

MN Nutrient Efficiency Coalition

Teleconference

Aug 24, 2009

Participants

Kevin Koehner

Wayne Anderson

Bruce Henningsgaard

Brian Williams

Roger Wilkowske

Karen Scanlon

Dawn Bernau

Brad Carlson

Dave Ward

Award program

Brian mentioned program at recent CCA meeting. Consensus was in favor of recognition for CCA. Some concerns voiced about keeping it going long term. May work with suppliers, distributors, manufacturers to keep it funded. Who would administer over long term? Agreed to work with coalition on the program and develop it. Wants to see criteria.

Fertilizer short course is second week in Dec, along with pest short course. 350 CCAs attend and get CEUs. Would be nice to give award at that 2-day event. Could include award presentation at general session or at lunch.

Key to set up program so that it is credible. Start by defining criteria. Application or nomination process? Group of people review applications.

Wayne: some measure of efficiency should be dominant factor in criteria. Something that can be quantified objectively.

RW: some farmers involved in farm business analysis

Brad: do have records on inputs. Instructors of adult farm management program could nominate. This is a good way to do it; otherwise won't get farmers to send in records to verify efficiency.

BW: not just nutrient management, other practices also.

BC: becomes a mess to sort out between geographic areas and which practices used to deal with local issues

BW: award CCA only? Or small awards to multiple farmers

WA: balancing act. needs some \$\$ award to give out. Start with few categories. Engage experts to develop criteria and categories.

May need to give awards by region/geographic area. Restrict to Mississippi River Watershed.

SWCD nominates.

DB: good idea. SWCDs are accustomed to nominating.

BW: suggest committee to work on developing options and criteria.

WA: two needs: process/administering the program and measures/criteria. Need to get work going in both areas. At some point will need experts to help determine how to measure this.

Timeframe: probably not going to make dec. Adult farm management program farmers have books closed by March. May be good time scale to follow.

Rapid whole farm resource assessment may be useful.

Committee: Brian Williams, Brad Carlson, Kevin Koehner, Wayne Anderson, George Rehm. Brian will contact everyone and set up meeting for early to mid September.

Committee also needs to think about long term sustainability of award program.

David – group may be interested in helping put this award together. thinking about corn/soybean January event. Meaningful to have sizable recognition and good venue for award presentation. Production Stewardship Team can look into it. Riley Maum at Corn Growers is good contact and can find someone to work with the program.

Thru National corn yield contest, a lot of information collected (half-way honest). Gives good idea on what is used; can be available for this award.

BW: good to have 1-2 farmers involved in development of criteria.

WA: would be valuable if have entry-level of performance/achievement to provide recognition. Within that group spotlight good, benchmark performers.

Actions:

Brian Williams will contact the committee members (Brad, Wayne, Kevin, George) and hold a meeting in September. Brian will ask Dave Ward or Warren Formo.

Next Call

Monday, Sept 28 @ 2pm (central)