

FARMERS OF MILL CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL



FMCWC Newsletter

Publication - April 2024

Up the Creek ~ A Brief History of Paul J. Olson and the Wildlife Area that Bears His Name

by: Ken M. Blomberg

“The trouble with most conservationists is they are basically prophets of doom ... Doomsaying is the wrong way to attract people, certainly young people. So I am the cheerful ecologist. Let’s take the young to the hills and woods and show them the glories. There is a future ... ” – Paul J. Olson.

In the late 1800s this mostly forested area was logged off making way for emerging agricultural lands. Today, the land use in the area is predominantly utilized for agricultural purposes, with scattered parcels in western Portage and eastern Wood counties that make up the 2,995-acre Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area.

Paul J. Olson was born in 1909 in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. Polio at an early age “gave him one lame leg, but the handicap spurred him on to try harder to succeed. He taught and became a principal in the Madison School District until he retired in 1988.

In 1958, Olson observed the prairie chicken mating rituals on the Buena Vista Marsh in Portage County and was so impressed he began a mission to raise money to initially purchase 40 acres, then another 40 acres with financial help of a friend. Then he convinced a wealthy millionaire to buy additional available property. Between 1958 and 1984, Olson spearheaded raising \$140,000 to buy 5,000 acres in the Buena Vista Marsh area in Portage County. Currently nearly 12,000 acres of prairie chicken habitat is owned by the Dane County Conservation League. According to the DNR, “Paul J. Olson, the father of the Dane County Conservation League, helped generate interest and funds in the 1970s to purchase land to preserve grassland habitat for the greater prairie chicken. Land is still being purchased by the state and managed for grassland for greater prairie chickens and other grassland-dependent species.” The Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area is a 2,995-acre property. Scattered parcels range from 40 to 860 contiguous acres. The property consists of non-native, cool-season grassland and shrub-carr. (See Photo below)

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FMCWC Conservation 2024 Incentives



Council Members

John Eron
715-498-5222

Kyle Altmann
715-498-0024

Mike Berdan
715-486-6190

Tyler Bulgrin
715-897-1242

Jim Coenen
715-213-4450

Abraham Guzman
715-347-4607

Brian Otto
715-204-0521

Jeff Wiernik
715-630-8836

Dan O'Connell
Senior Conservation
Technician
Portage County Land
& Water Conservation
715-346-1334

Ken Schroeder
Portage County
Extension
Agriculture Agent
715-346-1316



The funding for these incentives comes from a Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection 2024 Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant.

Funding is limited and will be first-come, first-served. We'd appreciate any feedback you might have about other incentives you would be interested in.

Cover Crops (DATCP grant)

\$30 per acre if inter-seeded into corn or soybeans

\$25 per acre for cover crops as pollinator plantings.

\$15 per acre for cover crops

Potential exists for additional cost-share money from County Land and Water Conservation Dept. funds and Mill Creek 9-Key Element grant funds Portage Co. 715-346-1334 or Wood Co. 715-421-8475.

\$10 per acre (DATCP grant) to try no-till planting. The intent is to encourage no-till on new parcels. Potential exists for additional cost-share money from County Land and Water Conservation Dept. funds and Mill Creek 9-Key Element grant funds Portage Co. 715-346-1334 or Wood Co. 715-421-8475. There is a no-till drill available to rent from Wood County Land and Water 715-421-8475.

\$25 per acre (DATCP grant) for no-till **planting green**.

\$35 per acre (DATCP grant) for stacking conservation practices, **no-till followed by cover crops on the same field**.

\$40 per acre (DATCP grant) to host on-farm replicated strip trials with N-fixing biologicals

Note: we only have enough funds in the grant to cover the following numbers of acres and samples total.

- Single species cover crops 110 acres
- Inter-seeding cover crops 75 acres
- Pollinator and prairie plantings 10 acres
- No-Till 150 acres, *preference given to new not-till acres*
- No-Till Planting Green 200 acres
- No-Till followed by cover crops on the same field in the same year (stacking conservation practices) 180 acres.
- On-farm replicated strip trials with N-fixing biologicals 45 acres
- Supporting Farmer Education ~ \$50/farmer for 5 farmers to attend a soil & water conservation focused educational program.



Agronomic Lessons Learned from 2023: Thirsty Cover Crops

Authored by University of Wisconsin-Madison Staff & Student

- Daniel H. Smith, Nutrient and Pest Management Program Manager
- Rodrigo Werle, Weed Scientist and Extension Specialist
- Jacob Felsman, Graduate Student with the WiscWeeds Team

The 2023 growing season saw many challenges related to the lack of rainfall and timely rains.

Portions of southern Wisconsin did not receive any precipitation from May 6th until July 5th. Some areas received as much as 10 inches less than normal rainfall. This resulted in many drought stressed fields of corn and soybean. In addition to the lack of rainfall, portions of the state received a heavy dose of wildfire smoke. During the month of June, I received numerous calls, emails, and text messages regarding crop conditions and management during this time of environmental stress. Many agronomists and farmers were concerned about the lack of rainfall and how much competition had occurred from their cover crops.

Following these calls, emails, and texts, I decided to dig into this a bit deeper. This time was challenging for many of us as we saw crops struggle to develop and at one point be as much as six weeks behind in crop growth and development in the extreme field scenarios. A few field visits later with a spade I confirmed many differences in soil moisture. Surprisingly the above ground crop growth and development did not match the soil moisture levels I found with the spade scouting. After digging numerous corn plants and comparing various cropping systems I found the following field and crop conditions.



Uneven Corn Emergence in 2023
~ photo D.Smith



Corn Plants Dug 6-22-23



Rye Terminated 2 Weeks Post Planting.

A. Fields that had heavy fall/spring tillage had the most advanced crops, and a minimum of 6-inch root development. The soil was powder dry and the crop was out of soil moisture, a timely rain was desperately needed. Some areas were showing severe drought stress.

B. The fields that were no-till planted had soil moisture at about 4 inches and root development matched this, however these fields were a crop growth stage or so behind the tilled fields.

C. Fields planted into rye biomass (terminated prior to or at planting) had soil moisture in the top 2 inches of soil despite being behind the no-till and conventional till fields crop growth stage. These fields though had plenty of soil moisture to survive for a bit longer than the other two. The soil condition was what I would describe as normal.

D. Fields planted into living rye that was allowed to grow for a few weeks post planting and fields planted into ryelage harvested areas were significantly impacted by drought stress and had various crop growth stages present in the same field and some areas with limited to no crop present. Soil conditions were variable, and the crop growth stages may have been correlated to soil moisture conditions at planting and the seed's ability to access this moisture. After these field visits, I encouraged others to scout for soil moisture.

Effects of Cereal Rye Cover Cropping in a Systems-Based Approach.

Most commonly cereal rye is used as a cover prior to these grain crops. This is due to the fact cereal rye can be reliably established following grain harvest the prior fall. Cereal rye begins growing much earlier than we can plant corn and soybeans. Thus, leading to early season biomass accumulation along with nutrient and water use. This creates concerns for resource competition (in dry years) once the main crop is established into either the terminated residue or growing cover crop.

continued on next page

Since 2018, the University of Wisconsin-Madison WiscWeeds lab <https://wiscweeds.info/> under direction of Dr. Rodrigo Werle has been researching the effects of cereal rye cover cropping in a systems-based approach at the Lancaster and Arlington Research stations. These studies include treatments comparing full tillage, no-till, early season rye termination (2 weeks prior to planting), planting green, post planting rye termination (2 weeks after planting), and ryelage harvest. Into these treatments corn or soybean is established in a corn-soybean cropping system. Each year we have corn and soybean trials at the two sites and there is a preemergence vs. no preemergence herbicide application treatment. The trial has showed us the value of the preemergence herbicides in these systems although yields are not always significantly different in these treatments, weed control is significantly better with a preemergence herbicide and fewer weed seeds are produced to reduce future weed control challenges.

2023 showed us the value of termination timing for corn planted following rye. The rye competition significantly reduced yields for corn planted in the planting green, post planting rye termination (2 weeks after planting), and ryelage harvest treatments. This has been similar in years we have received closer to normal rainfall totals- corn yields can be reduced by rye biomass. In addition, the use of a preemergence herbicide is necessary to reduce further yield reductions. Soybean yield has not been significantly affected by the rye biomass until 2023. At Lancaster the rye biomass significantly reduced the yields in the later termination timings.

Take Home Points:

- Terminate rye early in drought conditions.
- In years with average or above average precipitation, terminate rye before or at corn planting, soybean yields are generally not affected by rye biomass when weeds are controlled, and an average amount of precipitation has been received.
- Use a preemergence herbicide.
- Proper soil fertility, pH, planter-set up, hybrid/variety selection, weed, insect, and disease pressure all affect yields annually.
- Agronomic systems-based management is necessary when introducing a rye cover crop and this is especially important under drought conditions.
- Be observant - go out and scout fields frequently to observe condition changes and dig up a few plants to look for soil moisture and crop growth and development.

For more information on field conditions under various cropping systems performance in the 2023 drought please see this video - <https://go.wisc.edu/9lh5vx>.



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Know what weather is headed your way! Sign up today to get weekly, in-season email updates from the Wisconsin Ag Climate Outlook by visiting <https://go.wisc.edu/ExtWIClimateOutlook>.

Each report includes helpful maps regarding temperature, precipitation, and comparisons to recent weather and climate patterns to help you make the best decisions you can around planting, irrigation, nutrient application, and more important factors in keeping your crops growing.



Funding for this newsletter was made possible, in part, by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The views expressed in written materials, publications, speakers, and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of DATCP; nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the State of Wisconsin.

2023 Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Project Summary Report

by: Ken Schroeder, Portage County Agricultural Agent

Goals for the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Project:



- Further educate farmers and their neighbors on phosphorus best management practices.
- Focus on adopting more environmentally friendly farming practices.
- The ultimate goal of the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council is to be stewards of environmental sustainability for the land and water in the watershed.

In 2023, 17 farmers of which 3 were new cooperators installed conservation practices on their farms such as no-till planting, planting of single species cover crops, inter-seeded cover crops into growing corn or soybeans, or did a pollinator habitat planting. This year several farmers took conservation farming to the next level by no-till planting green (no-tilling into a green growing cover crop) or stacking conservation practices (no-tilling their main crop followed by planting cover crops on the same fields). Cost-shared conservation practices covered more than 1,198 acres. To their credit, these farmers installed conservation practices on more acres than we had grant money to cover.

\$22,055 in cost-share funds and \$4,058 in educational materials and outreach were provided to farmers as part of this project from a Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant.

By the Numbers:

- 290 acres no-till planting cost-shared in 2023
- 84 acres no-till planting green cost-shared
- 552 acres single species cover crops cost-shared
- 91 acres cover crops inter-seeded into growing corn or soybeans cost-shared
- 200 acres stacking conservation practices (no-till followed by cover crops in the same year)
- 25 acres nitrogen-fixing biological demonstration plot
- Hosted the Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Festival April 16th. 225 attendees learned about the prairie chickens in central Wisconsin along with learning about prairie plants, pollinators, and the Farmers of Mill Creek youth education project.
- Hosted a youth education on-farm field day in May where youth learned about soil health, cover crops, prairie and pollinator plantings, and groundwater. 25 first graders plus 5 adult chaperones attended.
- Hosted a Field Day December 13th where 100 farmers, agribusiness professionals, youth, and area residents learned about conservation activities in the Mill Creek watershed, cover crop overseeding, roller crimping rye, and viewed fall overseeded cover crop fields. 54 of the 100 attendees were youth from 3 area High Schools.

Published April, and September 2023 Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council newsletters. This newsletter provides educational content on agricultural conservation practices that reduce the environmental impact of agriculture. Distributed to over 400 Mill Creek farmers, agribusiness professionals, and stakeholders. View Farmers of Mill Creek Newsletters at <https://go.wisc.edu/6a5d3f>.

Farmers of Mill Creek Annual Project Update and Field Tours

by: Ken Schroeder, Portage County Agricultural Agent

The Farmers of Mill Creek Annual Project Update Lunch was held December 13, 2023, at Eron's Event Barn. Field tours followed focusing on over-seeding fall cover crops, no-tilling alfalfa, and the Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area management. Light snow was provided for the event to keep with our long-standing tradition. The temperature, however, was more mild than previous years. Attendees included area farmers, 54 students from 3 area high schools, agribusiness professionals, and other local stakeholders.

In the Barn – A great lunch of mashed potatoes with beef tips and gravy was enjoyed by all followed by several presentations and a questions and answer session with farmers and local project supporters.



Auburndale HS and John Eron Talking About Prairie Chicken Blind Construction Project



Q And A with Rick Georgeson, Pete Arntsen, Tyler Bulgrin, and John Eron

In the Field – We stopped at the Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area followed by a corn silage field to look at cover crops overseeded before silage harvest. Next, we viewed a beautiful stand of alfalfa that was no-till planted earlier in the year. Our last stop focused on overseeded cereal rye into standing grain corn.



High School Students Learning about Paul J Olson Wildlife Area Management Efforts by Farmers of Mill Creek



Dustin Discussing Cereal Rye Overseeded into Corn



Tyler Talking About No Till Alfalfa



Clearing Snow to Look at Cover Crop Mix Over-Seeded into Corn Silage

THANK YOU

Dear Ken,
 Thank you for including our
 Students in the Farmers of Mill
 Creek Agriculture Day. The opportunity
 for our students to learn from
 experts in the field and participate
 hands on is so valuable. Please
 share our gratitude with others
 involved in the day.
 Sincerely,
 Cotton Selenik & AHS

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Sun Setting Over Cereal Rye Field ~ photo T Arnold

Many thanks to Eron's Event Barn for hosting the lunch program and the presenters for the program, especially the Auburndale students. Thanks also to our field tour hosts Roth Golden Acres LLC., Dustin Albert, and Tyler Bulgrin for sharing their experiences with the group. After all, there is no better way to learn than from experience.

Consider No-Till and Reduced Tillage to Save Money, Time, and Soil

by: Ken Schroeder, Portage County Agricultural Agent

Benefits of No-Till.

Reductions in soil and nutrient losses along with improved soil health.

Studies indicate that reduced tillage systems increase crop residue cover and reduce soil erosion while having minimal effect on crop yields. Paul Jasa, Extension Engineer with the University of Nebraska Lincoln in a March 2018 article Building Resilient Soil Systems using Residue, No-till, and Cover Crops stated that crop residue management, no-till crop production, and cover crops are important methods to reduce wind and water erosion, decrease runoff along with potential nutrient losses and evaporation, and improve soil health for a more resilient soil. Paul goes on to say, “a well-structured, healthy soil has better infiltration and enhanced moisture storage capacity, making it more resilient to weather variability”. Research at the UNL Rogers Memorial Farm near Lincoln demonstrated that water infiltration improves with improved soil structure of continuous no-till thus reducing runoff. Jasa found a much greater water infiltration rate for no-till of over 4 inches per hour, compared to tilled conditions with only 0.4 inches per hour after 25 years of continuous tillage system evaluation. This makes for a much more resilient system capable of withstanding recent trends where we get more than one inch of rain per hour.



No-Till Planting Corn

Reductions in annual fuel costs, labor costs, and time.

According to a March 2016 report by Gregory Ibendahl, Kansas State University, “Farms practicing 100% no-till tend to have both higher yields and greater profitability than farms that practice some level of tillage.” Mahdi Al-Kaisi, Iowa State University, reported that in his 16-year long-term tillage studies soybeans in no-till performed as good as or better than conventional tillage systems. Kaisi’s research shows a reduction of \$15-30/acre in input costs with no-till compared to conventional tillage systems. According to Jodi Dejong-Hughes, University of Minnesota and Aaron Daigh North Dakota State University in a recently published article Economics of Tillage, tillage costs per acre for a two-year corn and soybean rotation ranged from \$29 for strip-till to \$48 for a fall disk rip and chisel plow rotation. That is a savings of \$19 per acre with strip-till compared to disk rip and chisel. These results are from three years of on-farm research conducted in west-central Minnesota from 2010 to 2012. Savings come in the form of less fuel used, less labor, and less equipment.



No-Till Corn

So how does this stack up on your farm?

As you prepare for planting season it is always good to consider your cost-of-production. Especially when margins are looking like they will be tight again this year. Are there ways you may be able to trim your costs without taking a hit on production? Have you considered what each tillage pass across the field is costing you and is that pass really necessary?

To compare scenarios of no-till to 1, 2, 3 or more tillage passes and see how that effects your bottom line you can use the Crop Budget Analyzer with Cover Crop and Tillage Comparison Excel Spreadsheet developed by UW-Extension Crops and Soils Educators Anne Pfeiffer, Michael Balweg, and Ken Schroeder. The beauty of this spreadsheet is that you can make side-by-side comparisons of Conventional Systems with Conservation Tillage and Cover Cropping systems. It is a simple-to-use spreadsheet where you can enter your own costs for fertilizer, herbicides, expected yields and selling price, etc. and it will calculate a net return per acre for you. The spreadsheet can be downloaded from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Crops and Soils website <https://go.wisc.edu/w7rt84>.

Example – Corn for Grain: Comparing No-Till with 3 tillage passes (fall chisel, spring disc, and field cultivator). Using the USDA NASS averages for Wisconsin of 176 bu./acre yield, selling price at \$4.50/bu., and cash rent of \$151/acre. Tillage costs are based on custom rates.

See results at right. All else being equal, one could potentially take home an extra \$49 per acre using no-till. This is a very simplified example and I realize that one may likely use a different herbicide program along with other variables when doing no-till. The beauty is that you can download the spreadsheet and use all your own expected costs and returns. Enjoy!

Crop Budget Analyzer - No Till

<https://go.wisc.edu/w7rt84>

92	Total Direct Production Inputs		306.08		306.08
93					
94	Field Operations	Tillage		No-Till	
95	Seed bed prep and plant	Number of Tillage trips	\$ per acre	Number of Tillage trips	\$ per acre
98	Plow, chisel	1	20.00		0.00
99	Disc	1	16.00		0.00
100	Field cultivator	1	15.00		0.00
101	Vertical tillage		0.00		0.00
102	Strip tillage		0.00		0.00
103	Conventional planting	1	20.00		0.00
104	No-till planting		0.00	1	22.50
106					
107	Cover crop establishment	\$/acre		\$/acre	
108	Cover crop seed		0.00		0.00
112	Drill, conventional		0.00		0.00
113	Drill, no-till		0.00		0.00
114	Interseeder		0.00		0.00
115	Arial		0.00		0.00
116	Broadcast		0.00		0.00
118	Total Tillage		71.00		22.50
119					
120	Other Expenses	Unit		Unit	
121	Combine	1 acre	35.00	1 acre	35.00
122	Grain Drying	5 % need to dry	44.00	5 % need to dry	44.00
123	Trucking	1 acre	26.40	1 acre	26.40
124	Crop Insurance	1 acre	30.00	1 acre	30.00
125	Land Rent	1 acre	151.00	1 acre	151.00
126	Interest: 8 mths @1%/m	8 months interes	25.62	8 months interes	24.85
127	Storage	3 # months in stc	21.12	3 # months in stc	21.12
128	Total Other Expenses		333.14		332.37
129					
130	Expenses-Grand Total		710.22		660.94
131					
132	Income				
133	Crop Produced	Yield per acre	Gross Ret/Acre	Yield per acre	Gross Ret/Acre
134	Corn	176.00 bu/acre	\$792.00	176.00 bu/acre	\$792.00
135	Cover crop as forages	Tons DM/acre	0.00	0.00 Tons DM/acre	0.00
136	Cover Crops/Grazing		0.00		0.00
137					
138	Cover crop payments/cost share				
139	NRCS/EQIP	# acres or 1 for	0.00	# acres or 1 for	0.00
140	DATCP -farmer led groups	# acres or 1 for	0.00	# acres or 1 for	0.00
143	Net Return/Acre		\$81.78	Net Return/Acre	\$131.06

Conservation Farming – Wood County’s No-Till Drill and Roller Crimper



Are you interested in conservation farming practices but don't know where to start? Look no further! The Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) has both a roller crimper and no-till drill available for rent. In 2023, our no-till drill and roller crimper were used on 534 acres throughout Wood and surrounding counties. This is a great opportunity to try out new equipment as well as get to know your local Land & Water contacts.

Roller crimping can be a great way to mechanically terminate annual cover crops while they are in the “boot” stage. Roller crimping can be a way to minimize or eliminate your use of herbicides as a mean of cover crop termination. Wood County LWCD’s roller crimper is 12’6” wide and has a 3 pt pull-behind that requires a loader to attach. It requires a 75-90 hp tractor and costs \$50 plus \$5 per acre to rent.

Our no-till drill can be used for a range of services, including planting cover crops, soybeans, small grains, forage crops, inter-seeding hay fields, native pollinator plantings and more. Our 10’ wide Great Plains no-till drill allows you to plant without disturbing the soil, reducing soil loss and keeping microbial communities intact, allowing you to build soil health. The no-till drill requires a 70 hp tractor and costs \$80 plus \$8 per acre to rent. If you would like to rent both the roller crimper and no-till drill, the cost is \$100 plus \$10 per acre.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit our website or give us a call at 715-421-8475, or visit

<https://go.wisc.edu/110t52>.





A4137



Grain Management Considerations *in Low-Margin Years*

Producing grain in years when profit margins are low can be extremely challenging. When managing complicated agricultural production problems, we are tempted to find a silver bullet, a one-stop shop, a cure-all or just some good old luck!

But we know better.

The first thing to remember is to stay focused on the data you have in hand and systematically consider your inputs and goals. Some decisions can be made in the off-season (ex., variety/hybrid choice), while some can only be made in-season (ex., to spray an insecticide or not). Regardless of when decisions need to be made, it is important that those decisions are based on data* and/or experience that has been proven to be profitable on your farm or on farms in a similar environment.

Resist the temptation to buy an untested solution that promises to improve yield.

What follows below and is expanded on in the following pages are considerations to help you make informed decisions about your production system in a low-margin production year.

* replicated research data from a trusted source

<p>Start with recent soil tests to make decisions on profitable soil fertility management.</p>	<p>Choose a variety or hybrid that performs well in multi-location performance trials and optimize its management for your farm.</p>		<h2 style="text-align: center;">PEST MANAGEMENT</h2>	
<p>Optimize seeding rates for your variety/hybrid.</p>	<p>CROPPING</p>	<p>Rotate crops.</p>		
<p>Use the technology that you already have.</p>		<p>Negotiate lower cash rent based on yield history and price expectations, along with your own costs</p>		<p>Know your own cost of production based on your input prices and rates, your machinery operations, your land rents and custom services.</p>
<p>ECONOMIC</p>				

View or download this publication at <https://go.wisc.edu/34j811>.

UW–Madison Extension Badger Crop Connect Webinar Series

Badger Crop Connect is a free webinar series every second and fourth Wednesday 12:30 p.m. during the growing season (April - Oct.) that connects farmers and ag professionals directly to research, resources, and strategies to optimize crop yield, quality, and profitability.

The series provides timely, relevant crop and soil updates, agronomic considerations related to weather and climate, research-backed resources, and more to ensure farmers are as up to date as possible about the multitude of factors affecting their crop season.

To join industry experts, UW–Madison researchers, and Extension specialists, and Extension educators register at <https://go.wisc.edu/badgercropconnect>.

Badger Crop Connect

Relevant Research, Resources, & Strategies
to Help you Optimize Crop Yield

Join Extension educators and specialists, UW–Madison researchers, and industry experts for discussion on timely, relevant topics for farmers and growers in Wisconsin.

Second and fourth Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.
April through October via Zoom

go.wisc.edu/BadgerCropConnect



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Whether you're deciding if strip-till is right for your farm operation or looking for ways to improve your current system, you'll get an abundance of valuable field-proven techniques and new connections during the learning intensive 2024 National Strip-Tillage Conference on August 8-9, 2024, in Madison, Wis.

To register and download the full event program
visit StripTillConference.com!



Madison, Wis.



StripTillConference.com

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Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council
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Paul J. Olson continued

Olson was one busy man. He was president of the Prairie Chicken Foundation for 20 years and long-time secretary of the Dane County Conservation League. He also served on the state Conservation Commission from 1959 to 1982. For 18 years he was president and founding member of the Wisconsin chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He also helped raise \$2 million and acquired several unspoiled parcels elsewhere in the state - including Chiwaukee Prairie in Kenosha County, Baster Hollow in Baraboo Hills, Toft Point in Door County and Ferry's Bluff in Sauk County.

In 1982, the Wisconsin DNR Board named a 4,000-acre tract of grassland in central Wisconsin's Mead Wildlife Area the "Paul J. Olson Area". In 1989, Olson was inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

"The most potent combination of education and conservation in Wisconsin is found in the person of Paul J. Olson." ~ Wisconsin State Journal - 1982

