

## Nutrient Management in the Lower St Francis Watershed

June 5, 2008

Teleconference with Karen Scanlon, Scott Crumpecker, Pat Turman

Based on recommendations collected and discussed during the Feb. 19 meeting , we revised the project goals and action items.

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 Council research farm.

2. Develop a communications plan to increase awareness and understanding of nutrient management (goal #1, #2). Includes compiling available information about nutrient management, re-packaging, if necessary, and distributing through Coalition partners to reach every farmer in watershed/Bootheel.

Topics to be covered include:

- water quality issues/concerns in the Bootheel regarding nitrogen and phosphorus and what impacts these nutrients may have on hypoxia in the Gulf;
- a complete nutrient plan that meets the NRCS 590;
- phosphorus needed by plants, soil availability, and losses;
- nitrogen needed by plants, availability and losses.

3. Survey Bootheel farmers about current nutrient management practices (goal #2). CTIC has an existing web-based questionnaire that could be tailored to use in the region. If this was done summer 2008 and summer 2009, we could measure change in BMP adoption.

4. Identify appropriate technologies that can help Bootheel area farmers with nutrient management (goal #3). Includes: VRT for phosphorus, 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.

**Questions to discuss with steering committee:**

- Feedback on revised goals and action steps
- Should this be a Lower St Francis or Bootheel region project?
- What individuals should be approached/invited to join coalition?
- Next steps?
  - Invitations sent to others to join Coalition
  - Schedule meeting of Coalition
  - Compile information about nutrient management