

Nutrient Management in the Missouri Bootheel

Teleconference July 24, 2008

Bob Ball, Glen Davis, Jim Steuver, Pat Turman, Scott Crumpecker, Karen Scanlon

Discussed progress on Next Steps from June 24

Bob made contact with ERC; Karen will follow-up with Betty Wyse

Bob has tried to contact Steve Taylor at MOAG, however, has not had success yet.

Scott talked with Rice Council. Council will entertain idea of participating in project. Can attend meeting where it would be discussed. August meeting? Demonstrations need to go thru researchers at Delta Center (Gene Stevens and David Dunn). Haven't made contact with Delta Center. Scott and Pat will make contact in next 2 weeks.

Identified Mo Soybean Assn representative (Cindy Faulkner and Alan Roland), but not yet talked to her. Pat will talk with Alan.

Scott will talk with Robert Cook, regional rep for Farm Bureau

Steve Watson talked with Chuck Robbins, Cotton Growers. They asked, "what do we want from commodity groups?"

Karen will revise the goals/action steps and insert suggested ways in which coalition partners can actively participate in this effort. Will also mention that this effort may compliment ongoing efforts by some groups. In addition, Karen will add information about CTIC and this project.

Should we invite coops? Group identified: SE Missouri Coop, Delta Growers, Missouri Farmers Association, Ag Distributors. Many have a precision ag person on staff – Cassie Landaway, MFA. Corey Mowser, Delta Growers

Bob and Pat reviewed data from NASS on nutrient management/soil testing in Bootheel. No complete data available, however what was available indicated about 30% of farmers conduct soil tests on some crops. Pat will talk with David Dunn about data and ask about other studies that may help us better understand nutrient management and soil testing in the region.

Next Steps

What are the next steps to keep this effort moving forward?

Should we organize a meeting of the coalition? Not a very popular idea. Difficult to schedule from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

Other options? Meet with groups individually to get buy-in and commitment. Or, change the scope of the project to become more narrowly focused.

Bob suggested focusing on Nitrogen and soil testing. Develop a concise publication about nutrient management and why/how/when to soil test. Train local level personnel on nutrient

management and soil testing and provide them with the publication to use as education tool. Goal of raising soil test # to 50% and see dramatic shift in soil testing use.

This idea was not fully discussed because the teleconference ended at 2:45pm. Everyone agreed that the important next step was to get more reliable data about current usage of soil testing in the Bootheel region.

The next teleconference is set for Aug. 21 at 1:30pm (central). Dial 765-496-3791.