

Bootheel Nutrient Management Coalition

Conference Call

April 10, 2009

Participating: Scott Crumpecker, Gene Stevens, Hudson Peters, David Dunn, Bob Ball, Steve Watson

Notes

Discussed Tools and Techniques for Nutrient Management workshop. Favorable evaluations and thirty-one in attendance (included eight certified crop advisors and five farmers).

Bob Ball reported Davis Minton wants to be actively involved in efforts to improve environment. Scott commented that he is very busy but would make a good addition to our group. Bob could arrange for an invitation from the NRCS state office if there is a specific role for him.

Bob commented that the theme for future workshops should focus on "farming for profit and a better environment." - emphasizing economics.

Christa Jones explained that additional funds may be available through the EPA grant. Committee can decide how to use the funds and it would have to be approved by EPA. Approximately \$20,000.

There are three events that we may wish to take part in to deliver our nutrient message: David Dunn's presentation/field plots comparison of fertilizer additives (Delta Center, late July); Rice Field Day (contact is Donn Beightly); Delta Center Field Day (September 2).

Our group could help with mailing lists and media promotion. We could also secure a sponsor to help pay for food. Media contacts should include the Delta Farm Press, Mid America Farmer, and SEMO Farmer.

By mid-May we should know the date for the Rice Field Day.

Discussion of best management practices. These can be found on line at NRCS's FOTG section 4.

How to encourage soil testing as a first step toward proper nutrient management? How to get first time soil samplers or 10-year soil samplers to sample more frequently (every four years)?

Monetary incentives for soil testing are available through EQIP, but they are not substantial enough to encourage participation. Bob Ball reported that the group could propose a special project area for EQIP sign-up 2010 to help producers pay for soil tests. (If approved, incentives could be available July-August 2010).

Can EQIP be utilized without meeting the nutrient management standard? Or can the standard be relaxed/lowered? This can be proposed through the special project area proposal. Proposal should include how the standard should be changed and what the incentive should be—District Conservationist should submit proposal to Stan Mick-Area Conservationist.

Action: Scott Crumpecker will take the lead on researching and possibly development of the proposal. Steve Watson, Warren Cork, and Michelle Gross will be asked to assist (as well as the two other DCs in the watershed). Glenn Davis and Lauren Cartwright will need to be consulted during the development of the proposal and after the initial feasibility meeting with the DC's.

Steve Watson noted that a CSP sign-up in the Bootheel is likely; will be major workload.

Next meeting May 15, 2009 at 10AM Central.