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## Tree & Shrub Sale Ending Soon

The deadline to purchase trees and shrubs from the Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation Department (PCD) is rapidly approaching. The cutoff date for accepting orders is **Friday, February 27, 2015**. Those still interested in obtaining trees can request an order form by calling the PCD at (920) 459-1370. An order form, species descriptions and pictures can be found on the PCD page of the Sheboygan County website at [www.sheboygancounty.com](http://www.sheboygancounty.com).

This program - now entering its 17<sup>th</sup> year - has resulted in over one million trees being planted throughout Sheboygan County and neighboring areas. Over 40 different species of bare-root trees and shrubs are available as well as potted evergreen stock.

In addition, the fruit tree selection now includes different species of Apple, Plum, Pear, Cherry and Peach. Also available are two Specialty Packets. One is a Bird-Butterfly Packet that includes five species of shrubs and flowers which attract a significant amount of butterflies. The other is Dave's Deer & Turkey Packet which contains ten different species of trees that provide food and shelter for wildlife.

We are again selling Wildlife Food Plots. There are seven mixes geared toward deer and one mix offered to improve habitat for turkeys, pheasants and other upland game birds. Additional items for sale include planting aids such as fertilizer pellets, tree protection tubes, and weed mats.

Order pick up is scheduled for April 23, 24 and 25 in Sheboygan Falls. In addition to the regular sale and pick up, there will also be a One Day Sale held on Saturday April 25. Overstock items will be available for purchase during this time. This is a great time to take advantage of this opportunity to add landscape features or increase wildlife habitat on your property. The program encourages land owners to plant native trees and shrubs; however there are a few non-native species available for purchase. If you need assistance with designing a habitat plan for your property contact Eric of the PCD at (920) 459-1370.

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## Implements of Husbandry

Wisconsin Act 377 makes several changes to the way Implements of Husbandry may operate on public roadways. Implements of Husbandry (IoH) are pieces of farm equipment used for agricultural purposes. Examples include tractors, front end loaders, hay bailers and grain haulers.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) lists the following as the four major changes to the law: Updating the definition of agricultural vehicles, creating a new class of vehicles (Agricultural Commercial Motor Vehicles (Ag CMV)), increasing the weight limit for IoH and Ag CMV's operating on the roadway, and creating a free agricultural vehicle permit to operate greater than the new legal weight and length limits. To view additional changes visit <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/business/ag/index.htm>.



The new law allows local government to pass ordinances or resolutions regulating weight limits for machinery operating on roads in their respective jurisdictions. Local authorities have several options. As listed by the WDOT, municipalities may

1. Pass no ordinance or resolution if the maintaining authority chooses to allow the Act 377 weight and length limits and exempt to Category B IoH from axle limits on roads under their jurisdiction.
2. Pass resolutions or ordinances if the maintaining authority chooses to:
  - a. Opt In – Follow the new maximum weight limit for both gross vehicle weight and axle weight.
  - b. Total Opt Out – Have no weight or length limits.
  - c. Partially Opt Out I – Set weight and length limits above those set forth in Act 377.
  - d. Partially Opt Out II – Designate specific roads under their jurisdiction for over-weight/over-length IoH and Ag CMV travel.
3. Post roads or bridges as they have done prior to Act 377, regardless of passing an ordinance or resolution.

For a resolution or ordinance to be effective in any calendar year, it must be adopted before January 15 of that calendar year. Once adopted, the resolution or ordinance is valid for one calendar year. As of January 15, 2015 the only municipality in Sheboygan County that passed an ordinance was the Town of Sherman. Contact your local municipality for rules and information specific to your area.



The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) along with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and University of Wisconsin Extension have released a video series to supplement in-person educational sessions. The nine videos cover topics such as definitions of IoH and Ag-CMV, weight limits, lighting and markers, rules of the road, local options for municipalities, and more. The videos can be found at: [www.youtube.com/user/widatcp/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/widatcp/videos).

At this time, there is no in-person training scheduled in Sheboygan County.

For more information on Implements of Husbandry, go to: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/ioh/>

## Shoreland and Floodplain Zoning in Sheboygan County

Since October of 1970 the Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation Department has administered zoning regulations in the Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetland, and Floodplain Districts. Those regulations are found in Chapter 72 (*Sheboygan County Shoreland Ordinance*) and Chapter 73 (*Sheboygan County Floodplain Ordinance*) of the County's Code of Ordinances.

The concept of Shoreland Zoning in Wisconsin began with the enactment of the "Water Resources Act" by the Wisconsin State Legislature in 1966; by this Act, the Legislature directed all counties to zone by ordinance "all shorelands in the unincorporated area". Shortly thereafter, Chapter RD 15 (now known as Chapter NR 115) of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code* became effective; this chapter set minimum statewide standards for Shoreland Zoning. In 1970, Chapter NR 116 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code, Floodplain Management Program* became effective, which set minimum statewide standards for Floodplain Zoning.

The Shoreland and Floodplain Ordinances apply to the unincorporated areas of the County that are within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) or shoreline of navigable lakes, ponds, and flowages; within 300 feet of the OHWM of navigable rivers, streams, and intermittent streams; or to the landward edge of the floodplain (whichever is greater). According to the County's land records database, there are approximately 303,500 acres of land in the unincorporated areas of Sheboygan County. Roughly 60,000 acres (including public and private land) of that area falls within the jurisdictional boundaries of the County's Shoreland and Floodplain Ordinances; this equates to almost 8,900 tax parcels with over 5,700 different owners.

Examples of activities that are regulated by Shoreland and Floodplain Zoning, and for which a Shoreland/Floodplain Zoning Permit is required, are:

- The placement of structures in relationship to the OHWM of navigable waterways.
- The amount of impervious surface that can be developed on a property within 300 feet of the OHWM.
- Development in the floodplain or wetlands.
- Earth disturbing activities (filling, grading, and excavating; including pond construction) in upland (non-floodplain and non-wetland) areas within 300 feet of the OHWM of navigable waters, all mapped floodplain areas, and all wetland areas that are within the Shoreland District and Floodplain District.

The above are meant to be examples to illustrate the types of activities that are regulated by the Shoreland and Floodplain Ordinances; it is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of regulated activities. Non-structural agricultural activities (i.e. crop cultivation, pasturing and grazing of livestock) are typically not regulated in the Shoreland and Floodplain Districts.

In addition to containing development standards for Shoreland, Shoreland-Wetland, and Floodplain Districts, the Shoreland and Floodplain Ordinances also regulate the types of uses (i.e. residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, etc.) that are allowed by the issuance of a Sheboygan County Shoreland/Floodplain Zoning Permit or a Sheboygan County Conditional Use Permit. The provisions of the County's Shoreland and Floodplain Ordinances are in addition to the applicable provisions of the respective Town Zoning Ordinance and any State and/or Federal regulations that may apply to a certain use or activity. The proposed use or activity must comply with the regulations administered by each agency.

To determine if your property is in a Shoreland District, go to the Sheboygan County website ([www.sheboygancounty.com](http://www.sheboygancounty.com)) and click on the "Land Records" button on the County's homepage. To determine if your property is affected by floodplains, go to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center website (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal>) and enter your property address in the search box. To find out if your property may contain wetlands, use the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources "Surface Water Data Viewer-Wetland Theme" (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/>). If you do not have internet capabilities, are unsure of how to proceed, or have questions concerning the Shoreland and/or Floodplain Zoning programs, please contact the Planning and Conservation Department at 920-459-3060.

## Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Tutorial

For those of you who are new to the Farmland Preservation Program, or those who may need a refresher, you may be wondering how to claim your tax credit. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has released a short slide presentation to answer any questions you may have.

The presentation explains which schedule to use when claiming the credit, eligibility requirements that must be met in order to claim, and what documents to attach when filing. The tutorial can be found at [http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Working\\_Lands\\_Initiative/index.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Working_Lands_Initiative/index.aspx)

Municipalities in Sheboygan County that do not have a certified Farmland Preservation Program Zoning ordinance include: Town of Mitchell, Town of Plymouth, Town of Sheboygan, Town of Wilson, as well as all villages and cities. Farmers that own land in these areas are not eligible to claim tax credits through the Farmland Preservation Program.

If you have any questions about land that is enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program contact Chris at (920) 459-1370. Any questions about zoning should be directed to the municipality where your land is located.

To learn more about the program or eligibility requirements a fact sheet can be found at: <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/FPPTax%20CreditsFactsheet.pdf>

## Household Hazardous Waste Dates Announced

Since 2010 319,000 pounds of hazardous waste has been properly disposed of through the County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. The dates for this years collections sites are as follows:

- Saturday, April 11, 8-11 a.m. at the Maywood Environmental Park, 3615 Mueller Road, Sheboygan
- Friday, June 12, 1-5 p.m. at the Sheboygan County Highway Southside Shed, 7614 Frontage Road, Sheboygan
- Saturday, June 13, 8-11 a.m. at the Sheboygan County Highway Cascade Shed, W6451 State Highway 28, Cascade
- Saturday, September 19, 8-11 a.m. at the Sheboygan County Highway Plymouth Shed, N6111 County Road OJ, Plymouth (This date is tentative depending on if funds are still available.)

Due to an unexpected very steep increase in the cost of accepting electronics at our collection events, the fee for hazardous waste will be \$10 per vehicle, \$25 per vehicle for electronics, and \$25 per vehicle for both hazardous waste and electronics.

These collection events are only open to Sheboygan County residents so be prepared to show proof of residency. For additional information or a list of accepted items, please visit:

[www.sheboygancounty.com](http://www.sheboygancounty.com) or call (920) 459-3060.



# Conservation Practices to Improve Soil Health & Protect Farm Productivity

FEBRUARY 2015



Sheboygan County landowners are encouraged to sign up now for conservation practices for 2015/2016. Michael Patin, District Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Sheboygan Falls, says the sign-up deadline, will come sooner this year. Applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) should to be completed as soon as possible for us to evaluate your applications for this fall. Visiting our office when you come into FSA to report your crops is the perfect time to discuss the opportunities through the EQIP program.

NRCS is expecting increased interest this year, in part because of the extreme weather in recent years which showed the importance of conservation practices for good soil health, water holding capacity and erosion control. The key conservation practices for improving soil health are crop rotations, cover crops, no-till or mulch tillage, and erosion-reducing practices such as buffers and grassed waterways. This year with heavy rainfalls, you may see areas of your fields that may need a grassed waterway installed or even re-installed. We can come out and help assist in developing a plan to address those areas of concern.

Another practice that may be of special interest, is using cover crops for erosion control, soil improvement, nutrient cycling, or other conservation needs. Cover crops are highly effective in reducing soil erosion, as well as suppressing weeds and building up organic matter and soil health. The cover crop may include rye, oats, millet, wheat, clovers, turnips, canola, radishes, or other species, either alone or in combination.

Cover crops reduce water erosion by literally covering the soil. They also use up excess nutrients in the soil reducing risk of runoff, they sequester carbon, and improve soil structure. NRCS will likely be offering a special cover crop sign-up again this year for cost sharing to provide the opportunity for producers to try them out on their farms after: winter wheat, corn silage, vegetables, prevent planted acres, and soybeans.

For more information, visit [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov), or contact the Sheboygan Falls NRCS office at: 650 Forest Ave, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085. Feel free to call our office at: (920)-467-9917 Ext. 3.



## Social Media



The Department has joined social media! You can now find the Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department on Facebook and Twitter. Watch for program updates, meeting dates and other general announcements.

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## Conservation Stewardship Program Sign-Up Announced



The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting new applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Farm and forest landowners may apply by February 27 for possible 2015 funding, although applications will be accepted on a continuous basis. CSP encourages agricultural producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. Applications can be made at any time at all USDA Service Centers, but only applications received by February 27 will be ranked for funding in 2015. The program is open to all farmers, regardless of size or type of operation.

In 2014, 450 Wisconsin farmers and forestland owners enrolled in CSP, with an average payment of \$6,900 per contract. "For many farmers, CSP offers reward and recognition for the conservation they are already doing, plus a little extra incentive to try a few more or new practices," according to Michael Patin, District conservationist. Michael encourages interested farmers to apply now to be considered for funding. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and tribal agricultural lands.

For the 2014 sign up, average payments in Wisconsin were \$21 per acre for cropland, \$14 per acre for pasture, and \$4 per acre for woodland. Payments are made annually for each of the five years of the contract. CSP is open to small and large operations, with farms already enrolled ranging from just a couple of acres to over 4,000 acres of cropland.

Farmers will need to document their current and proposed conservation practices which will be used to rank applications and determine payments. NRCS field staff will also conduct on-site field verifications of applicants' information. For more information, visit [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov), or contact the Sheboygan NRCS office at: 920-467-9917

## Outdoor Recreation Survey

Sheboygan County, with the help of its Recreational Facilities Management Advisory Committee, is interested in gathering the thoughts and suggestions of the public relating to the parks, trails, and outdoor recreation areas throughout the County. The County is asking for the help of its residents to provide their perspective by taking a short survey.

The results will be incorporated into the 2015 Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan. The Plan is an important tool for the County since it is a requirement for certain grant funding, which can be used to help pay for new recreational opportunities or maintain existing opportunities. Based on the public's viewpoints gathered from the survey results, goals and specific projects will be incorporated into the 2015 Plan.

The survey is available online at [www.sheboygancounty.com](http://www.sheboygancounty.com) on the Planning & Conservation Department page. They are also available in hard copy form, which can be mailed upon request.

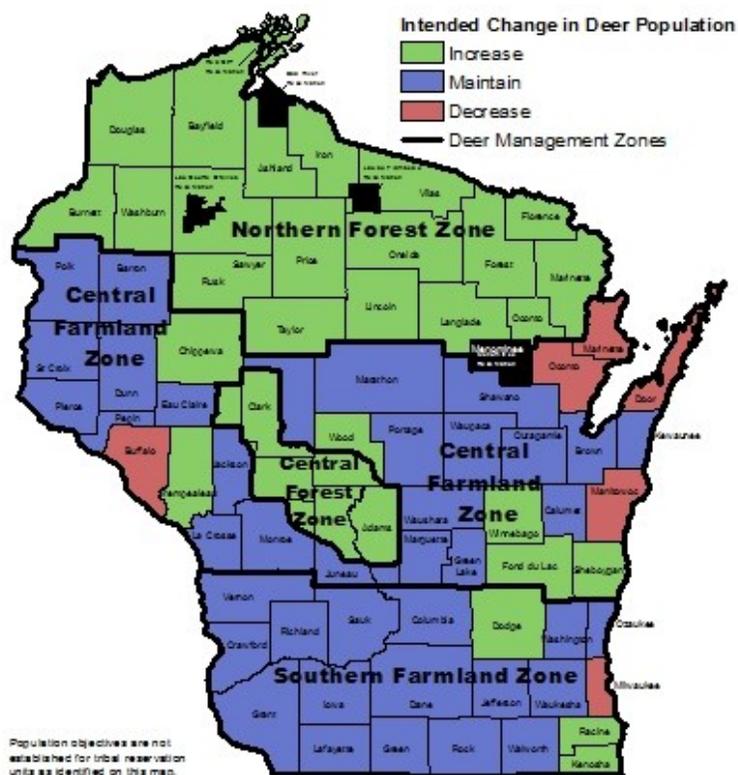
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# Sheboygan County Deer Advisory Council

Starting last September, each county in Wisconsin started a deer advisory council (CDAC) to provide input and recommendations to the Wisconsin DNR on how to manage the deer herd within their county. The CDAC's are made up of the general public, who will represent stakeholder groups and have a knowledge base on deer management issues affecting the stakeholder group they are assigned to. The stakeholder groups are as follows: conservation congress, a hunt/conservation club, agriculture, forestry, urban, transportation, tourism, and the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). The DNR also wanted a representative from the County Planning and Conservation Department. Greg Kroeplien was chosen to fill this spot on the committee. The CDAC works with local DNR staff to schedule meetings, provide community outreach, review population data and deer impacts on forests and agriculture, develop 3-year recommendations on county population objectives and annual antlerless harvest quota. Based on the information gathered from the DNR staff and public input, the CDAC members have to then make a decision on whether to increase, decrease, or maintain the deer herd in the county.

The CDAC's first meeting was in September of 2014. During this meeting the DNR staff explained the deer population metrics of Sheboygan County, which includes harvest data, herd health, forest health, vehicle collisions, and much more. All this information, for each individual County, can be found on the DNR's webpage at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> keyword: CDAC. During the next meeting in October the CDAC had to make a recommendation of whether to increase, decrease, or maintain the current deer herd in Sheboygan County. Based on the DNR information and public input that was provided, the committee, decided to maintain the deer herd as it is. After the first recommendation was made the DNR released a web survey where hunters could let the DNR and the committee what they were seeing for deer, suggestions on how to manage the herd, and suggestions on what the committee to do. At the next meeting in December, the committee made its final decision. The final decision, a 3 year recommendation, was made to increase the deer herd in Sheboygan County because of the significant public input that was received through the surveys and outdoorsmen expressing their feelings on the herd. The committee can change the quota recommendation each year but still has to maintain the "increase" decision that has been made.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for the end of March. During this meeting the committee will be setting the preliminary quota recommendations for Sheboygan County. Outdoorsmen are encouraged to attend these meetings to voice their opinions and help the committee make recommendations to the DNR. All of this information and meeting agendas/minutes can be found on the DNR website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/> keyword: CDAC. There are a few open positions on the committee so if you would like to play a role, fill out a simple application on the DNR website.



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