From: Info, MDA (MDA)
To: Gunderson, Larry (MDA)
Subject: Draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Comment
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The following information has been submitted through the Draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Comment Form.

Name: Doug Ploof
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Comment: We have property in both Morrison and Ottertail county. We are currently on the Central Minnesota Nitrate testing program through the Dept. of Ag, and Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District. While agricultural crop production is equal in both of the properties we own, the nitrate levels are considerably different. The Ottertail property has well levels consistently between 9 and 11 ppm of nitrates while the Morrison property is .2-.3 consistently. I feel the soil texture differences are the result in the nitrate movement differences in soils. I would hope this voluntary compliance will be the first step in a regulation which prohibits the fall application and frozen soil application of nitrates on vulnerable soil types. I feel it is most detrimental for farmers to apply nitrates in these vulnerable situations and for the rest of us rural residents to then deal with this contamination of a public resource like water. We live here also and the water is everyones resource, why should one farmer be able to use and then contaminate million of gallons of everyones resource for they own livelihood and business? When children or women with children developing drink our water from Ottertail they are risking their health. Does the farmer really pay for what they use or pollute? Nitrate nitrogen should have a huge environmental tax that goes to the clean water fund thus discouraging improper application. Farmers may then apply only when they get the largest benefit and the uptake of the resource by the plant. Lets protect our most valuable resource WATER..