

# MAWRC Monthly

## - July 2015



### On the Road- Buffer Informational Meetings

The Minnesota Corn Growers and Minnesota Farm Bureau each hosted a series of informational meetings on the recently passed buffer legislation to help farmers and farmland owners prepare for the new rules, and to gather feedback from them about the new rules. More than 500 farmers attended 10 meetings held across the state in July. It was apparent from the discussion that many questions remain. Additional buffer meetings will be planned for later this year and into next year.

If your group would like the MAWRC to assist in buffer outreach, please contact Warren Formo ([warren@mawrc.org](mailto:warren@mawrc.org)).

Here Farm Bureau Director of Public Policy Doug Busselman addresses a crowd of more than 75 in the shop at the Lynn and Chuck Johnson farm near Ada.



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### MDA Releases 2014 Pesticide Monitoring Report

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has published their 2014 Water Quality Monitoring Report summarizing groundwater and surface water sampling, primarily focused on agricultural pesticides. The MDA coordinates one of the top pesticide monitoring programs in the country.

The report provides analysis of 560 groundwater samples from 167 sites across the state, and concludes that “no groundwater pesticide detections exceeded any human health-based drinking water standards or reference values in 2014.”

Surface water monitoring results from nearly 1000 samples shows 25 samples in which pesticide concentrations exceeded water quality standards, a slight increase from previous years. It should also be noted that several of these standards also contain a duration requirement, i.e. the concentration must exceed the standard for a certain number of days to actually exceed the standard, and the analysis of concentration duration was not included in the report.

The data show that crop protection products continue to be used effectively and safely by Minnesota farmers and commercial pesticide applicators, while also serving as a reminder to continue to follow label requirements and handle pesticides with care.

Find the full report here:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/pesticides/~media/Files/chemicals/maace/wqm2014rpt.pdf>

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## Extension to hold Tillage, Technology and Residue Field Day

Farmers and other ag professionals are invited to a field day highlighting the latest in variable depth tillage equipment, including side-by-side field demonstrations, on Thursday, September 9.

The field day will run from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the West Central Research and Outreach Center near Morris, MN. To pre-register, go to <http://z.umn.edu/tillagefieldday>. There is no cost to attend the event. Lunch and refreshments will be available for purchase on the grounds.

For more information, contact Jodi DeJong–Hughes ([dejon003@umn.edu](mailto:dejon003@umn.edu)), Doug Holen ([holen009@umn.edu](mailto:holen009@umn.edu)), or Phil Glogoza ([glogo001@umn.edu](mailto:glogo001@umn.edu)) or view the [field day brochure](#).

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## Large Storms Primary Driver of Sediment Loss

While it may seem obvious to most farmers, we now have data to show that large storms cause the overwhelming majority of soil loss on cropland. Data collected at Discovery Farms locations across Minnesota and Wisconsin reveal that on average, there are approximately 10 runoff-inducing events (rainfall or snowmelt) per field site per year. The data also show that 10% of these runoff events generate 85% of total soil loss.

Further analysis of the complete data set, which encompasses 1011 runoff events at more than 50 fields and a total of 93 site years, shows that 69% of soil loss occurs in May and June, prior to full crop canopy. Median soil loss across all monitored farms was 136 lb/ac/year, well below generally defined sustainability levels.



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## New Report Explains Streamflow Effects of Climate and Land Use Changes

A report by a University of Minnesota research team led by Dr. Satish Gupta, “Climate and agricultural land use change impacts on streamflow in the upper Midwestern United States”, was recently published in the American Geophysical Union’s Journal of Water Resources Research. This paper refutes prior publications and their conclusions, showing that increased precipitation is the primary cause of higher stream flows, consistent with the principles of increased runoff at higher soil moisture conditions.

Stop by the MAWRC booth at FarmFest to learn more about this research project, Discovery Farms and related topics.

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The MAWRC is a non-profit research and education corporation comprised of 24 agricultural organizations working together to address water issues. For more information, go to [www.mawrc.org](http://www.mawrc.org).

