

## Nutrient Management in the Missouri Bootheel

DRAFT (revised based on June 24, 2008, teleconference)

A partnership of the Bootheel Resource Conservation and Development, University of Missouri Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) has initiated an effort to bring information and technology assistance to the Missouri Bootheel to help raise awareness about and increase understanding of how increasing nutrient use efficiency can provide economic and environmental benefits for farmers.

Goal #1: Increase awareness and understanding of basic nutrient management.

Goal #2: Increase adoption of Best Management Practices that maximize nutrient use efficiency and decrease nutrient losses from ag lands.

Goal #3: Identify and provide access to innovative technologies that can assist farmers with implementation of BMPs and increase of nutrient management on their operations.

### Action Items:

1. Expand steering committee to coalition that includes commodity groups (corn, soybean, rice), Delta Center and Missouri Rice Research farm.
2. Identify needs for nutrient management information and services in the Bootheel region. This involves compilation of existing information (from NASS and other sources) and could involve a new survey of Bootheel farmers about current nutrient management practices and information/technology needs related to nutrient management.
3. Develop a communications plan to increase awareness and understanding of nutrient management (goal #1, #2), with focus on economic benefits of nutrient management and, in particular, the necessity and usefulness of soil tests (what is it, why is it important, how to do it correctly and how to interpret and use the results). Includes compiling available information about nutrient management, re-packaging, if necessary, and distributing through Coalition partners to reach every farmer in Bootheel.
4. Identify appropriate technologies that can help Bootheel area farmers with nutrient management (goal #3). Includes: VRT for phosphorus, correcting pH, VRT/canopy sensors/real time technology for nitrogen, remote sensing irrigation and chlorophyll meters.
5. Provide demonstrations and/or research studies on these technologies at area research centers (goal #3).
6. Provide (with additional funding) soil sampling and stalk sampling to farmers (goal #1, #2). Includes education about importance of this practice and technical assistance/guidance based on results.

## **NEXT STEPS**

1. Contact potential coalition members to present an overview of this effort and seek their feedback and participation.
  - a. Bob Ball will contact: Betty Wyse, Environmental Resources Coalition and refer them to Karen for more information.
  - b. Bob will contact Missouri DNR to inform them of this effort and seek its behind-the-scenes participation
  - c. Bob will contact MOAG Industries, Steve Tayler
  - d. Scott and/or Pat will contact Delta Center
  - e. Scott will talk with Michelle about area representative for Missouri Soybean Association
  - f. Scott will talk with the regional representative of the Missouri Farm Bureau
  - g. Steve will contact Cotton Growers
  - h. Karen will look into other potential coalition members (coops, retailers, etc.) and refer back to the group
2. Compile information to help us understand extent of nutrient management (soil test) adoption and nutrient management needs in Bootheel.
  - a. Bob will contact NASS
  - b. Karen will investigate other sources of information