

## Pierce County Farmland Rent Survey Underway

By Greg Andrews, Pierce County UW-Extension Ag. Agent

Nearly 40 percent of all the cropland acres of Pierce County is now operated by another farmer renting those acres. It's a trend familiar in Iowa, Illinois and Southern Minnesota and the trend has been increasing in recent years.

Each year since 1996, with a few exceptions, the Pierce County UW-Extension Office has been conducting the annual Pierce County Farmland rent survey. During the first week of December many Pierce County landowners and renting tenants will be receiving the brief survey for 2012. The results of the survey information are extremely useful to both farmland renters and landlords as they develop their leases. Those renters and landlords are highly encouraged to return the survey post card and are assured complete anonymity and only aggregate data is contained in the report. And, the survey is designed so that those receiving the survey are random and split nearly equally between landlords and tenants. The UW-Extension Office receives hundreds of requests for the rental information each year.

The farmland rent survey information provides a greater level of detail for Pierce County. For example, in the 2010-11 data, most townships had 20 or more rented parcels represented in the report. Last year 330 rented parcels were in the report. What also helps landlords and tenants is that the survey asks for estimated corn yields on the parcels reported. That information helps differentiate the most productive parcels.

According to Greg Andrews, Pierce County UW-Extension Ag. Agent, "My goal is to analyze the data and publish the report in late December". The results of the 2012 Pierce County Farmland Rent Survey will be available at the Pierce County Extension Office at 715-273-6781 or go to the Pierce County UW-Extension Agriculture Website at: <http://pierce.uwex.edu/agriculture/>