



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

*Helping People
Help the Land*

Phone: (651) 602-7900
FAX: (651) 602-7914

To Be Sent Via Email

January 10, 2007

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-7-9

SUBJECT: LTP-EQIP- NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE NET-MEETING

Purpose. To Provide Guidance on the Minnesota Nutrient Management Initiative

Expiration Date. December 1, 2007

The Minnesota Nutrient Management Initiative is a project that evaluates producers' nutrient management programs alongside NRCS recommended nutrient management. The evaluation includes differences in net-incomes between the two approaches and allows producers and NRCS to learn from each other. The initiative is focused in NRCS Areas 5, 6 and 7 with emphasis on the Blue Earth, Root and Redwood River watersheds and the South Central Nitrogen BMP Region.

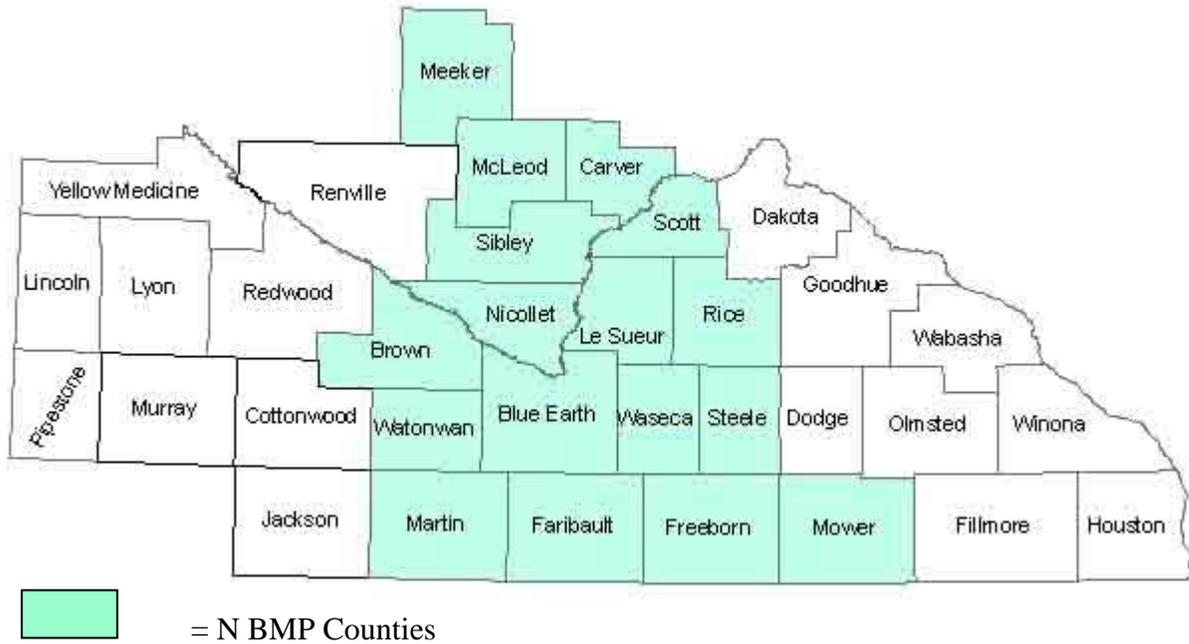
The Initiative is a cooperative effort between NRCS, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota Extension Service, the University of Minnesota Southern Outreach and Research Center, Rural Advantage and several other partners. The project is currently coordinated by Rural Advantage.

Payments to participating producers and advisors for Crop Year 2006 activities are being handled through Rural Advantage. Payments to participating farmers for crop year 2007 activities are now being handled by NRCS through the EQIP FA process. The change to the EQIP funding mechanism creates challenges and opportunities for NRCS field staff.

A net meeting to describe the Initiative and provide guidance on NRCS responsibilities will be given on February 6, 2007 from 1:00 to 3:00 CST. The meeting will be taped for later viewing. Area and Field Office representatives from potentially affected counties (see map on page 2) should plan to participate. NRCS staff outside of the affected counties are invited to listen in. Area Offices should select viewing locations. Limit locations to three in Area 6 and to two in all other areas. Net Meeting call in numbers will be provided at a later date.

Submit questions and discussion topics prior to the meeting to Jeff St. Ores, Water Quality specialist at 651 602-7869 or jeff.st.ores@mn.usda.gov.

Minnesota Nutrient Management Initiative Counties with emphasis on the Blue Earth CSP Watershed and South Central N BMP Region followed by the Redwood and Root CSP Watersheds



/s/

WILLIAM HUNT.
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC (FO)
 DC
 ARC
 Program Specialists
 EQIP State Office Team
 Rich Giles, Jeff King, Steve Lutes; Water Quality Specialists
 Linda Meschke, Rural Advantage
 Brian Williams, Minn. Dept. of Agriculture