

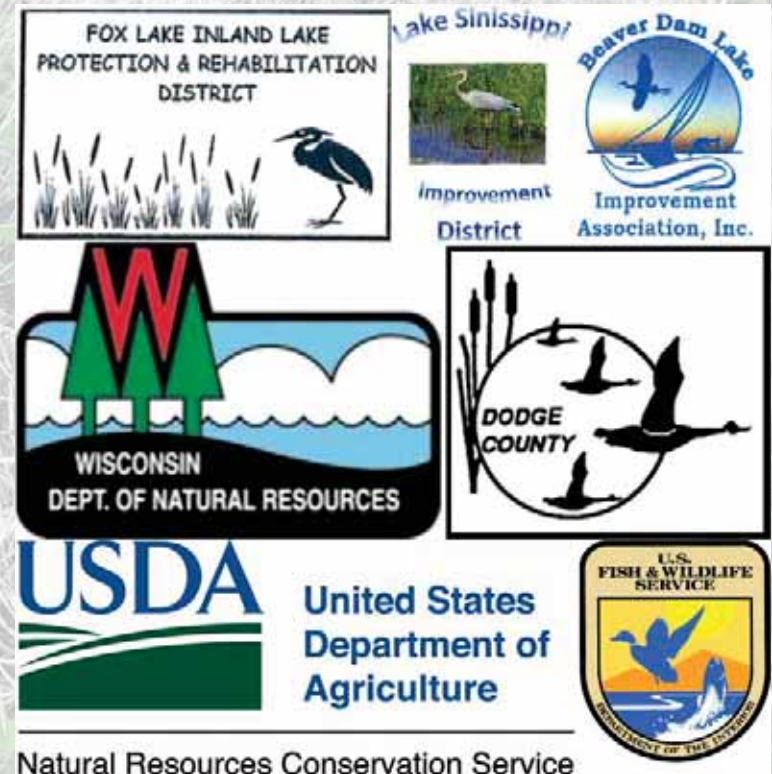


Development of Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soils and Healthy Waters

***John Bohonek – County Conservationist
Robert Bird – Conservation Agronomist***

History of the Group

- Started as the Non-Point Source Workgroup.
- 1st Meeting in 2015
 - Farmers
 - Lake Representatives
 - LCD
 - DNR
 - NRCS
 - US Fish & Wildlife
 - UW-Extension



Finding Common Ground

Lake Districts

- Improve Water Quality

Local Producers

- Improve Soil Productivity

Soil Health

Ways to Attain this Common Goal

- Conservation Practices
 - Cover Crops
 - No-Till/Strip Till
 - Manure and Nutrient Management
- Reducing:
 - Erosion
 - Phosphorus Runoff from Farm Fields to Surface Waters

Mission Statement

“Improving our Community’s Soil and Water through Conservation Practices and Education”



Website: www.DodgeCountyFarmers.com

Facebook: Dodge County Farmers Healthy Soil & Water

Tony Peirick – Chairman

Phone: (920)390-0583

Email: tspeirick@hughes.net





Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soils-Healthy Waters

& Dodge County Alliance for Healthy Soils-Healthy Waters

Lake Sinissippi



Improvement
District

FOX LAKE INLAND LAKE
PROTECTION & REHABILITATION
DISTRICT



Improvement
Association, Inc.



~ 250 Participants

1st Annual Soil Health Workshop

Feb 8-9 2017 (Day 1)



Farmer Panelists

Panel #1—Cover Crops:

Tony Peirick	Watertown
Dale Macheel	Randolph
Steve Smits/Damon Reabe	Waupun

Panel #2—No-Till/Strip Till:

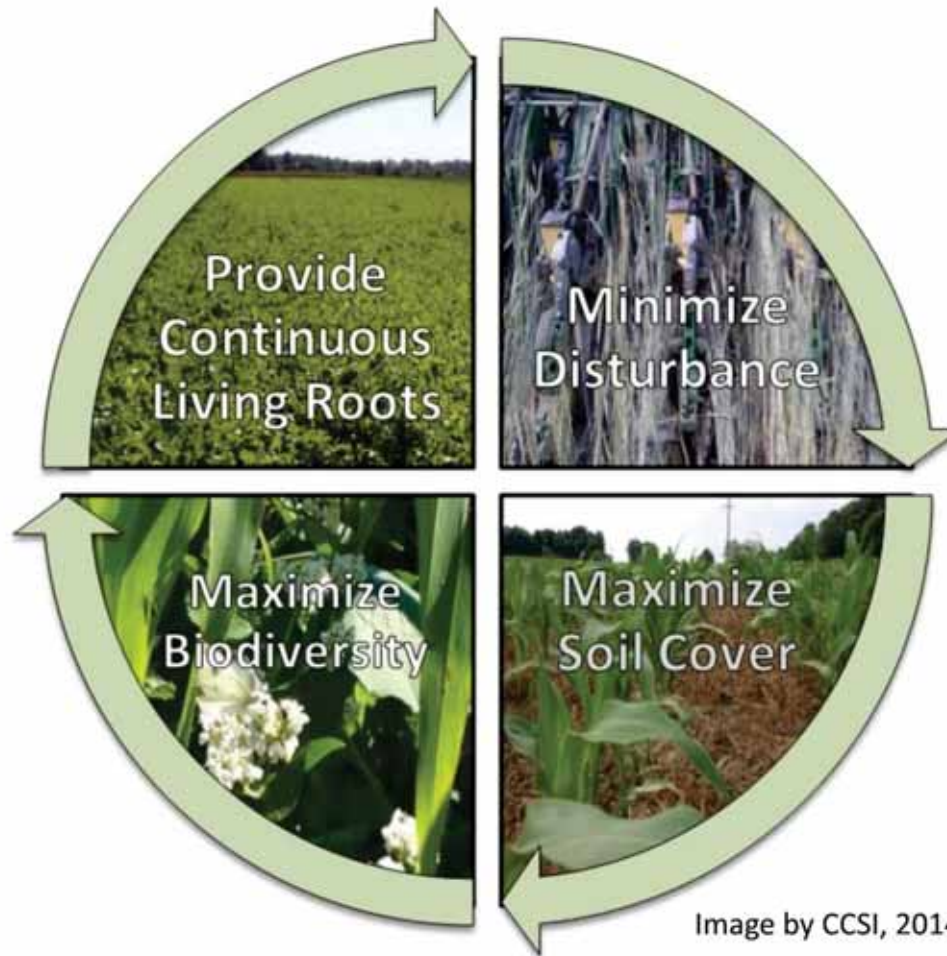
Ricky Kratz	Slinger
Jonathan Gibbs	Fox Lake
Ryan Nell	Beaver Dam

Panel #3—Manure/Nutrient Management:

John Koepke	Oconomowoc
Kevin Roche	Columbus
Jordan Crave	Waterloo

Ray Archuleta, Soil Health Expert

4 Principles of Soil Health



Soil Builders Soil Protectors

List Barriers to Implementation

Mental	Educational	Equipment/Labor	Cost/Profit
We have always done it this way-not changing	Herbicide program would have to be changed	I don't have the equipment to seed cover crops	I only have a short term lease on rented land
We are too far north for cover crops	my fertilizer dealer/agronomist doesn't recommend	shortage of labor to plant cover crops	messes with my crop insurance
Don't want to experiment-not proven	I can't convince my business partner	planned to cover crop but didn't get it done	I only have a couple years until retirement-then I will rent land
landlords don't see value in cover crops	my end goal is top yields-covers are a risk	no-till equipment too expensive to wear out planting covers	seed too expensive-can't get when I need it
cost share programs too complex	lack of local knowledge-proven methods	too many acres to cross currently without another pass planting covers	
more government telling us what to do	my field won't dry out in spring for timely planting		
I just grow corn and soybeans	Allelopathy effect of rye will hurt corn yields		
my system is fine-what more can I do	more weed problems		
I don't see the big farmers doing cover crops	costs of planting far exceed benefits of covers without cost share programs		
When people are stressed-how do we change?	If cover crops were so great, how come more don't do it		



2016-Test Plot Results of Corn following Soybeans

Acre.	Bu/Acre	% Moisture	Covers vs tillage
.73	237	16.3	Cover/ No Till
.74	244	16.0	Chisel/Cultivated
.74	249	16.5	Cover/No Till
.75	252	16.1	Cultivate
.75	249	16.7	Cover/No Till
.72	251	16.6	No Till/No cover
.72	253	16.3	Cover/ No Till





14 DAP-6-26-17



32 DAP 7-14-17



38 DAP 7-20-17



Manure



Use low disturbance injection tool to apply manure over living cover crop.



Cereal Rye cover crop planted last September after corn silage harvest

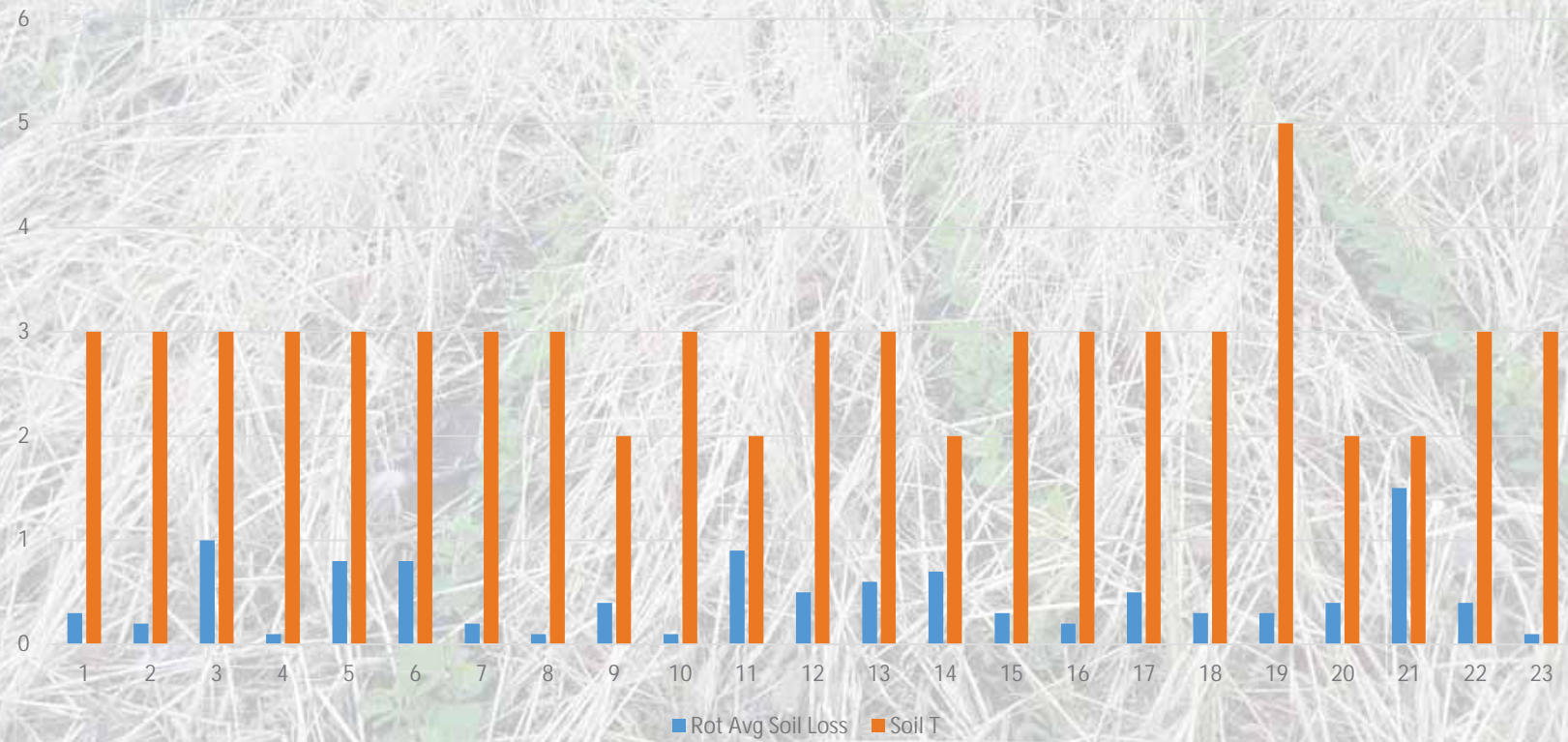


Cereal Rye cover crop planted last September after corn silage harvest



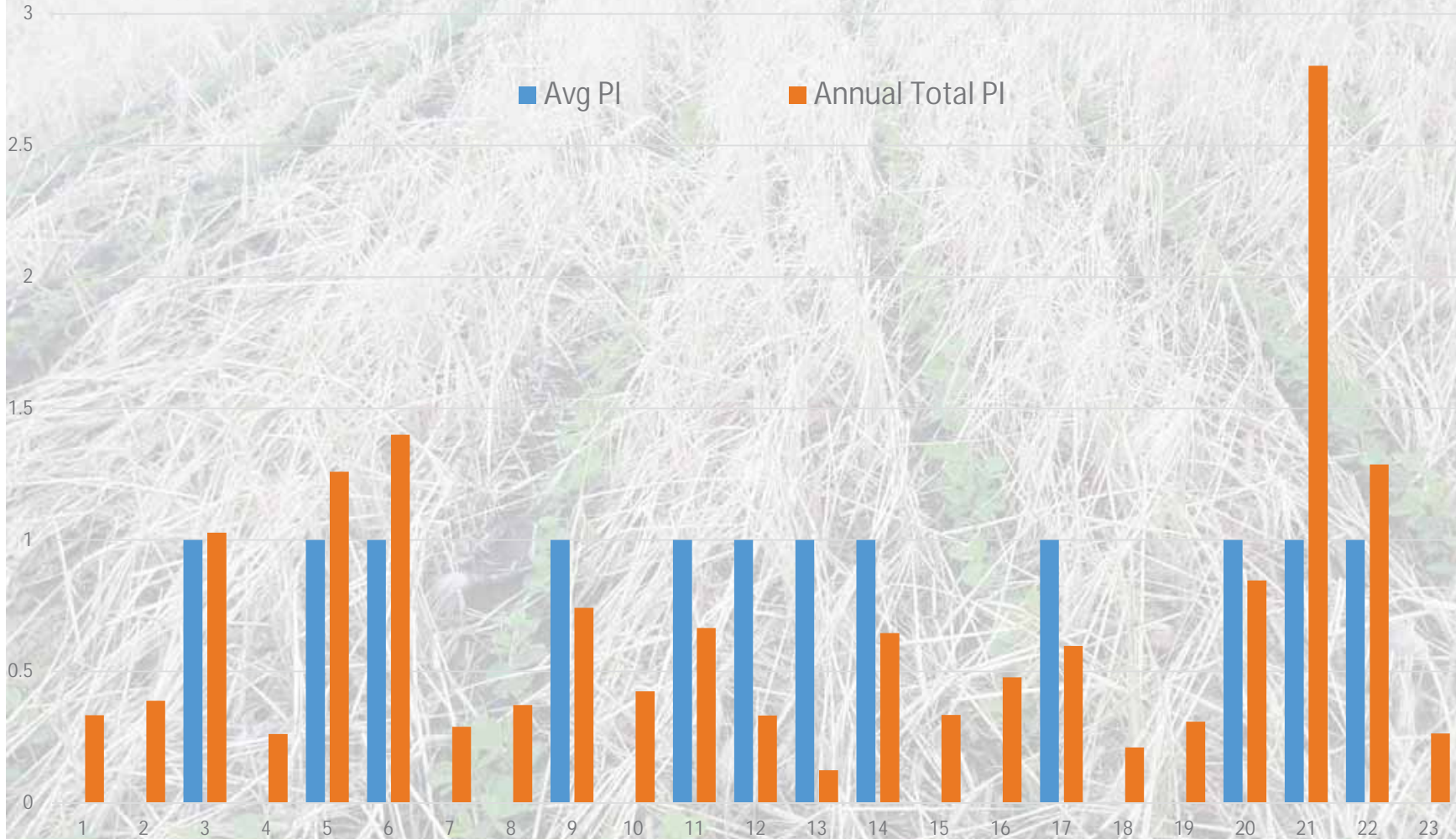
Soil Loss by Field

Soil Loss as Tons/Acre/Year



Phosphorus Index

By Field





SUMMER AFTERNOON ON BEAVER DAM LAKE WITH FARMERS



Slide: Mike Sorge, WDNR

2018 Activity and Beyond

- Group organized as 501c3 & bylaws
- On-farm research with UWEX
 - Intercropping study
 - Clover Legume Nitrogen study
- Cover Crop Cost-Share program
- Water Infiltration tests
- Nitrogen Use Efficiency study-Discovery Farms
- Possible Nitrogen Bioreactor???
- August 3 On-Farm educational event
- Fall tour
- Plan for 3rd annual winter workshop





Thank You Farmers & Partners!

Lake Groups



Agencies



Academics



Others



Photo-Content Credit:

Robert Bird; LWCD
Bill Boettge; BDLIA
Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing; UWEX
Tony Peirick; HSHW
Jared Winter; LWCD
Mike Sorge, WDNR