

# NAICC AND WSSA WISCONSIN FARM TOUR

SEPT 3-5 2024



# BACKGROUND

- ▶ NAICC MEMBERS MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE ESA TEAM AT EPA DURING OUR CAPITAL HILL VISITS IN 2022, 2023 AND 2024. JAN MATUSZKO SPOKE AT THE NAICC ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO LAST YEAR.
- ▶ DURING OUR 2024 DC TRIP, WE MET WITH 7 USFWS STAFF AT THEIR OFFICE.
- ▶ WE ALSO VISITED WITH WSSA AND SEVERAL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE PLUGGED INTO THE ESA TOPIC.
- ▶ NAICC PROPOSED A WISCONSIN FARM TOUR FOR EPA AND USFWS STAFF TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2024. WSSA ASKED TO PARTNER WITH US TO PLAN AND SPONSOR THE TOUR. FEAE WAS ABLE TO PAY THE COSTS WHICH ENABLED AGENCY STAFF TO PARTICIPATE. THE PARTNERSHIP WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

# GOALS:

- ▶ FOSTER OPEN COMMUNICATION TO IMPROVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF ESA ISSUES BETWEEN EPA, USFWS, NAICC MEMBERS AND FARMERS
- ▶ ASK EACH GROUP THESE OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS:  
**WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? , HOW DO WE GET THERE?**
- ▶ SHOW THE AGENCIES SEVERAL THINGS FARMS ARE ALREADY DOING FOR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT
- ▶ SHOWCASE AN EXISTING MODEL OF FARMER-TO-FARMER EDUCATION THAT MIGHT FIT TO FACILITATE FARMER ADOPTION OF THE ESA PESTICIDE RULES.
- ▶ EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATING ON PILOT PROJECT(S)

# PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ 8 NAICC MEMBERS ACCOMPANIED THE FULL TOUR. 8 ADDITIONAL NAICC MEMBERS SPOKE AT VARIOUS STOPS.
- ▶ 2 FEAE BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDED THE FULL TOUR
- ▶ 5 WSSA BOARD MEMBERS AND 2 FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS
- ▶ 7 EPA STAFF FROM DC
- ▶ 3 REGIONAL USFWS STAFF
- ▶ TOUR STOPS INCLUDED PRESENTATIONS FROM REGIONAL NRCS AND UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION SPECIALISTS. OVER 80 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE EVENT.

# TOUR STOPS

- ▶ GREAT LAKES AG RESEARCH SERVICE NEAR DELAVAN WISCONSIN. DISCUSSED EASTERN MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE HABITAT.
- ▶ FOND DU LAC AREA GRAIN FARM WITH PRAIRIE AND POLLINATOR PLANTINGS. FARM INCLUDES RUSTY PATCHED BUMBLE BEE PESTICIDE USE LIMITATION AREAS (PULA)
- ▶ COLOMA FARMS - POTATO AND CANNING CROP FARM NEAR COLOMA. DISCUSSION ABOUT USING FIELD EDGE WINDBREAKS AND PIVOT CORNERS FOR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT.
- ▶ A CRANBERRY FARM AND RESEARCH STATION NEAR WARREN. DISCUSSION ABOUT SPRAY BUFFERS AND WINDBREAKS.
- ▶ THE WINFIELD UNITED WIND TUNNEL FACILITY NEAR RIVER FALLS TO DISCUSS DRIFT RETARDANT ADJUVANTS AND NOZZLE SELECTION

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ EPA HAS BEEN IS VERY OPEN TO INPUT AND ADDING NEW MITIGATION PRACTICES
- ▶ USFWS STAFF WAS VERY ENGAGED AND REALISTIC ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. THEY EXPRESSED A GENUINE INTEREST IN WORKING WITH NAICC MEMBERS ON PILOT PROJECTS.
- ▶ EXPERTISE ABOUT SPECIFIC ENDANGERED SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS WILL BE NEEDED IF WE WANT TO HELP FARMS INCREASE HABITAT.
- ▶ NAICC IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO BE A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE AGENCIES AND FARMERS.

