

A guide to the art & science of on-farm monitoring:

The Monitoring Tool Box



The *Monitoring Tool Box*, along with its companion video, *Close to the Ground*, is for farmers and other land managers interested in learning easy-to-use techniques for monitoring the impact of management decisions on their land, finances and family. In addition, purchasers of this monitoring package receive a one-year subscription to the *Close to the Ground* newsletter.



A Land Stewardship Project publication

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The *Tool Box* assumes you care about your landscape—the natural resources and the people on it. Produced by the Monitoring Project, tested by the Monitoring Team, and used worldwide, it is meant as a springboard for monitoring a farm field, a suburban garden, your personal goals, and anything else having to do with the land and the people on it. This is a comprehensive, accessible guide for farmers and others trying to be intentional about why and how they manage their land. And not just the land is addressed. Packaged in a three-ring binder, this 161-page guide covers the monitoring of quality of life issues, farm sustainability and financial data, as well as birds, frogs and toads, soils, streams, and pasture vegetation. The *Tool Box* was developed in the field over a three-year period and has been tested and refined by crop and livestock producers throughout the Midwest.

The *Tool Box* contents:

General Information

- Making the most of your *Tool Box*
- General tools for monitoring

Monitoring Topics

- Quality of life
- Farm sustainability with financial data
- Birds
- Frogs
- Soils
- Streams
- Pasture vegetation

The Monitoring Project is working on two more publications:

- *A Participatory Approach to Whole Farm Monitoring & Research: The Biological, Financial, & Social Monitoring Project's Team Process Report*
- *Scientific Findings of the Biological, Financial, & Social Monitoring Project*

Contact **Caroline van Schaik** at **651-653-0618** or **caroline@mtn.org** for more information.

This monitoring package includes a copy of the video, *Close to the Ground*, a 24-minute Blue Moon production that describes the workings of the Monitoring Project, a joint venture of the Land Stewardship Project and the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. The package also includes the *Close to the Ground* newsletter, a publication for people who want to continue learning about monitoring while networking with others interested in this activity.

The *Tool Box* and the video were developed by the Monitoring Team, an initiative involving six farm families who worked closely with biologists, economists, sociologists and government agency staff to develop common-sense, user-friendly monitoring techniques. The project is known nationally for its unique integration of wildlife watching, soil testing, water analysis, quality of life analysis and gauging of finances to create a well-rounded system for measuring the success of a farm. The people involved in this project have become friends over the years, overcoming the barriers that can stand between farmers and scientists/environmentalists/government officials. In the meantime, landowners other than farmers are discovering the utility of the *Tool Box* and its range of monitoring ideas.



Order yours today!



***The Monitoring Tool Box, Close to the Ground* video, & subscription to the monitoring newsletter**

\$ _____ **\$47.93** for the package (*that price includes \$2.93 Minn. sales tax; the price is \$45.00 if you live outside Minn.*)

\$ _____ **\$43.13** for LSP members (*that price includes \$2.63 Minn. sales tax; the price is \$40.50 if you live outside Minn.*)

\$ **8.00** shipping & handling costs

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Note: There is a discount for bulk orders; call 507-523-3366 for information.

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