

DATCP REPORT

February 2008

- **Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program**

- The LWCB recommended approval of the final allocation plan, and it was signed by the secretaries. The 2008 grant contracts will be mailed in April.
- Counties should have received the grant application for 2009. Questions on the grant application should be directed to Dilip Patel; Dilip.Patel@wisconsin.gov, and Kris Modaff; Kris.Modaff@wisconsin.gov. Questions on grant funds for nutrient management activities should be directed to Jim VandenBrook, Jim.VandenBrook@wisconsin.gov.
- Counties should have received the annual joint DNR and DATCP reporting form. Questions on the annual report form should be directed to Justin.Shell@wisconsin.gov or Carol.Holden@wisconsin.gov.
- The preliminary supplemental allocation of SEG funds was presented to the LWCB at the February 5 meeting. The supplemental allocation includes allocation of \$325,000 during 2008 to UW-Extension for continued development and maintenance of SNAP-Plus, expanding opportunities for farmer training on nutrient management, and for administration of MALWEG. DATCP will follow its usual procedure of accepting comments on the preliminary allocation through **March 5, 2008**. An MOU with UW-Extension is under development to outline specific details of the contract, including deliverables required to receive reimbursement. A final supplemental allocation will be presented to the LWCB in April 2008.

- **Notice of Discharge Project Funding**

- DNR and DATCP will have a combined total of \$500,000 available to fund NOD projects in 2008. Fifty thousand dollars of this total is available to cover soft practice costs. To submit a project, counties must complete a new application form and work with regional DNR staff. The application form is available at: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/runoff/grants/applications/instructions_NOD.htm. Contact Lisa Schultz, LisaJ.Schultz@wisconsin.gov, or Coreen Fallat, Coreen.Fallat@wisconsin.gov with questions.

- **CREP**

- An extension of the current Farm Bill was signed, extending the current CREP program until March 15. DATCP has sent CREP contract extensions which counties must sign with the authorized signature and return in order to extend their contracts until March 15. Counties that do not sign the contract extensions, but were able to have landowner contracts signed by USDA by December 31, 2007 must submit payment requests by February 15. Counties that sign extended contracts will have until June 15 to submit these payment requests.

- **Working Lands Initiative**

- The recommendations presented by the Working Lands Initiative are still of interest at DATCP. The agency plans to work on development of a budget initiative for the 2009 – 2011 budget. We will continue to keep you updated throughout the coming year on activities related to the Working Lands Initiative.

- **Upcoming Rule Revisions**

- DATCP continues to serve on the advisory committee formed to provide input on DNR's proposed rule changes to NR 151 and NR 153 with respect to the agricultural performance standards and the TRM grant program. DATCP's work on revisions to ATCP 50 will be postponed until later in 2008, after the completion of the NR 151/NR153 advisory committee process. By waiting to begin our efforts in earnest, we will better understand the changes to NR 151 and NR 153, and allow us to better identify issues, and make relevant revisions in response.

- **Statewide Training - Interagency Committee**

- A meeting held on February 13, 2008 explored opportunities to better identify and coordinate interagency training needs statewide. In the past, a statewide interagency training committee identified training needs and the best way to fulfill them. This preliminary meeting provided an opportunity to discuss current and future training needs, and the benefits of bringing this group together again. Representatives from the following participated in the meeting; WALCE, WLWCA, DATCP, DNR, NRCS, UWEX (including basin educators and through the NPM program), Discovery Farms, and certified crop advisors.

- **Clean Sweep: New Prescription Drug Collection Grant Program**

- In the 2007-09 biennial budget, the Legislature approved a new prescription drug collection grant program through the Clean Sweep program administered by DATCP. A request for proposals for unwanted drug collection program grants will be sent out in early March. Grant decisions will be made in mid-April. First collections will occur between July 1 and December 31, 2008.
- The regular request for proposals for 2009 clean sweep grants will be released in early June, as always. For the 2008 grant year, DATCP is serving a record 50 counties along with several municipalities and seven tribal areas.
- For more information, or to obtain a comprehensive list of counties and municipalities being served by DATCP, contact Roger Springman at Roger.Springman@wisconsin.gov.