



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Maryanne O'Dowd
maryanne.odowd@lwvdoorcounty.org
224-612-3510

MEDIA INTERVIEWS: Virge Temme
virgiegirl53@gmail.com
920-559-0652

WHAT'S THE 'BIG STINK?' EXPERTS DISCUSS MANURE MANAGEMENT AT APRIL 23 PUBLIC FORUM

New LWVDC study dispels misconception, reveals good news about local soil/water health

DOOR COUNTY, WI, March 29, 2024 – Insights from a comprehensive study of manure management by the natural resources committee of the [League of Women Voters of Door County](https://www.lwvdoorcounty.org) will be presented at a public forum, *The Big Stink: Manure Management and Water Quality in Door County*, featuring regulatory, farming and environmental experts April 23, 6:30 p.m. at Crossroads at Big Creek, 2041 Michigan Street, Sturgeon Bay.

Door County is home to more than 200 agricultural operations, many fertilizing their crops with organic materials generated by farm animals. The practice, known as manure spreading, increases crop yields, helps reduce farm waste and is often a confusing and contentious topic, according to Virge Temme, chair of the LWVDC's natural resources committee and moderator of the upcoming forum.

"There's more than meets the eye – and nose, when it comes to manure spreading," Temme said.

"The practice is not without risks because manure contains phosphorous, a naturally occurring mineral that in high concentrations can cause a complex network of problems to soil and water systems," Temme added. Overuse of the practice can result in contamination of surface waters and ground waters, threatening the health of wells and waterways by promoting growth of unwanted algae, water plants and bacteria, according to Temme.

LWVDC initiated a study to better understand the state of Door County's soil and water quality, dispel possible misconceptions and shine a light on the issues. Over the past six months, members of the natural

resources committee interviewed local environmentalists, county soil specialists, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulators, commercial manure spreading operators and farmers.

“Our study revealed some good news about local soil and water health as well as the risk-mitigating steps being taken by the local farm community and regulatory agencies,” Temme said.

Experts scheduled to speak at the forum include:

- Duane Ducat, Deer Run Dairy, Kewaunee, WI, president, Peninsula Pride Farms
- Jeremy Heims, Heims Hilcrest Dairy, Algoma, WI; board of directors Wisconsin Custom Operators, Peninsula Pride Farms and Professional Nutrient Applicators Association of Wisconsin
- James Salscheider, wastewater specialist, Door, Brown and Kewaunee Counties and Wisconsin DNR
- Timothy Dahl, conservationist, Door County Soil and Water
- Sara Fry, private water reporting and enforcement coordinator, Wisconsin DNR
- Dean Hoegger, president and executive director, Clean Water Action Council

Forum attendees will learn about many facets of soil and water management, such as: reasons for using organic materials to nourish soil and grow crops; rules and regulations affecting manure spreading; steps taken by farmers to guard against over application and runoff while maintaining crop yields; monitoring and enforcement by local government; current and emerging concerns around phosphorus contamination.

A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation. The forum is free, and reservations are not required. More information at lwvdoorcounty.org.

###

About the League of Women Voters Door County

About the League of Women Voters Door County Founded in 1952 by Sturgeon Bay resident Jay Jacquelyn (Draeb) Bass, Mary Berg, Eunice Schlitz and several others, the League of Women Voters Door County is the local chapter of a national nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. It does not support or oppose any political party or endorse candidates. LWVDC has three separate and distinct roles: Voter Service – To make voting easier through varied voter education programs and encouraging citizen participation Citizen Education & Studies - To study national, state, and local issues in an unbiased manner and provide information on how citizens can influence public policy Action/Advocacy – To take a stand on issues when supported by league positions. For more information, to volunteer or donate visit lwvdoorcounty.org