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

A graduation report was finalized for the Goodhue County location in April of 2020. Staff also wrote a grant for the Conservation Innovation Grant Program (NRCS) during this quarter for additional water quality, nutrient management, and social evaluation of soil health practices.

Monitoring at 8 core farm sites and 20 CIG tile monitoring sites continued throughout the quarter. Graduation summary reports are in process for the Blue Earth and Wilkin sites. Field days have been put on hold due to Covid 19. We are planning a field day for September. Depending on Covid 19 status, this may become a virtual tour.

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

This period represents the third quarter of the 2020 Water Year (WY).

April, May, and June have been very dry at most of the sites. As of the end of June, all DFM sites except of Dodge County, have had under 11 inches of annual precipitation. This the lowest precipitation measured at this point in the year for most of the DFM locations. Since the end of the snowmelt (March 9th) there has been no surface runoff at any site.

Despite the low precipitation the past few months, subsurface tile drainage has been persistent through the spring and summer at most sites. There was above average precipitation in 2019 and high soil moisture in fall 2019 prior to the soil freezing. The high soil moisture in the spring combined with timely rain events have the kept tiles flowing. Tile flow is starting to now cease.

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

Ongoing sample collection and maintenance of monitoring sites are all within scope of the project.

Usually present information at many field days and farmer meetings, but most all activities have been cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
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.*)

Publications
Lessons Learned from Schafer Farms, April 2020
Goodhue County Discovery Farms Summary Report Published, Farmer Magazine, May 2020
Getting the Most from Nitrogen Applications, Farmer Magazine, June 2020