

SWCS Fall Tour

By Chris Miller, NRCS

On October 13, 2011, the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) hosted a fall tour located in Calumet County, WI with the topic of discussion being Karst Landscape, Groundwater Quality, and Planning Issues.

The day started with a presentation by Eric Fowle, AICP-Founding Co-Chair of the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN). Mr. Fowle's presented on the history of the escarpment, where it's located, and what significance it plays in WI. For more information, you can visit the website at: <http://www.escarpmentnetwork.org/>.

The next presenter was Dani Santry of the Calumet County Land and Water Conservation Department. Mrs. Santry's presentation was titled "Groundwater Challenges of Calumet County Private Wells in Karst Landscapes." She presented information to the group regarding the well water testing program in Calumet County as well as map overlays that outlined the areas of concern, private well water test results, Karst topography, and soils information.

After lunch, we visited a local dairy farm to discuss the cost of conservation in Karst topography. This particular individual has been working with the LWCD and NRCS for the past 3 years to get manure based conservation on the ground. Next, we took a bus tour to view various Karst features such as rock outcroppings and sinkholes located around Calumet County. Our final stop for the day was at the Ledge View Nature Center in Chilton where group members were able to tour the nature center and some of the brave folks got to take a trip into the "Escarpment" and explore some of the caves located on the property.



Above: Photos of group viewing a sinkhole and of a recent soil boring for a waste storage structure.