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**Innovation Grant Progress Report**

PROJECT TITLE: Reducing nitrate in a surficial sand aquifer, Mower County MN (Sustainable Answer

 Acre)

REPORTING PERIOD: 4th Quarter of 2019

FARMER INNOVATOR: Tom Cotter, Jim Kellogg, Alan Slowinski

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATION/PERSON: Steve Lawler, Mower SWCD

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

* Sept. 10, 2019…..hosted field soils lab for Riverland – Austin students
* Sept. 24, 2019…..interseeded cover crops within plots 11-19; rye and brassicas; Tom Cotter
* Oct. 4, 2019…….sampled all wells
* Oct. 11, 2019……Presentation of Video on Sutainable Answer Acre to Governor during visit to

 Riverland College for the Pheasant Opener

* Oct. 11, 2019……Basal stock nitrate samples collected
* Oct. 24, 2019……field scouting report; Field Alytics; mature corn; cover crop emerged
* Nov. 9, 2019…….plot harvest
* Nov. 12,18, 2019..installed WP-M wells; 20 total
* Nov. 14, 2019……presentation to Leadership Austin class at site.
* Nov. 18, 2019…...tilled plots 2 through 9; disk ripper; Al Slowinski
* Nov. 25, 2019…...erected Sustainable Answer Acre sign
* Nov. 26, 2019…...copy of yield test results
* Dec. 5, 2019…….finished NO3 soil sampling

2.) IDENTIFY ANY SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS AND RESULTS OF THE PROJECT TO DATE. (*There may be none to report at some stages of the project)*

Yield data, soil and sampling well NO3 levels will be provided in the final report.

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

4.) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITES. *(Describe any opportunities to engage with farmers, influencers or the media about your project.)*

-We have provided to Riverland College – Austin the use of Sustainable Answer Acre for the fall semester soils class lab curriculum. They have met twice at the site.

-October 11, 2019 the Governor visited Riverland College – Austin. A video was produced on Sustainable Answer Acre and presented to the Governor with help from SWCD, Riverland, Northern Country Coop and Jim Kellogg.

-The Leadership Austin class (35 participants) met at the site on November 14, 2019. Presentation on Sustainable Answer Acre by Northern Country Coop and SWCD.

5.) HOW CAN WE HELP? *(Please let us know how we can improve the experience or assist in your project if possible.)*