A secure future for farmers and our neighbors
Who we are

- Farmer-led, not-for-profit organization in Kewaunee and southern Door counties
- Farmers, businesses, agencies focused on improving surface and ground water quality
- Ideas, practices, technologies that balance water quality with farm sustainability
Goals focus on improvement

- Define issues, set goals and determine how to measure progress in protecting surface and ground water
- Evaluate member farms to craft individual plans for continuous improvement
- Assist farmers in meeting voluntary standards recommended by state workgroup for sensitive fields
Member farms vary in size

- 43 dairy and crop farmers
- Dairy sizes, 60 to 6,000 cows
- 32,000 cows – 40% of area cow.
- 57,000 acres – 40% of tillable acre
- Supportive businesses

Mark and Lisa Schmidt family, Casco, Wis.
Members must show commitment

- Commitment to continuous improvement in farming practices
- Independent analysis of nutrient management plans
- Currently membership closed until analyses can be completed
Dues, donations support efforts

- Two-tier membership dues based on farm size
- Grants including start-up matching grant from state ag department
- Donations from businesses that support our mission

Note: Peninsula Pride Farms is a 501c3 so donations are tax deductible.
We aim to protect lakes, streams

- Focus on surface water
- Improving soil health
- Reducing loss of phosphorous
Incentives help drive best practices

- Develop conservation incentive cost-share program
- Identify improved manure application practices (setbacks, etc.)
- Improve management of tile drainage to reduce nutrient loss
- Document results
Hard evidence measures success

- Reduction in pounds of phosphorus lost
- Number of farms, acres implementing cover crops, reduced tillage, no-till, etc.
- Number of farmers reached (newsletters, field days, meetings)
We want safe drinking water

- Focus on ground water
- Reduce pathogens
- Reduce loss of nitrogen
Field work pinpoints trouble spots

- Establish emergency supply of water to homes with E.coli (“Water Well”)
- Measure depth of soil over bedrock to identify sensitive field areas
- Establish setbacks from karst features
- Identify sinkholes, other direct conduits to ground water
- Document results
Water monitoring checks success

- Implementation of demonstration projects
- Number of farms and acres with pathogen reduction strategies (manure application standards, field evaluations, karst setbacks)
- Development of water quality monitoring program
‘Water Well’ brings help now

“As farmers and members of this community, safe drinking water is important to our neighbors and our families. This is an important step in providing immediate help to people who need it.”
Program targets E.coli in wells

- Emergency water supply for homes with E.coli
- Any source of E.coli (agricultural practice, septic system, etc.)
- Peninsula Pride Farms-led voluntary community support initiative
- Collaboration with county land and health departments, DNR, EPA
Residents receive water, inspection

- Free water delivery for up to three months
- Complete well inspection to identify potential defects
- Installation and half cost of ultraviolet light treatment system if needed
- Short-term protection while long-term solutions are developed
We face difficult challenges ...

- Surface, ground water practices sometimes contradictory
- Ground water contamination can come from many sources
- Ground water challenges common on the peninsula for over century
... but we’re taking action

- Bedrock field day April 22
- Cover crops field day Aug. 26
- Cover crop cost-share challenge
- Pathogen protection guidelines
- Water Well emergency program
Groundwater Protection  New 2017

Working with Discovery Farms on a new nitrogen management project starting in 2017

Will provide several farms to cooperate at different levels of research
Groundwater Protection New 2017

Will work with partners on a curriculum evaluating pathogens in the environment

Gaining an understanding of pathogens of concern
Pathogen Curriculum

Acceptable / expected levels

Sources of pathogens

Practices that reduce the risks of loss
Groundwater Protection  New 2017

Will work with Kewaunee County to develop a new set of sinkhole maps
Groundwater Protection New 2017

Working with companies that have developed products that reduce the levels of pathogens in manure.

Have discussed this with experts and are considering ways to implement a trail
Surface Water Plan

Beginning a project with NRCS to establish 4 demonstration farms

Located in both counties, well distributed

Different sizes of farms, all have cattle

Different tillage and manure application systems
Surface Water Plan - NRCS

Project will begin in 2017

Working on getting the arrangements in place

Working with farmers, consultants and NRCS on projects
Surface Water Plan - NRCS

Looking for practice implementation that reduces nutrient and soil loss

Will work on several farms and locations
Working on another project that will empower farmers with better information on soil loss to improve the targeting of high risk sites and practices
Those are Peninsula Prides accomplishments and goals

That is a quick summary of the projects being done or scheduled to be done on Peninsula Pride Farms.
“The Door County Peninsula can have both safe, clean water and a prosperous agricultural community.”
Questions?

peninsulapridefarms.org

www.facebook.com/PeninsulaPrideFarms

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