PENINSULA PRIDE FARMS

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
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

- 46 dairy and crop farmers
- Dairy sizes, 60 to 6,000 cows
- 34,755 cows – 50% of area cows
- 69,737 acres – 50% of tillable acres
- Supportive businesses

Mark and Lisa Schmidt family, Casco, Wis.
Members must show commitment

- Continuous improvement in farming practices
- Independent analysis of nutrient management plans
We want safe drinking water

- Focus on ground water
- Reduce pathogens
- Reduce loss of nitrogen
Well contamination scorecard

Three sampling rounds

BOVINE: 26
HUMAN: 18
BOTH: 3

QTR.: 1
TO GO: 9
My Opinion

For years we have blamed Kewaunee and Door Counties’ ground water problems on violative farming practices and failing septic systems. This is largely incorrect.

The reality is that Kewaunee and Door Counties’ ground water problems are due to farming practices and septic systems.

We live on top of a very sensitive topography. Legal, properly functioning practices and systems can still lead to contamination.

Our responsibility is to identify and implement more protective practices and more appropriately designed systems, both agricultural and residential.
Ground water projects

- **Nitrate reduction**
  UW Discovery Farms tile project

- **Pathogen reduction**
  Identify practices for new NR 151 rules
  - Center pivot irrigation
  - “Manure exchanges”
  - Digestion
  - Advanced manure (and sewage?) treatment
  - Dairy management

- **New Investigations**
  - Tile discharge analysis
  - Dairy feed supplements for pathogen reduction
‘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.”
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
“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.”
“The Door County Peninsula can have both safe, clean water and a thriving agricultural community.”