

MAWRC Monthly

- February 2016



Get Nitrogen Smart and Get Credit

A new program being piloted next month provides an opportunity for farmers to learn the basics of nitrogen management and sets the stage for a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) type program for farmers. Farmers already attend numerous conferences and meetings focused on improving both profitability and environmental outcomes—now they can get credit for it!

Nitrogen Smart is a new educational program designed to provide the information necessary to evaluate nitrogen fertilizer options. The program is being offered through a partnership between the University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Corn Growers, and Minnesota Agricultural Water Resource Center.

“Nitrogen Smart” training presents the fundamentals for maximizing economic return on your nitrogen investment and minimizing nitrogen losses, like different sources of nitrogen, understanding how nitrogen is lost and how to reduce losses, managing nitrogen in tile-drained fields and how advanced precision ag technologies can help refine your nutrient management.

The three-hour program will be offered in 8 locations around Minnesota starting on March 2. Locations and times include: March 2, Northwest Research and Outreach Center, Crookston, 9:00 AM, Big Wood Event Center, Fergus Falls, 6:30 PM; March 3, 1:00 PM, MinnWest Technology Campus, Willmar; March 4, 9:00 AM, Convention Center, St. Cloud; March 7, 1:00 PM, Southwest Research and Outreach Center, Lamberton; March 8, 9:00 AM, Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca; March 11, 9:00 AM, Dakota County Extension Center, Farmington; and March 15, 9:00 AM, Heintz Center, Rochester.

If you have further questions about Nitrogen Smart, you can contact Brad Carlson (bcarlson@umn.edu or 507-389-6745) or you can visit: z.umn.edu/NitrogenSmart.

Governor’s Water Summit is This Saturday

Space is limited to attend the Governor’s Water Summit tomorrow, but all are invited to participate online. During the summit and for one week after, you can go to <http://watersummit.ideascale.com/> and weigh in on the nine topics scheduled to be discussed during the summit.

The nine breakout session topics include aquatic invasive species, challenges facing Minnesota’s iconic waters, ensuring Minnesota is resilient to extreme weather, sustaining our water supplies, water in the urban and built environment, water and wastewater infrastructure, water in the rural environment, living cover, and investing in clean water. You can read background information at the Governor’s Water Summit web page.

Minnesota River Congress to Meet March 10

The 6th Minnesota River Congress will be held at the New Ulm Event Center on March 10 beginning with a networking fair at 4:30. Dinner will begin at 6:00, followed by the meeting.

Registration for the Congress is available online at <https://payableform.appspot.com/forms/avm4p>, or by mail to Minnesota River PO Box 488, New Ulm, MN 56073. Make checks payable to the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River. The cost is \$15 in advance, and \$20 at the door. There is no charge for young adults under 19 or with a college ID. Online registration for the networking fair is available at: <https://payableform.appspot.com/forms/4q7bz> .

New Blog Opportunity- the Ag Water Exchange

The MAWRC recently launched a new blog called the Ag Water Exchange. Our goal is to provide additional information on water quality, nutrient management, and agricultural conservation and promote upcoming educational events. Contributors to the blog will include MAWRC staff, Discovery Farms staff in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and other invited experts in nutrient management and water quality. We also want to provide an interactive forum for farmers, agronomists and others to discuss these issues.

Visit the blog today at <http://agwaterexchange.com/> to get information on soil and nitrogen losses from Discovery Farms monitoring stations and thoughts on fertilizer decisions for the 2016 growing season. While you are there, you are encouraged to offer your own comments and questions.

Workshop to Focus on Agricultural Drainage and Water Quality

Farmers are encouraged to attend an upcoming workshop on tile drainage, nitrate issues, buffers and more. The Agricultural Drainage +Future of Water Quality Workshop will be held on March 9 in Willmar, MN. Registration begins at 8, with the conference running from 8:30 until 3:45. Registration is \$30. You can view the full agenda and register on line at <http://www.is-grp.com/insight/project-info/agricultural-drainage-workshop-winter-2016/> .

The workshop is being presented by Prinsco, the I&S Group, Kandiyohi County, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Crow River Organization of Water, and the Sauk, North Fork Crow River and Middle Fork Crow River Watershed Districts.

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 .

