



IWLA'S Upper Mississippi River Initiative (UMRI) WHAT IKES CAN DO: IDEAS FOR ACTION

Start a Conversation

- Invite a landowner or farmer acquaintance to join you at an Ikes chapter event or meet them for a coffee to discuss regenerative agriculture and conservation practices
- Host a panel of farmers and landowners to discuss land and water conservation. Invite farmers from your area
- Contact UMRI staff and volunteers for speaker ideas



Be Part of Local Events

- Reach out to a local organization to co-sponsor an event to promote regenerative agriculture, soil health, pollinator habitat and/or water quality.
 - Remember to promote the Ikes! Include our logo on the flyer and table at the event. This is a great and usually easy way to learn, network and support good work going on locally. Encourage chapter members to attend, as well.
- Attend a local field day sponsored by UMRI's partner organizations. Wear your Ikes gear and spread the word!

Organize for Water Monitoring with a Purpose

- If you aren't signed up, get your Chapter to join the IWLA's Clean Water Challenge
- Hold a stream clean-up in your community. Invite schools and local groups to participate
- Visit IWLA's Save Our Streams web page for more info



Support Local Food

- Join a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) venture and help diversify your local economy
- Visit local producers, attend farmer's markets and attend "U-Pick" days to get to know farmers in your area
- Encourage a local grocery or restaurant to purchase local products to support farmers and the local economy

Make Your Voice Heard

- Contact your local Legislator or County Supervisor
 - Tell them you support efforts to protect and improve water quality and habitat in your area
 - Send an easy e-mail, make a call, or visit them in person
 - Be positive in your message and work with them to find solutions
- Write a Letter to the Editor or Op-Ed to your local paper signed by you or by your Chapter's Conservation Committee. We'll help you get started.



Be Creative

- Come up with your own ideas! Get ideas for chapter members. Try something new like a brewery event or farm-to-table dinner.
- Combine a new idea with an old event that has become a little boring. Pass out a survey for feedback.