

NW AITCOM
North West Area Interagency
Training Committee
For Wisconsin Conservation Employees



2017 Northwest Operational Area Training Catalog For Conservation Staff

CONTACT Heather.Gilbertson@wi.usda.gov to register for your courses.
Final agendas will be sent to those who have registered prior to the course date.

**We welcome additional expertise in developing these courses. If you would like to volunteer to provide assistance as a trainer, please connect with the contact for the course.*

Calendar Year 2017 Course Offerings and Other Information Resources for North West Wisconsin Conservation

Training Topics	Training Contact	Date	Location	Description
Vegetative Cover Standards	Brian Briski	February 23rd	Altoona Area Office	This training is intended to review the vegetative standards in depth and learn how to use the seeding calculator to calculate custom mixes. Biologist(s) will also be present regarding mix design questions.
Soil Health Update	Brian Briski	February 28th	Altoona Area Office	Meet with fellow Northwest WI staff to openly discuss Soil Health progress, projects, and successes and failures. We will plan to have a couple of short presentations, including Justin Morris, NRCS Regional Soil Health Specialist and Brian Briski, Soil Health Team member.
Pipe Materials	Pat Schultz Mark Grabarczyk	March 8th	Altoona Area Office	This classroom style training includes group discussion and will review the various standards and specifications involving the use of pipes, particularly with livestock pipelines, dams, underground outlets and waste transfer systems. Review of ASTM #s, construction, and resources. Bring examples and questions to share with the group.
Resources Update Meeting	Brian Briski	March 15th	Altoona Area Office	Come for a resources refresher with updates from Soils, GIS, Agronomy, Grazing, and other "Resource hot topics." We plan on building in some roundtable discussion and bringing in a couple of outside speakers also.
Streambank and Shoreline Protection Roundtable	Mary King Laurel Qualley	March 23rd	Altoona Area Office	580 Roundtable Discussion mostly on Streambank Protection but including a quick look at recent updates to the Shoreline Protection EFH16 guidance and new spreadsheet. Come prepared to share photos, planning pointers, design techniques and construction challenges. Determining EJAA.
Toolkit Training	Alex Dvoracek	March/April	Altoona Area Office	We will be discussing the new features of Toolkit 9 as well as concepts such as: Case PLU management, practice filtering, symbology, Use of Soil Data Viewer. Efficient creation of maps and documentation in this software environment.
GIS for Engineers	Alex Dvoracek	March/April	Altoona Area Office	Using ArcMap with elevation data to perform hydrology for projects. (Draw watersheds, get slope%, get elevations for longest length, etc. This class is developed for primarily NRCS personnel.
iPhone Showoff / Workgroup	Alex Dvoracek	April 6th	Altoona Area Office	Bring your iPhone to "showoff" your set-up, apps, and shortcuts. We will be demonstrating the use of Avenza for field use. Also discussing efficient ways to document resource concerns and practices using this technology. (This is not an introductory level class)
NEPA Refresher - Special Considerations and WIPE Process	Brian Briski	April 11th	Altoona Area Office	This session will be a review of the NEPA process with emphasis on Section G, including new T & E protocols, and a special WIPE presentation (DNR/NRCS MOU) with Soil Mapping Unit explanations. Guest presenters to include Tim Miland and Steve Bertjens. This is primarily for NRCS personnel.
Wildlife Habitat Walks: Wetlands, Prairie, Oak Savannah, and Beyond	Scott Stipetich Brian Briski DNR/FWS	Early Spring	TBD	In this field course, we will take a look at many practices implemented through various NRCS, FWS, and DNR programs on private lands. One stop in particular will look at a ~40 ac oak savannah restoration that involved multiple partners. Management techniques and upland/wetland plant identification will carry the day.

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Soil Erosion Mat and Sediment Retention Products	Pete Wurzer	June 1st	American Excelsior ELAB, Rice Lake, WI	This is a free, one day course describing the developmental research, design/selection and correct installation of Erosion Control Fabrics and sediment retention products. American Excelsior scientists and field representatives will be on site to provide information, give demonstrations and answer questions.
Contour/Contour Strip Cropping Field Layout	Brian Briski	Spring	St. Croix Co.	Come assist in contouring/contour strip cropping layout on a farm in St. Croix County with NRCS emeritus staff.
Advanced Conservation Planning-Grazing	Brian Briski	Spring/Early Summer	Chippewa	Spend a day walking and planning a grazing layout in the field (engineering/resources) given various landowner objectives/scenarios. The State Grazing specialist and others will be available for input/comments.
Young Forest/Early Successional Workday	Brian Briski	Summer	Ladysmith Area	Spend a day in the field reviewing Young Forest sites (before and after), use of HSI, and "technote" development. Open discussion with specialists (TBD)
Forestry - Oak Regeneration Mgmt.	Brian Briski	Summer	Neillsville	Clark County Forestry and Parks has been experimenting using Fire, Herbicide, drag chains, tree tips, and various silvic practices to promote Oak Regeneration. This field tour will show the different stages of mgmt. and forest growth.
Advanced Conservation Planning-Forestry Training	Brian Briski	Late Summer	TBD	Come inventory forest stands and help develop management alternatives based on landowner goals in a small group setting. Groups will be determining basal area and marking forest stand improvement activities.
CAD Training Session	Stephanie Schultz Laurel Qualley	TBD	Altoona Area Office	Casual paced classes intended for all users of Civil 3D. The classes will have loose and fluid "agendas" based on input from area technicians. Session leaders will contact area technicians in February for input on training ideas. Please feel free to send any topic ideas to: Stephanie.Schultz@wi.usda.gov
Soil Profile Description	Tim Miland Pete Wurzer	TBD	Barron/Rusk	A one day field day in soil profile description recording for engineering purposes. We will also cover local landscapes, parent material and geology. Various topics may include redox features, depth to bedrock and/or limiting layers.
Embankment Tour	Pete Wurzer	TBD	Buffalo County	A tour of embankment Grade Stabilization Structures which treat small, medium and large drainage area sites while discussing facets of planning, and design for each. WASCOB, hood and drop inlet structures will be viewed and discussed.
Basic Rusle2	Brian Briski	(based on interest)	TBD	Just starting out using Rusle2. This small group training will give you the basic understanding of how Rusle2 works and basic operation. Class location and timing will be determined on interest.
Advanced Rusle2	Brian Briski	(based on interest)	TBD	Your request—Topics could include creating profiles to match combination tools, contour strip cropping, contouring, contour buffer strips, terrace, cover crops, vegetable crops, and Rusle2 Advanced functions

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Geology, Soils, and Conservation Planning	Brian Briski Tim Miland Tim Weisbrod	TBD	Barron/Rusk Landforms	The tour group drives around the area on a predefined route with the instructor pointing out geologic features of the landscape. The tour group stops at predefined locations to take soil borings in a few of the more common geologic units in the tour area. The soil types at these locations will be discussed in an attempt to tie the local geology to the soil mapped in the area AND conservation practice planning considerations that relate.
Preparation of Engineering Plans	Mary King Pete Wurzer	Early December	Altoona Area Office	Review the steps and share examples of preparing complete construction plans. Focus will be on efficiency with enough detail to allow others to be able to layout the project and a contractor to build what the designer envisioned.
Wetland Reserve Program Basics	Tim Miland Scott Stipetich Dave Jorgenson Mike Koehler	TBD	TBD	A one day course; ½ classroom and ½ field. This course will cover methods to evaluate potential sites using remote sensing techniques. We will cover the ranking sheet and basic land/landowner eligibility. Field visits will include ground truthing the properties looked at in the morning session. Hydric vegetation/soils will be a point of emphasis in the field.
Introduction to Program Policy and Manuals	Ben Zwiefelhofer	TBD	Altoona Area Office	This training is intended for soil conservationists, but anyone can attend. We will work through real case studies and how they impact program policy. We will discuss why program policy is an integral part of our day-to-day activities and how understanding program policy can help you land that District Conservationist job you always wanted. This will be a very interactive training. Length of training is 1 day.
Contract Modifications and Toolkit	Ben Zwiefelhofer Alex Dvoracek	TBD	Altoona Area Office	Discover which modifications require Toolkit changes and which do not. The answer may surprise you! We will go through how to update Toolkit while in a modification. During this training we will also cover contract cancellations and terminations. This is a 1 day training.
Program Eligibility	Ben Zwiefelhofer Brian Briski	TBD	Altoona Area Office	Learn the complexity of eligibility as it relates to land, resource concerns, participants, and program policy. We will specifically discuss Adjusted Gross Income, Historically Underserved participants, and all the forms that associated with eligibility. This will be a hands on training with case studies. This training will be a ½ day.