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
Our mission

As farmers and caretakers of the environment, we are committed to protecting, nurturing and sustaining our precious soil, water and air. To foster environmental stewardship, we will promote practices with measurable outcomes that secure and enrich the future of our shared community.
Our culture is one in which farmers are empowered to continuously improve on practices that affect the environment. Through peer-to-peer mentoring and other forms of support, we challenge ourselves to be models of sustainability. Goals and expectations are high and so, too, is our commitment to each other’s success and the well-being of our community.
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
“We will empower farmers with knowledge, training and shared experiences. And we will demonstrate how the agricultural community is committed to doing its fair share in making improvements.”
‘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
“The Door County Peninsula can have both safe, clean water and a prosperous agricultural community.”
Questions?

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