From: MDA.Info@state.mn.us
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Cc: Wolf, Katie (MDA)
Subject: Draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Comment
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 4:48:30 PM

The following information has been submitted through the Draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Comment Form.

Name: Paul A. Trcka
Organization: CHS Inc.
Email: paul.trcka@chsinc.com
Zip Code: 55906

Comment: In regard to the Draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule, many of my customers are currently following the BMP's, they are careful of the rate of nitrogen applied because it is an expensive nutrient and they don't like seeing their dollars go down and out through the tile lines. Many growers have switched to spring and in-season application of nitrogen for the same reasons. Following the nitrogen rate calculator is difficult because many growers do not agree with the University of Minnesota of their recommendations for both nitrogen and phosphorus. It still appears that the MDA is following the one size fits all approach. In many cases growers are using nitrification inhibitors, applying nitrogen more closely to the time of uptake and not overapplying nitrogen. It appears from the studies that were done on the Root River Watershed and the work that the Discovery Farms is doing, agriculture has been doing a great job, however there is always room for improvement. Regarding Governor's Daytons Town Hall meetings it appeared that the concensus of the crowd who many who are not farming blame agriculture for much of the problem. Yet the Root River Watershed studies and the Discovery Farms research show otherwise. I live and work in these communities and if regulations get too stringent, who will produce the food. Last time I looked the grocery stores were full of people purchasing food. The one contradiction is how the MDA plans on working on this yet the livestock industry is handled by the MPCA? I hope at the end of the day, growers will voluntarily implement many of these practices and we don't have to go to regulation. As with anything, it only takes a few bad farm managers to screw it up for the ones who are trying!