in order to achieve a healthy and sustainable agriculture in a healthy and sustainable environment.

Research results will be used to educate and improve communication among the agricultural community, consumers, researchers and policy-makers. It is our intent that, based on this research, recommendations will be developed to improve Best Management Practices and regulations.

Our Goal

Identifying and reducing the sources of nutrients, sediment, and other non-point pollutants that may impair the ground & surface waters of Manitowoc County.

How will this be accomplished?

Water collection devices, like the one below, have been installed at both Discovery Farm locations in southern Manitowoc County. This structure, known as a flume, is designed to measure the flow of water passing through it. Monitoring equipment has been installed to collect water samples from the flume which will then be analyzed to determine levels of nearly two dozen different components. In addition, tile line effluent will be sampled and evaluated at one of the farms.



What is the Manitowoc County Discovery Farms Project Area?

The Discovery Farms Project Area is a unique collaboration of agricultural, conservation, and environmental interests. Saxon Homestead Farm and Soaring Eagle Dairy have volunteered to be the site of a 5-7 year research project to monitor the effects of different Best Management Practices on water quality. The University of Wisconsin, including UW-Extension, and US Geological Survey will work with these farms to find the most economical and effective ways of complying with environmental regulations while maintaining agricultural profitability.



For more information

Please contact:

UW-Extension Manitowoc County
920.683.4168

What will be “discovered?”

Total Solids

- Suspended sediment
- Total dissolved solids

Nitrogen

- Nitrate/nitrite
- Ammonium
- Total Kjeldahl N unfiltered

Phosphorus

- Total P unfiltered
- Dissolved reactive P

Chloride

Bacteria and pesticide screens will be performed on some samples.