



INTERIM REPORT

PROJECT TITLE: MAWRC Research and Education Program
PROJECT NUMBER: 6137-24DD
REPORTING PERIOD: December 1, 2024- February 28, 2025
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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.*)

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

Monitoring update for 12/01/2024 – 2/28/2025

December 2024 was generally warmer than normal, falling among the warmest 25 months in state history. The month of January also started and ended warm, with a 10-day period in the middle of the month that had more typical winter-like temperatures. The month of January was also very dry with many areas across the state lacking snow cover. By February, 70% of the state was snowless. Many climate stations in Minnesota recorded the warmest February on record with only 2-3 days during the month with colder than normal temperatures. All monitored Discovery Farm locations measured below the 30-year Normal precipitation in both December and January, ranging from 0.65 to 1.72 inches below normal, combined. The month of February was also below normal at the McLeod, Redwood, Waseca and Wright County locations, but came up near normal at Stearns County.

McLeod County: With the dry summer and fall 2024, there was no subsurface tile drainage until after just over 2 inches of rain fell in early November which caused the tile to started draining again and continued all the way through December until mid-January 2025 – finally stopping completely by January 22, 2025. There was no tile drainage that occurred during the month of February. There was no surface runoff events measured at the McLeod County farm in December, January or February.

Redwood County (paired site): Following just over 4 inches of rain in early November, the tile at the North Redwood County site began trickling again through the month of December and finally stopped completely by January 21st following a cold snap. There was no drainage that occurred at the North site during the month of February. There was also no subsurface drainage that occurred at the South paired site during the three-month period, nor any surface runoff events measured at either the North or South sites in December, January or February.

Stearns County (paired site): For the three-month period from December through February, there were no surface runoff events or active subsurface tile drainage that occurred at either the North or East Stearns County monitoring sites.

Waseca County (Farmamerica, paired watersheds): None of the four monitored watersheds had any subsurface tile drainage measured during the months of December, January or February.

Wright County: There were no surface runoff events or subsurface tile drainage during the months of December, January or February.

Site	County	Month	Monthly Total Precipitation	30-Year Normal	Departure from Normal	Surface Runoff Samples	Tile Drainage Samples
MC1	McLeod	December	0.37	1.07	-0.70	0	2
		January	0.00	0.66	-0.66	0	1
		February	0.18	0.84	-0.66	0	0
RW1N	Redwood	December	0.01	0.88	-0.87	0	0
		January	0	0.85	-0.85	0	0
		February	0.07	0.66	-0.59	0	0
RW1S	Redwood	December	0.01	0.88	-0.87	0	0
		January	0	0.85	-0.85	0	0
		February	0.07	0.66	-0.59	0	0
ST2E	Stearns	December	0.47	0.88	-0.41	0	0
		January	0.28	0.67	-0.39	0	0
		February	0.83	0.76	0.07	0	0
ST2N	Stearns	December	0.47	0.88	-0.41	0	0
		January	0.28	0.67	-0.39	0	0
		February	0.83	0.76	0.07	0	0
WA1N1	Waseca	December	-	-	-	-	0
		January	-	-	-	-	0
		February	-	-	-	-	0
WA1N2	Waseca	December	1.28	1.50	-0.22	-	0
		January	0.04	1.27	-1.23	-	0
		February	0.43	1.20	-0.77	-	0
WA1SE	Waseca	December	1.28	1.50	-0.22	-	0
		January	0.04	1.27	-1.23	-	0
		February	0.43	1.20	-0.77	-	0
WA1SW	Waseca	December	-	-	-	-	0
		January	-	-	-	-	0
		February	-	-	-	-	0
WR1	Wright	December	0.67	0.85	-0.18	0	0
		January	0.11	0.58	-0.47	0	0
		February	0.39	0.85	-0.46	0	0

The monthly precipitation totals during the winter months are pulled from the nearest National Weather Service stations. Rain gages at Discovery Farms are not capable of measuring frozen precipitation.

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

No challenges were experienced in the current period.

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

Project budget is on track.

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

The MAWRC continues to provide representation for farmers at the Clean Water Council and BWSR Drainage Work Group in addition to the Southeast Minnesota Nitrate Mitigation Strategies Work Group. The MAWRC is also now participating in the Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council representing water quality interests.

MAWRC staff has provided information about nitrates and private wells in Southeast Minnesota, assisting in responding to concerns about fertilizer and manure use associated with corn production. We also provided two articles published in The Farmer magazine emphasizing farmer efforts to address water quality concerns.

MAWRC staff participated in the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Trade Show and Annual Meeting December 6.

MAWRC staff participated in the Prairie Grains Conference in Grand Forks December 12.

MAWRC staff participated in the Crop Pest Management Short Course on December 11 and 12.

MAWRC staff presented summary information from the FarmAmerica Discovery Farms monitoring project at the Crystal Valley Annual Meeting on January 9.

MAWRC staff participated in MNAg Expo on January 22 and 23.

The MAWRC co-hosted the 17th Annual Nutrient Management Conference with the MDA and U of M Extension on February 18. We also co-hosted the 11th Annual Nitrogen Management Conference on February 4. These annual events continue to provide relevant nutrient management information for farmers and agronomists.