Public Comment Form
Draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule

Please submit written comments on the draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule by August 25, 2017 through mail or email to:

Mail
Larry Gunderson
Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN, 55155-2538

Email
Larry.Gunderson@state.mn.us

All comments should, but are not required to, include a contact name, phone number and/or email address to provide for follow-up discussion on specific comments.

Questions
For any questions regarding the content of the draft Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule, please contact Larry Gunderson, Fertilizer Technical Unit Supervisor
Larry.Gunderson@state.mn.us | 651-201-6168

Comments
I believe that one solution for the whole state of Minnesota is unrealistic.

In my area our well water has been tested and no nitrogen has been found. Our wells are around 200 feet deep and we have heavy clay soil above that. Therefore, the nitrogen is not able to get to our well waters.

By requiring spring nitrogen applications you are putting an unrealistic burden on farm coops to get all the fertilizer in the spring and also the ability to get it spread on the fields.

(Continue on back if needed)

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in the short time we have in the spring. Also fertilizer spreaders are heavy and they will cause a lot of spring soil compaction. Soil compaction hurts the crop stand. A good crop stand is crucial if one hopes to have a good crop.

If we are required to put our fertilizer on in the spring, it is supposed to be worked into the soil. This dries out the top soil to the depth of tillage. We plant Sugar beets 3/4 to 1 inch deep, so we would be planting into dry soil. Planting into dry soil causes poor seed germination which in turn causes a poor crop. This would be true of other crops also.

I feel farmers are doing a good job with fertilizer application, balancing it between spring and fall. With the high cost of fertilizer, we, as well as most farmers, soil test each fall in order to determine the correct amount of fertilizer the soil needs. We then apply only those amounts. It is not cost effective to do otherwise.

I do not believe there needs to be statewide rules.

One rule does not fit all.

Farmers are good stewards of the land.

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