Nominee – Beyrer Family Farms - William (Bill), Jeconiah (Jeco), Tryston, Stephanie and children (Mazie, Milo, Molly, & Millie)
E8176 1205th Ave
Colfax, WI 54730
Nominee – Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD)
3001 US Hwy 12 East Suite 240A
Menomonie, WI 54751

1. Give a brief biographical sketch of nominee(s). Include their conservation accomplishments, community involvement, commitment to conservation and other relevant information.

   A. Conservation Accomplishments

   Red Cedar Conservation Farmers (RCCF) Board Member (Tryston)
   Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Participant (Tryston, Jeco, Bill)
   Nutrient Management Plan
   Participate in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Conservation Security Program (CSP), Managed Forest Law (MFL)
   Planted thousands of trees for many years
   Involved with the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm Soil Health and Water Quality Partnership, Great Lakes Cover Crop Project, and other small scale trials/demos through RCCF
   Community Involvement
   Mazie wrote an essay about soil for the 2026 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest
   Welcomed 18 UWRF Soil and Water Conservation Students to their farm for a field day in 2026 and all family members participated except Molly and Mazie who were at school
   Participated in a community water quality event hosted by RCCF and collaborated on a panel with a lakeshore owner and a rural landowner to consider how we can work together as a community to address water quality
   Tryston and Mazie presented at the Hay River Transition initiative Traditional and Green Skills Event with LWCD
   Tryston participated in an On-Farm Research Farmer Panel at the 2024 Wisconsin Water and Soil Heath Conference
   Tryston volunteered for the statewide Producer-Led Demonstration and Research Farmer Work Group
   Stephanie volunteers her time to help at the Colfax Fair
   Hosted DATCP Secretary Romanski for Earth Day in 2024

Beyrer Family Farms (except Tryston) with Secretary Romanski, WI Land+Water and LWCD

B. Commitment to Conservation

Beyrer Farms is always willing to try something new and then talk about what they learned from. They are one of LWCDs go to farms when a host farm is needed for different events.

2. Describe the nominee's projects and approaches to land and resource management. Include the impact on conservation and/or management of natural resources.

Beyrer Family Farms approaches land and resource management with a strong commitment to innovation, continuous learning, and practical conservation. The family is consistently willing to test new practices, evaluate results, and openly share what they learn with neighbors, researchers, and the agricultural community.

Projects

A. Nutrient Management
   - Submit and follow a NMP every year
   - Use and encourage others to use nitrogen stabilizers to decrease nitrogen
   - Willing to try different nutrient placement to best use the nutrients applied
   - Participate in NOPP research to look at the optimum nitrogen rate for corn grain. In 2025, corn yield did not show a response to nitrogen fertilizer so 2026 nitrogen rates were reduced
   - Tests manure yearly

Above, Stephanie explains about poultry manure and how she spreads it on the fields. To the left, Millie practices with a soil probe, maybe next year she can help collect soil samples.

B. Education (in addition to the things include in question 1)
   - Maintains a strong partnership with LWCD, UW- Madison, NRCS, DNR, and local agronomists to learn as much as possible from each other
   - Provides fair winning lambs to many youth in the area

- Positively represents the agricultural community
- In 2025 Mazie, Milo and Molly did the Soil Your Undies Soil Health Challenge. Mazie presented about at the RCCF Spring Grower Meeting and the Hay River Transition Initiative Traditional and Green Skills Event. Milo explained it to the UWRF Students.

Below and to left, Jeco, Bill, Milo, and Tryston explain about sheep to UWRF Soil and Water Conservation Students as Stephanie stands by ready to document it with her camera. Below and to right, Tryston explains about strip tilled corn during an RCCF field day in 2023, while Molly gives dad some support.

3. List any other specific factors why the nominee should be given this award. Include any other activities, capabilities, innovative techniques or outreach efforts where they have demonstrated leadership.

    - 2026: Presented at Spring Grower Meeting. NOPP Participant. Will be included in the 2027 Growing Wisconsin magazine feature and interviewed for a PBS documentary on Wisconsin Agriculture
    - 2025: Created a Facebook page for RCCF and co-manages the page. Phosphorus Starter Trials. Cover Crop Trials. NOPP Participant. Presented at RCCF Annual Meeting.
    - 2024: Cover Crop Trials. NOPP Participant. Spoke and did leaching demo at Spring Grower Meeting.
    - 2023: NOPP Participant.

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April 24, 2026

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for Beyrer Family Farms and their passion for agriculture and conservation. As the Research Director for the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP), I have worked with the farm through on-farm nitrogen research projects since 2023. Over that time, they have consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to innovation, stewardship, and continuous learning.

The Beyrer family has hosted multiple nitrogen rate research field trials every year since 2023, going well beyond the already extensive program research requirements. Carrying out these complex trials is no easy feat, and they took time to tailor their research to investigate relevant nitrogen management questions on their operation and in their region. These trials require intensive, season-long sampling across many plots, which the whole family approaches with dedication and enthusiasm. The Beyrer family also regularly hosts field days to share meaningful results from these trials with other farmers as an effort to provide insight into nitrogen decision-making across the state. They are also actively involved in the Red Cedar Producer-Led Watershed Group and have built a strong, collaborative relationship with the University of Wisconsin and other organizations, further demonstrating their commitment to advancing conservation and research.

The Beyrer family reflects the heart of Wisconsin agriculture, grounded in strong family values, shared land stewardship, and a genuine desire to learn and help others grow, making them a perfect candidate for Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Sincerely,

Monica Schauer
Researcher UW-Madison Dept of Soil and Environmental Sciences
Research Director NOPP
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