From: Sharon Natzel
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject: Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Public Comment by Private Citizen
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:26:20 PM

Dear Larry,
Thank you for letting us comment on the Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule and for the overview of the rule and process in the Wadena area.

Here are my comments as a private citizen from the 56470 area

Thank you for providing the overview in Wadena of the concepts of Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule & the comment process. The Nitrogen Fertilizer Rules proposed do not protect our private drinking water wells of varying depths, our groundwater and our lakes in our area from nitrogen fertilizer or other types of chemical pollution used in the production of crops or animals.

In addition, I suggest that the rules do not honor the 1989 groundwater protection act, reduces regulatory authority if farm operators adopt certain farming practices even if contamination is still severe. We need clean groundwater, lakes, and safe drinking water forever.

Please work with agricultural and water quality stakeholders to correct these flaws. We are moving to a one watershed one plan approach to lake management. Agriculture should work side-by-side with us .

When groundwater and drinking water resources are contaminated, the number that triggers intervention should be much less than 10%... like 2%.

The study population methodology was flawed in the original nitrogen fertilizer rule analysis from my perspective. We had a private shallow well. We have had it tested for nitrates for free at the SWCD. It is above the recommended limit and we use a distiller for drinking water. However, we were not asked to complete a survey. Our neighbor has a well, dug by contractor and yet was not contacted to participate.

Did you know that the county GIS system here in Hubbard County allows for your ability to extract the pertinate homes and addresses for the lakeshore. As a private citizen, I am not able to find out what to test for in my water as far as the pesticides, fungicides, etc…. Yet, if I was one of the selected individuals for an ag study due to nitrates higher than normal, then the person is asked if want to test for free on an additional test which is the pesticide.

Use the standard fee structure.

In determining if 10% of wells are contaminated or not, there was a serious flaw in determining if some/all of the lakeshore owners and other township / county users are provided the role.

Sincerely, Sharon Natzel at 763-355-7908.