



DISCOVERY FARMS PARTNERS

# MARATHON COUNTY

Marathon County Conservation Planning and Zoning  
Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation  
(EPPIC Farmer-Led Watershed Group)



In 2021, Discovery Farms® established a partnership with the Marathon County Conservation Planning and Zoning Department and the Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation (EPPIC) Farmer-Led Watershed Group. This partnership was established to evaluate the impact of regenerative agriculture practices on surface water quality. Two edge-of-field monitoring stations are installed and will remain in place for multiple years. Stations collect runoff water from monitored basins with remote technical assistance from the United States Geological Survey. The water samples are collected and shipped to the University of Stevens Point Water and Environmental Analysis Lab where they are analyzed for soil, phosphorus, and nitrogen content.

Monitoring stations are located in Marathon County on two dairy farms. Miltrim Farms Inc. milks 2,500 cows in two barns including a robot milking facility and a parlor. This farm has made conservation a priority on their 4,800 acres of cropland. Cover crops and low disturbance manure application will be practices of focus on the monitoring basin.

Van Langen Dairy is a grazing dairy where 125 cows are milked utilizing robots. The monitoring station is located on a pasture where cows graze from early spring to late fall when adequate forage is available.

For many years, Discovery Farms and Marathon County have had conversations about monitoring water quality. This new partnership turns those conversations into reality. Local partners collect water samples and maintain monitoring sites which is a crucial piece of why this project works because of lack of Discovery Farms staff in the area.

Discovery Farms partners from EPPIC are hoping to provide tangible data that can be used to interpret the effectiveness of grazing, cover crops, and low disturbance manure application on water quality. This data will be turned into resources available for farmers, community members, policymakers and beyond. EPPIC is a group that formed with the intention of finding solutions to water health and soil quality issues in the Big Eau Pleine Watershed of Wisconsin.

[www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org](http://www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org)

**See real time data:**

[www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org/usgs-real-time-data](http://www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org/usgs-real-time-data)

