

**Bootheel Nutrient Management Committee
Conference Call
June 5, 2009**

Goal #1: Increase awareness and understanding of basic nitrogen management focusing on nitrogen.

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

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

Notes

Participants: Steve Hefner, Bob Ball, Glenn Davis, Gene Stevens, Warren Cork, Scott Crumpecker, Patty Roth, Jim Stuever, Steve Watson, Kat Logan Smith, Shane Bess, Mike Milam, David Dunn, Peter Scharf, and Christa Jones

1. **July 24 Field Day Promotion Subcommittee** meeting Kat reported. Additions to media list: Rural electric co-ops magazines/newsletters, Jonesville Sun, Paragould Daily Press, Clay County Courier, Caruthersville paper. Focus on regional press. Jim Steuver happy to provide quote for news release.

Add to list of door prizes: redeemable certificate for Agritain.

David reported on MO Rice Producers Council. They want to be added as sponsors on press release and also approve it before it goes out. Contact is Scott Wheeler. Include in press release: Bring your rice boots.

Add to list of door prizes: yard sticks.

Mike: Soil testing or tissue testing as door prizes. What could Peter reasonably do? \$10 for NPK tissue sampling, \$15 for Mg, etc.

Growers need to know how to apply test results to nutrient management. At the field day, David and Peter could talk about interpreting the test results.

Program. Jim Steuver will host the afternoon. Matt Rine will replace Gene Stevens. It takes 30-40 minutes to get to Jim's from the rice farm. Participants will see corn and cotton at Jim's. Two separate session? With 2 separate sets of door prizes.

Additional promotion: email lists and fliers: "rsvp now" Post fliers at USDA offices, coffee shops, fertilizer dealer. Rural radio: KBOA, KTMO. Christa will share list of TV/radio from Malden meeting.

Press release due 6-18 for monthly publication. Direct mail from RC&D? Advertise through Farm Bureau (Kelly Smith or Julie Walter) and Corn Growers (Becky Frankenbach). Source of email lists: Greg Yielding, US Rice Producers, US Rice Federation, Houston.

Christa will pencil out agenda.

2. **Rice Field Day.** 125-150 people expected. Three quarters of them rice farmers. Four tours: pest control, weed control, fertilizer/fertility, diversification. One hour each, including 3 or 4 speakers, with transit time to next tour. Gene or David could do presentation about this group and the nitrogen additive study results. Booth: Unmanned.

3. **Delta Center Field Day:** 3 wagons go to each stop. 1200 people. Indoor booth? Outdoors—15 minute field stop. We need a manned booth. Bring fisherman and shrimpers up from LA, speak on results of hypoxia, want nothing controversial, just facts.

FFA has a separate tour, contact is Andrea Phillips. Ask Doug Daigle to assist with presentation, awareness of hypoxia issue. Mike: use Enviroscape to talk about Mississippi River watershed (inside with Doug Daigle). Christa will run by Gene and Doug Daigle.

4. **Proposal to NRCS.** EQIP proposal (Patty) Submitted suggestions for 2010 EQIP ranking sheet and has not heard anything back. Scott—need to train NRCS technical assistance staff on new nutrient management technologies.

Bob: NRCS is focused on hypoxia. Scott- Funding for groundwater study? No NRCS funding for research of any kind. Bob- there may well be additional funding from headquarters and MO NRCS to top SPARROW model watersheds. For 2010, concentration on hypoxia also conservation innovation grants (demonstrations and field work). Money will come through EQIP.

Bob- what can we do that we haven't already done, without additional staff? Scott- is it possible that there could be additional personnel? Bob—yes, has been discussed. New personnel or redirecting existing personnel.

Scott—would like to arrange winter meeting of stabilizer companies to speak with our folks (has had contact with Agrium) Are there different sources of the sensors we could invite? Possibly Nicky Burgess (TN), Ag Leader, Green Seeker.

Glenn—there is an incentive for sensors on corn and would like to have it for cotton and wheat. Bob is willing to support training. Bob said RC&D councils can organize training for technical staff. Scott can pole DC's for interest.

Proposal?

1. Training –okay.

2. Need proposal for groundwater study.
3. Results of SPARROW model? How to qualify—Scott not sure where to go with that. What can be done to prove or disprove it? Our watershed's show as top 15 in US. Where does info come from?

Question for Bob—Is NRCS looking at targeted watersheds of SPARROW model?

Bob—yes—financial assistance will be targeted to specific watersheds to implement core practices

Next meeting June 29, 10AM Central.