

# ADVANCING REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE ACROSS THE LAKE MICHIGAN BASIN



MAY 2022

An in-field demonstration led by Sand County Foundation to provide farmers with management metrics that can result in conservation incentive payments.



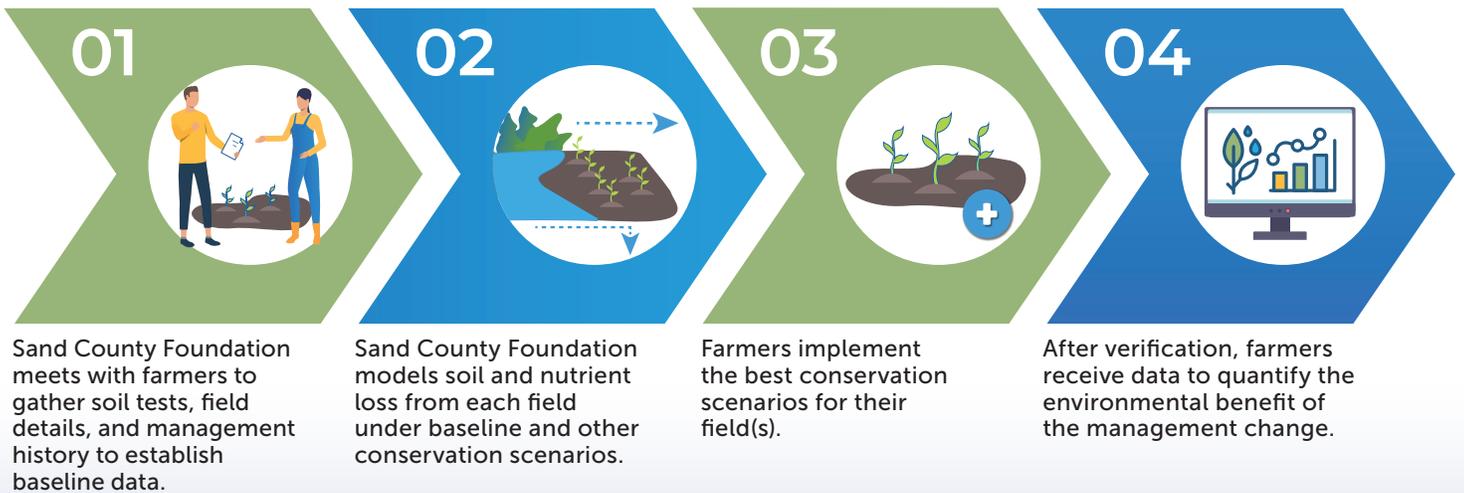
Sand County Foundation is seeking 25 farmers who have been considering regenerative agriculture management. Farmers will receive assistance to compare conservation options that maximize environmental and agronomic benefits!

## Project Background

Sand County Foundation is leading a project through 2023, to increase implementation of conservation practices on farmland within the Great Lakes Basin. The goal is to build the soil's resiliency to drought or flood conditions, while

reducing the loss of valuable nutrients and soil that may ultimately enter our waterways.

Sand County Foundation is prioritizing fields in Columbia, Fond Du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Waushara, Washington, and Winnebago counties.



### Scenario Evaluation

The approach is tailored to each farmer’s goals. Sand County Foundation will meet with each farmer to discuss their whole farm operation to evaluate the effectiveness of implementing varying management scenarios on different fields to maximize environmental and agronomic benefits. This “performance-based conservation” gives each farmer options based on data. We will consider conservation management such as reducing tillage, adding cover crops, alternative crop rotations, rotational grazing, fertilizer and manure nutrient management (i.e., timing, placement, rate), and increasing perennial vegetation or wildlife habitat with the adoption of prairie strips or vegetated buffers.

SnapPlus, Wisconsin’s nutrient management planning software, will be used to track and model changes in soil and nutrient field losses based on the selected conservation scenarios.

### Collaboration Benefits

Sand County Foundation and our partners will work with each farmer to provide technical support. This creates flexibility to implement voluntary changes that work best for each farm’s management. We will discuss incentive opportunities with each farmer to identify possible funding for the soil and water quality improvements they are making.

Although data will be aggregated to share result summaries publicly, privacy will be protected throughout the process and we will discuss with each farmer how this is ensured.

**If you are interested in learning more, or are part of a demonstration network or farmer-led group that would like to hear about options, please contact:**

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**NFWF**



**United States Department of Agriculture**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**



**General Mills**

This project is supported by a public-private partnership between General Mills, NRCS and NFWF and is designed to sustain, restore and protect fish, wildlife and habitat by leveraging funding, building conservation capacity, and focusing partners and resources toward key ecological issues utilizing the leveraged resources. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and its funding sources. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government, or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation or its funding sources.



**Sand County Foundation** inspires and empowers a growing number of private landowners to ethically manage natural resources in their care, so future generations have clean and abundant water, healthy soil to support agriculture and forestry, plentiful habitat for wildlife and opportunities for outdoor recreation.