

# NCDEA Update

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May 30, 2006

## ***Paul Daigle honored at Year of Soil Celebration***

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight presented the 2006 Excellence in Conservation Award to Paul Daigle of Marathon County during Wisconsin's "2006 Year of the Soil" event at the state Capitol on May 16, 2006.



As a conservation specialist for the Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department for 15 years, he has assisted farmers in Lincoln and Marathon counties to plan, design and carry out conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff on private agricultural land. Though Daigle focuses on grazing, he encourages farmers to treat all the natural resource concerns on their farm—wetlands, streams, woodlands and croplands. He has spent most of his career helping farmers develop grazing plans, increasing the use of no-till drills on pastureland, and holding numerous educational pasture walks and annual winter conferences to teach farmers about good grazing practices. Nearly 200 farmers now practice managed grazing in Lincoln and Marathon counties compared with six farmers in 1993. Daigle also helped to create an "Incubator Farm Program" that will link beginning farmers interested in grazing with retiring farmers who practice grazing.

Daigle also practices good conservation on his family farm. He and his six brothers have planted more than 60,000 trees on the 340 acres of forestland they own in Tomahawk. Congratulations Paul!

"Paul has made a tremendous contribution to conservation by protecting the soil, keeping nutrients on the pastures, and keeping families on the farms in Wisconsin," said Knight. "His outstanding commitment to grazing land conservation demonstrates his love of the land and serves as a testament to the spirit of this award."