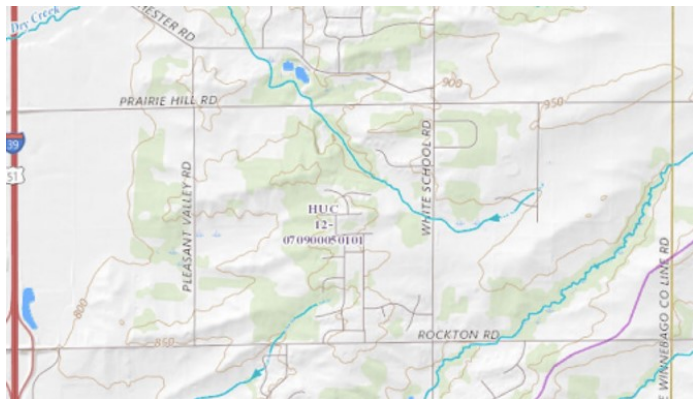




Wheat seedlings in corn and soybean residue. Note the erosion in the aisles in the foreground and the waterway and ponding in the distance.



The National Map topography and hydrology of the Foss Farm. The black outlines indicate the approximate boundaries of the Foss east and west tracts.



Whole system farm plan incorporates water management features.

Natural Land Institute: Foss Farm
Winnebago County

The Natural Land Institute (NLI) has a mission to protect natural landscapes and still remaining natural areas. In order to accomplish this mission, NLI understands a systems-focused approach - promoting connectivity between landscapes and forming large ecological complexes on a landscape scale is necessary to maximize the ecological value of these natural areas.

NLI's retained Solutions in the Land to craft a whole system farm plan to protect natural landscapes incorporated with a working farm. To include working lands into conservation, restoration, and ecological networks will greatly increase the potential for regional environmental integrity.

Whole farm plans assist land owners, managers, and producers to chart a course for sustainable land use while preserving the landowner's values and vision for decades to come.

The Foss Farm was donated to the NLI in 2017 to ensure the land remain in agriculture never to be developed.

Solutions in the Land analyzed the condition of the farm, summarizing the regional context and assessing opportunities and challenges with a focus on agricultural and revenue generating opportunities. Recommendations were made for management of the farm along with strategies for sustainable planning for this property.