

YEAR 4 ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT SUMMARY



Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance (LASA) is a farmer-led conservation group that promotes farm conservation practices in southwestern Wisconsin to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. LASA members have grown from 22 to 36 farms since 2018.

Data was collected and analyzed from 15 farmers for four years (2019-2022) to demonstrate the impact of local conservation on sustainability, farm finances and local water resources. The project is the first Farm-Level Sustainability Project, developed and supported by the group, Farmers for Sustainable Food and other partners.

PROJECT SAMPLING



15 farms



40,000 acres

Project will have 5 years of data to share in

2024

FIELDPRINT ON-FARM SUSTAINABILITY 4-YEAR AVERAGES



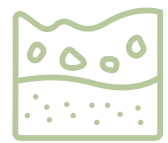
74% of reported acreage has mitigated the risk of excessive loss of nitrogen to subsurface.



123,307 btu/ton for corn silage, **61% lower/better energy use** than national indicator.



Project farms use 35% less acreage to produce 1 ton of corn silage when compared to state benchmark.

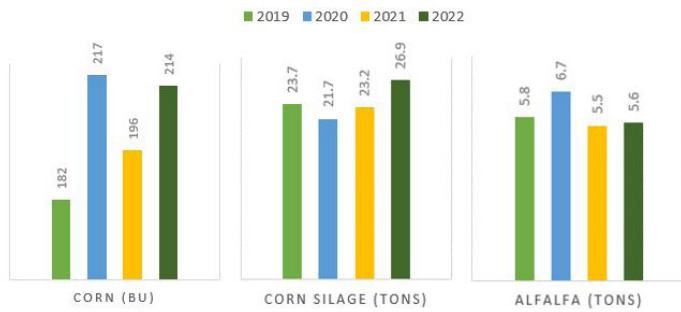


1.6 tons/ac/year of soil erosion, **54% lower than state averages for corn grain.**

65% Conservation practices implemented by LASA farmers have increased by 65% since 2018.

FARM FINANCIALS 4-YEAR AVERAGE

4YR YIELD COMPARISON PER ACRE



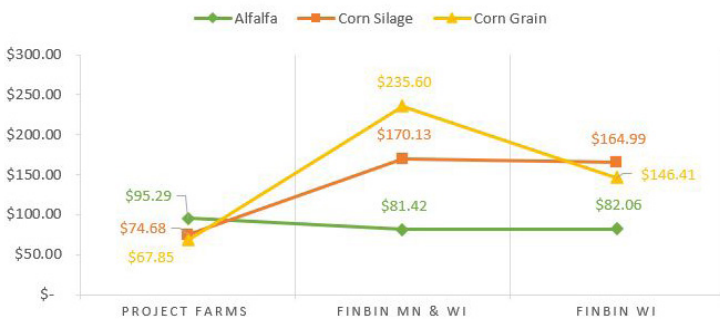
Four-year average crop yields per acre have increased for all LASA project farms compared to the average WI farm:

- Corn yield of 202 bu vs. 183 bu = **10.4 % increase**
- Corn silage yield of 23.9 ton vs. 23.3 ton = **2.6% increase**
- Alfalfa yield of 5.9 ton vs. 5.6 ton = **5.4% increase**

Implementing environment-friendly practices into cropping systems results in:

- **Yield advantage**
- **Profitable net return per acre**
- Positive on-farm sustainability metrics

4YR AVERAGE NET RETURN PER ACRE



Whole farm analysis:

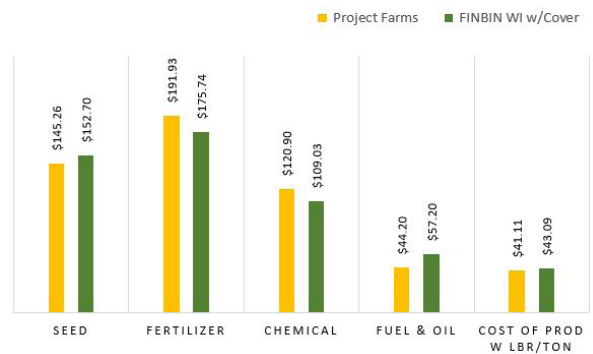
LASA project farms show **stronger current ratios**, 165% greater, **and term debt coverage ratios**, 52.6% greater, than average farms in WI.

All farms are above the industry benchmarks. Current ratio indicates farms can pay bills as they come due within 12 months. Term debt coverage ratio indicates farms have the ability to make intermediate and long-term debt payments.

4YR AVERAGE LIQUIDITY & REPAYMENT CAPACITY RATIOS



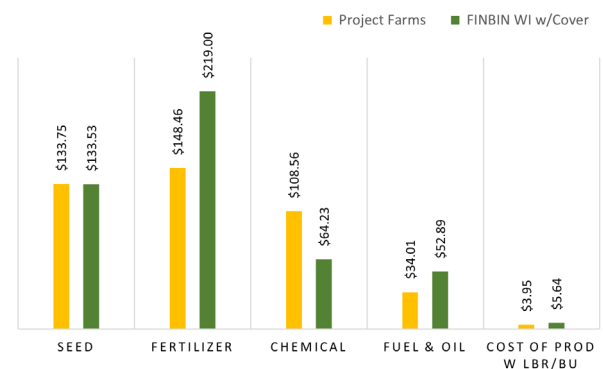
2022 CORN SILAGE DIRECT EXPENSES



Corn Silage

- Fertilizer and chemical costs increase by 9.2% and 10.9% respectively.
- Seed and fuel/oil costs decreased by 4.9% and 22.7% respectively.
- Resulting in **decreased cost of production per ton by 4.6%**

2022 CORN GRAIN DIRECT EXPENSES



Corn Grain

- Seed and chemical costs increase by 0.2% and 69.1% respectively.
- Fertilizer and fuel/oil costs decreased by 32.2% and 35.7% respectively.
- Resulting in **decreased cost of production per bushel by 30.0%**