



PROGRESS REPORT

PROJECT TITLE: University of Minnesota Water Quality Education, Nitrogen Smart, Advanced Nitrogen Smart

PROJECT NUMBER:

REPORTING PERIOD: January – March, 2021

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Mike Schmitt, Brad Carlson

ORGANIZATION: University of Minnesota Extension

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1.) PROJECT ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. *(Describe project progress specific to goals, objectives, and deliverables identified in the project workplan.)*

- Participation in Drainage Management Team
 - Interagency group facilitates communication, and facilitates information exchange
 - Coordinates drainage related activities
- Unspent funds from the “position grant” that were to be used for travel were used to procure additional equipment for use in podcasting and video production
- Drainage related presentation made to Midwest Forage Association virtual meeting in February
 - Solicited for a related magazine article to appear in Hoard’s Dairyman (submitted)
- Nitrogen Smart
 - Delivery was switched to virtual due to the pandemic
 - Offered over two days, February 22 – 23
 - Promotion conducted via U of M Extension Crop News, paid advertising on the Linder Farm Network, and KDHL, video on the LFN web page, various Nutrient Management social media
 - 59 participated the first day, 50 the second
 - 2022 plans (tentative) are to go back to live delivery and strategically place in locations where the training was not previously offered
 - On-line course was taken down for a period prior to, and during the delivery of the virtual events to avoid confusion between the two
 - Decision was made to migrate the training from Qualtrics to Canvas in order to better facilitate participants who prefer to consume the content in “smaller bites.”
 - Phyllis Bongard will be working on this transfer, but was delayed due to her workload caused by the large number of live-virtual crops events conducted under her watch.

- Advanced Nitrogen Smart
 - The Advanced session “A Deep Dive Into the 4Rs” was offered as a live-virtual training
 - Split into 3 weeks (March 1, 9, 15), duplicated each week on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning
 - Promotion was shared with the Fundamentals session in addition to mailing postcards to previous attendees of the Fundamentals program
 - Attendance was 74 first week, 60 second week, 64 third week
 - The Deep Dive session will be produced for online content this coming summer
 - Filming/recording for Advanced Nitrogen Smart – Manure is complete for the online version
 - Complete session will be on the Canvas platform
 - Will be uploaded after the Fundamentals session transfer from Qualtrics to Canvas is complete
 - New Advanced session on adapting to climate is still in the planning phase
 - The services of Stefan Liess, who works with Dr. Tracy Twine were secured to analyze the statewide climate database for relevant information
 - Stefan will also produce GIS type products (maps, etc.) for use in the presentation
 - We anticipate the data-mining process to be complete toward the end of summer
- Variable Rate N
 - Presentation using data from Corn Grower Innovation grant to Sam Peterson is a large portion of my current presentation on this topic
 - Presented at Southern Research and Outreach Center Winter Crops Day in early January
- Relevant Gopher Coffee Shop podcasts
 - Corn Hybrid Trial History – 287 downloads
 - P & K fertility – 1135 downloads
 - Nitrogen rates – 540 downloads

2.) IDENTIFY ANY SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS AND RESULTS OF THE PROJECT TO DATE.

Evaluation and Outcomes summary for Nitrogen Smart and Advanced Nitrogen Smart previously submitted

3.) CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED. *(Describe any challenges that you encountered related to project progress specific to goals, objectives, and deliverables identified in the project workplan.)*

Obviously the current work environment due to COVID has changed plans from what was proposed on the grant applications submitted about one year ago. I have detailed above how we are dealing with these challenges and changes.

It is our hope that under ideal circumstances we might be able to do a few in-person meetings toward the end of summer of 2021. We had targeted a small circuit in the Red River Valley, and still aspire to do so in the future.

4.) FINANCIAL INFORMATION *(Describe any budget challenges and provide specific reasons for deviations from the projected project spending.)*

Re-budgeting is discussed above.

5.) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITES. (*Describe any conferences, workshops, field days, etc. attended, number of contacts at each event, and/or publications developed to disseminate project results.*)

As the focus of these grants are education and outreach, this has already been covered in section 1.