West Fork Des Moines River Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Project

The West Fork Des Moines River (WFDMR) watershed covers an area of 1,333 square miles and extends across seven counties including Murray, Cottonwood, Jackson, and Nobles and small portions of Pipestone, Lyon, and Martin. There are five main subwatersheds within the WFDMR watershed: Lake Shetek, Beaver Creek, Heron Lake, West Fork mainstem, and the Lower Des Moines. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study was completed in 2008 for the WFDMR watershed that included 34 impairments addressing bacteria, turbidity, and phosphorus. The TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a specific pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) estimates that the overall magnitude of reduction needed to meet water quality standards ranges from 10 to 86 percent for bacteria, 50 to 80 percent for turbidity, and 87 percent for phosphorus in North and South Heron Lake.

As a result of the TMDL Study, a Level III Feedlot Inventory is being conducted in the Nobles, Jackson, Murray, and Cottonwood County portions of the WFDMR watershed. This project consists of conducting an intensive, onsite inventory and inspection of eighty percent of the feedlots in the watershed. The purpose of the inventory is to gather information about feedlots, potential repairs, and estimated costs. The project started October 1, 2011, and will continue until August 31, 2015.

Manure Management Workshop to be Hosted by HLWD

As part of the feedlot inventory project, a manure management workshop will be hosted by the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) in partnership with Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray and Nobles Counties. Workshop sponsors include MPCA, University of Minnesota (UM) Extension, Jackson, Nobles, and Cottonwood County Corn and Soybean Growers and their checkoffs, Nobles-Rock Cattlemen's Association, and Extended Ag Services, Inc.

The purpose of the workshop is to inform feedlot operators about proper manure management techniques in regards to manure application and testing, as well as provide them with the information and resources they need to maximize their profits and environmental benefits.
**WORKSHOP SPEAKERS**

Kiel Tschumperlin works as the WFDNR Watershed Coordinator for the HLWD. He is hired under an EPA 319 Grant to conduct Level III Feedlot Inventory in partnership with County Feedlot Officers in the WFDNR watershed. As the watershed coordinator, Tschumperlin is responsible for ensuring consistency in the inventory process across county boundaries.

Jose Hernandez, UM Extension Educator, Livestock Nutrient Management, has written numerous papers on manure application timing, rates and the economics of manure. Hernandez has given presentations throughout Minnesota on these topics. He also took part in on-farm case studies regarding grid sampling and manure application. His work can be viewed on the UM website under manure management.

Wayne Cords, MPCA, is the Southeast Feedlot Unit Supervisor out of the Mankato office. He is very knowledgeable of the MPCA feedlot program rules and regulations. Cords also has experience as a County Feedlot Officer (CFO). He is available to answer any questions regarding the feedlot program.

Andy Nesseth, Extended Ag Services, Inc. is an environmental specialist and agronomist at Extended Ag in Lakefield, Minnesota and Lester, Iowa. He performs a wide variety of duties related to feedlot compliance, manure management plans, and agronomy. Nesseth brings extensive hands-on knowledge about grid sampling and other precision agriculture techniques.

**Wednesday, July 31, 2013**

**Heron Lake Community Center**

**PROGRAM**

9:30–10:00  Registration
10:00–10:30  Kiel Tschumperlin, HLWD – Project Overview
10:30–11:15  Jose Hernandez, U of M Extension – Phosphorus Management and Economics
11:15–12:00  Andy Nesseth, Extended Ag – Grid Sampling Techniques and Economics
12:00–1:00  Lunch (Provided)
1:00–2:00  Wayne Cords, MPCA – Manure Sampling Techniques, Application Setbacks, Emergency Response, and Manure Record Keeping Requirements

If you plan to attend, please register with the HLWD office by Monday, July 29, 2013 at 507-793-2462 or contact Kiel Tschumperlin at kiel.tschumperlin@mysmbs.com. Walk-ins are also welcome to attend.

Contact us with your questions or concerns; call 507-793-2462 or email jan.voit@mysmbs.com.

*This newsletter has been funded by the EPA Section 319 program administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*