PFMD UPDATE

A BULLETIN FROM THE PESTICIDE AND FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MARCH 2019

Inside this Issue

Director's Notes

Joshua Stamper, Director, Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division

Making things "stay put" is the challenge addressed throughout this issue of the PFMD Update. Each of the following articles is based on things that PFMD staff have seen recently or a resource we think can help you keep ag chemicals on target. Whether it's chlorpyrifos, dicamba, nitrate, truck washing, or manure; keeping ag chemicals out of water and/or off your neighbor's property is something that Minnesota's statutes direct us to do.

At the MDA, we take this statutory charge seriously, but we also recognize that knowledge and education is the first and the best tool in a regulators tool box. However, some of the best education may not occur in classrooms or in a dicamba training session. It can occur in breakrooms, at coffee shops, in truck cabs, at sale barns, and at kitchen tables. The best kind of education is when the folks that work with agriculture chemicals get together to discuss the issues.

We hope that you will take the time to read these articles, and talk about them with your coworkers, employees, crop consultant, and neighbors. Any time you have questions about pesticides or fertilizers, don't hesitate to give us a shout. PFMD inspectors and staff can answer your questions or set up a non-regulatory "compliance assistance" visit to make sure that you are operating within the confines of the law.

Be safe and take care this spring,

Joshua

A Message from Commissioner Thom Petersen

I am honored and humbled to serve as Minnesota's Commissioner of Agriculture in the Walz Administration. I'm also grateful to Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan for this exciting opportunity to work on agricultural issues under the vision of One Minnesota.

Through my nearly 17 years with Minnesota Farmers Union, I've become very familiar with the work of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and I've spent a lot of time working on issues that impact you – everything from buffers to the Groundwater Protection Rule.

As we at the MDA get down to work, my main goal is to fulfill the mission of the MDA: ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength of our agricultural economy. We must continue to safeguard our food from farm to fork. We also have a responsibility to protect our natural resources and equip farmers with tools that promote and support their ongoing stewardship of our land and water. Lastly, during these difficult times in the depressed ag economy, I feel it's important for us to lift people up and provide assistance and new opportunities for farmers and the commodities they produce.

I look forward to traveling around the state and meeting those we license, inspect, and collaborate with on a daily basis. I also look forward to working with you on the numerous opportunities and challenges that are present in our current ag economy.

Cyanazine Breakdown Products Detected in Dakota County Groundwater

Heather Johnson, Hydrologist

Cyanazine was a triazine herbicide that was commonly used to kill annual grasses and broadleaf weeds in Minnesota, primarily in corn fields. The registration of cyanazine was discontinued in 2003, making it illegal for anyone to apply this herbicide in the United States.

Although cyanazine is rarely detected in groundwater these days, water samples collected from Dakota County private drinking water wells suggest the breakdown products of cyanazine are still present in some areas, sometimes at levels above drinking water standards. For human health risk assessments, cyanazine and its breakdown products are added together to produce a total cyanazine concentration value. This value can then be compared with the drinking water standard of 1.0 part per billion.

In response to the recent Dakota County data, the MDA is working with contract laboratories to develop analytical standards and methods for these chemicals which will allow the MDA Laboratory to analyze for cyanazine breakdown products in water samples. Currently, there is only one federal research laboratory capable of analyzing for cyanazine breakdown products. Assuming method development is successful, the goal of this effort is to assess cyanazine breakdown product presence in Dakota County and other areas of vulnerable groundwater around the state.

For more information, please contact Heather Johnson at 651-201-6098, Heather.Johnson@state.mn.us.

PFMD Update

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625 Robert St. N.,
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538
Telephone 651-201-6121

Editor: Gregg Regimbal
Pesticide Nonpoint Section
Gregg.Regimbal@state.mn.us

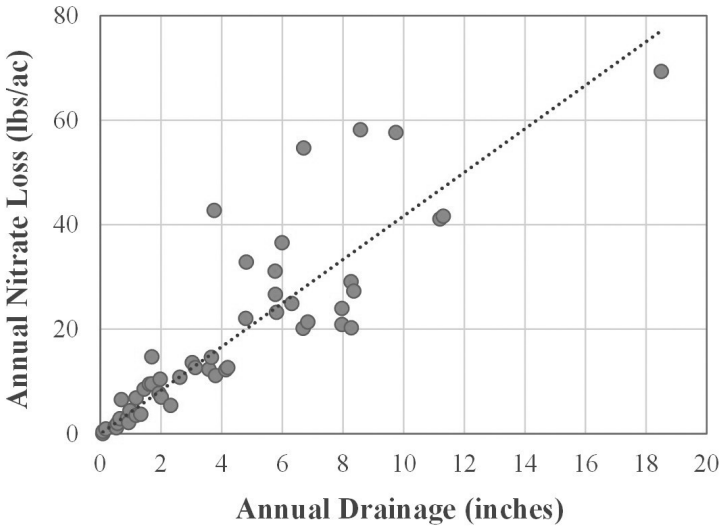
Assistant Editor: Jen Schaust
Jen.Schaust@state.mn.us

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Nitrate and Subsurface Drainage at Discovery Farms

Scott Matteson and Katie Rassmussen, MDA Hydrologists
Tim Radatz, Minnesota Agricultural Water Resource Center

Discovery Farms Minnesota (DFM) is a farmer-led effort to gather water quality information from fields of different farming systems across Minnesota. During the past year, DFM monitored nine farms, eight of which included subsurface drainage tile. Automatic sampling equipment records the amount of precipitation at each site and the loss of water through surface runoff and subsurface drainage. These sites have between one and seven years of monitoring data. On average, 13% of the precipitation that falls on each field is lost through drainage tile. While surface runoff can be sporadic and flashy, subsurface tile drainage can persist for much longer periods. The DFM farms average 164 days (range: 20-341 days) of subsurface drainage each year.



Annually, an average of 18.4 pounds per acre (range: <0.1-69.3 lb/acre) of nitrate-nitrogen leaves through the subsurface tile with an average concentration of just over 19 mg/L (range: 3-50 mg/L). At farms where monitoring is conducted for both the surface runoff and subsurface tile drainage, 70% of the total water leaving the field does so through the tile, as well as 94% of the nitrate-nitrogen. The amount of nitrate-nitrogen loss is heavily dependent on the amount of drainage. Generally, more precipitation equals higher drainage, which in turn equals higher nitrate losses.

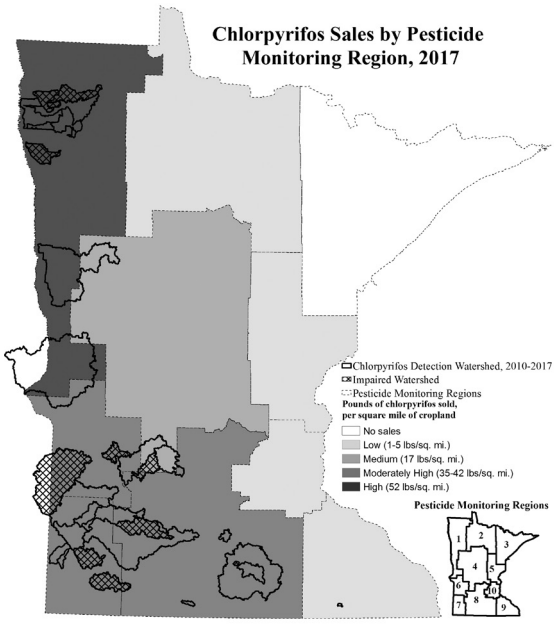
For more information, please contact Katie Rassmussen at 651-201-6331, Katie.Rassmussen@state.mn.us or Scott Matteson at 507-344-3201, Scott.Matteson@state.mn.us and visit: www.discoveryfarmsmn.org.

Supported by: CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Update on Chlorpyrifos Detections and Impaired Waters in Minnesota

Trisha Leaf, Research Scientist, Christine Wicks, Inspection Unit Supervisor and Bill VanRyswyk, Hydrologist Supervisor

Chlorpyrifos is an active ingredient in broad spectrum organophosphate insecticides (trade name examples include: Lorsban, Warhawk, Cobalt) that has seen increased use in Minnesota, in part, due to soybean aphid resistance (in some areas of the state) to pyrethroids. The increase in sales and use has coincided with an increase in detections of chlorpyrifos in surface water possibly due to drift, overspray, or erosion.



If chlorpyrifos concentrations in water are above certain levels, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has the authority to list the waterbody as "impaired" for aquatic life. There are currently nine waterbodies listed as "impaired" for chlorpyrifos in Minnesota. Any detection of chlorpyrifos in surface waters is a concern to the MDA because of its potent environmental toxicity.

Water monitoring

The MDA has monitored chlorpyrifos in select rivers and lakes since 2005. Starting in 2010, monitoring has indicated an increase in the number of detections of chlorpyrifos in streams and rivers. The detections generally correspond to regions of the state that have higher sales of the product, including the south central, southwest and northwest regions. While most pesticide detections generally occur during river storm flow periods following rain events, many of the chlorpyrifos detections occur in August when river flow is low and little overland runoff occurs. This suggests that detections in rivers may be due to drift from applications to adjacent land or from applicators failing to adhere to label setback requirements from surface waters.

Label setback requirements and compliance

Setbacks from surface water are a label requirement for all products containing chlorpyrifos that are not soil incorporated. The applicators must maintain the following treatment setbacks while applying chlorpyrifos products around rivers, natural ponds, lakes, streams, reservoirs, marshes, estuaries, and commercial fish ponds.

- 25 ft for ground application or overhead chemigation
- 50 ft for orchard airblast
- 150 ft for aerial application

By following these requirements, applicators will be in compliance with the setback requirements. Applicators should also follow other drift prevention requirements listed on the label, such as wind speed and height above the canopy, to protect surface water bodies from the insecticide. Compliance with these label setback requirements is legally enforceable.

Surveillance and Inspections

Surveillance will occur in areas where chlorpyrifos has been detected in surface water since 2010. Enhanced surveillance and inspections are planned for areas where impairments or repeated detections have occurred. Additional watersheds may be targeted if resources are available.

Before spring, Agricultural Chemical Investigators (ACIs) will conduct inspections with agricultural pesticide dealers, and pesticide applicators. A review of pesticide application records, sales, invoices, and the chlorpyrifos label restrictions will be completed. If violations of the chlorpyrifos label are determined, ORDERS and/or future enforcement may be appropriate. Compliance assistance will also be provided at the same time to emphasize the need to include a map of the treated area with the application record.

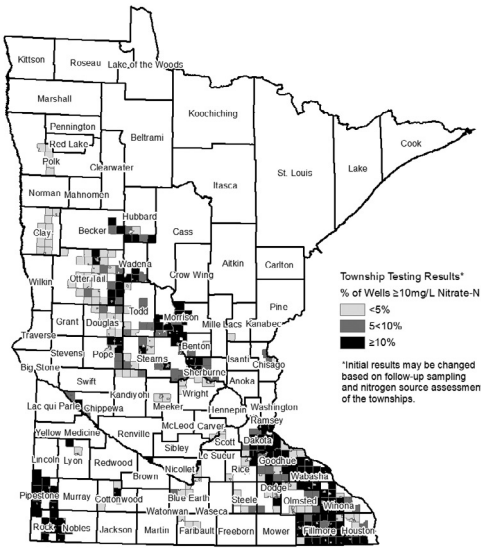
Mid-season, the ACIs may identify target fields where soybeans are growing within the required label setback distances for chlorpyrifos. Such sites can be used for field inspections. ACIs will conduct agricultural use inspections (real time or post use) and may obtain vegetation samples within the buffer area adjacent to surface water to determine possible chlorpyrifos label violations. Our goal is to evaluate our results and, through inspections and enforcement, inform applicators how to minimize chlorpyrifos movement to surface water.

For more information, please contact Trisha Leaf at 651-201-6588, Trisha.Leaf@state.mn.us.

Township Testing Program Update

Kim Kaiser, Hydrologist

The MDA works with local partners such as counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts to coordinate private well nitrate testing in vulnerable townships using Clean Water Funds. Each selected township is offered testing in two steps: the "initial" sampling and the "follow-up" sampling. In the initial sampling, private well owners receive a nitrate test kit in the mail. If nitrate is detected in the sample, the homeowner is offered a follow-up nitrate test, pesticide test, and well site visit. Trained MDA staff visit willing homeowners to resample the well and then conduct a site assessment. The assessment helps to identify possible non-fertilizer sources of nitrate and to see the condition of the well.



As of February 2019, 306 vulnerable townships from 42 counties participated in the Township Testing Program (TTP) from 2013 to 2018. In the 306 townships tested, 135 (44%) have 10% or more of the wells over the 10 mg/L Health Risk Limit (HRL) for Nitrate-N. In contrast, it was determined that in 114 (44%) townships less than 5% of the wells were over the HRL.

Overall, 9.2% (2,844) of the 30,769 wells exceeded the HRL for Nitrate-N. These results have yet to be analyzed for possible non-fertilizer sources, so the final percentage of wells may change based on follow-up sampling. Once the follow-up sampling is completed, the MDA analyzes the results and prepares a final report. The MDA uses the final results to determine if additional action is warranted, as described in the Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan (NFMP). www.mda.state.mn.us/townshiptesting

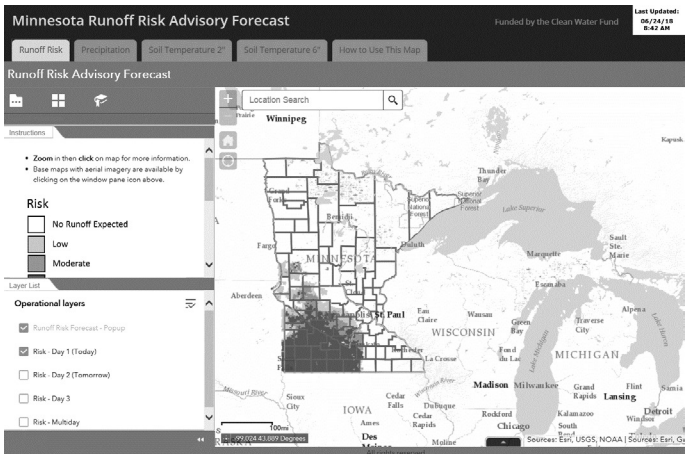
For more information, please contact Kim Kaiser at 651-201-6280, Kimberly.Kaiser@state.mn.us.

Supported by: CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast System

Heather Johnson, Hydrologist

The Minnesota Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast (RRAF) system is a tool developed by the MDA and the National Weather Service. It is designed to help farmers and commercial applicators determine the best time to apply manure to reduce the probability of off-target movement of valuable nutrients and protect water resources.



Farmers and commercial applicators use an interactive map to locate their field and find the forecasted risk. Users can also sign up for email or text messages for their county that alert them to a severe runoff risk for that day. The home page for the project is at www.mda.state.mn.us/rraf.

Runoff risk is grouped into four categories: No event, Low, Moderate and Severe. When the risk is Moderate or Severe, it is recommended that the applicator evaluate the situation to determine if there are other locations or later dates when the application could take place.

The RRAF website also provides statewide estimated 2" soil depth temperatures which can be useful at planting time, 6" soil depth temperatures which are helpful when determining fall fertilizer application in appropriate areas, and daily precipitation forecasts.

For more information, please contact Heather Johnson at 651-201-6098, Heather.Johnson@state.mn.us.

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Update on Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan Projects in Dakota, Morrison, and Sherburne Counties

Ryan Perish, Soil Scientist

Fertilizer Management Plan (NFMP) in Dakota, Morrison, and Sherburne counties. In each case, we have partnered with the local Soil and Water Conservation District to assemble a local advisory team of farmers, University of Minnesota Extension staff, and other agricultural professionals. These teams of volunteers provide local insight into effective nitrogen fertilizer management practices that promote the protection of groundwater from nitrogen used on agricultural fields. In addition, these teams help guide outreach and promote the exchange of ideas in the agricultural community.

The NFMP outlines a voluntary approach to working in townships with elevated nitrate in groundwater. Advisory team meetings have included the discussion of the NFMP, local groundwater movement, nitrate results from private wells, and nitrogen fertilizer best management practices. Team members have provided valuable insights related to these topics.

There is also interest by team members to host local field trials that would make side-by-side comparisons of nitrogen management practices in their fields. Results from these trials will provide opportunities for local farmers to discuss, consider, and refine their nitrogen management. As projects move forward, advisory teams will continue to provide guidance on practices and outreach in their respective counties.

For more information, please contact Ryan Perish 218-898-0002, Ryan.Perish@state.mn.us.

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Flood Plans Recommended

Lucia Hunt, Emergency Response Unit Supervisor

It is no secret that Minnesota got socked with more rain and snow than usual this last fall and winter. Spring flooding normally impacts a few communities every year, but the National Weather Service warns of the potential for statewide impacts from floodwaters. Even if you have never experienced high water at your facility, make a flood plan today to protect your assets!

Awareness

- Stay aware of local river conditions

Prevention

- Keep drain tiles and storm sewers clear
- Clean up all spills immediately
- Ensure dikes are sound and tanks are secure

Response

- Sandbag openings to dry fertilizer storage bays
- Call the Minnesota Duty Officer if any product spills into floodwaters

Find out more in the Purdue Extension publication Plan Today for Tomorrow's Flood at www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/PPP/PPP-87.pdf

Manage Pesticide Rinsate

Stan Kaminski, Waste Pesticide Specialist

Pesticide rinsate is a mixture of water and pesticides generated from washing pesticide application equipment, vehicles, and empty pesticide containers. Manage your rinsates per labeling directions and place in the spray tank during filling. When this is not possible, store rinsate in a container dedicated to just that product. Never mix pesticide rinsate labeled for different crops. The resulting mix becomes a hazardous waste, and likely cannot be applied and must be disposed of at the owner's expense. Rinsate management information can be found at: www.mda.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2018-05/rinsate%20mgmt.pdf

For more information, please contact Stan Kaminski at 651-201-6562 or Stan.Kaminski@state.mn.us.

Incidents of Interest: Causes, Cleanup, and Prevention

Pat Kelly, Incident Response Advisor

These incident summaries are provided as examples of spill responses. Remember, all incidents are to be reported to the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798.

- A Coop fertilizer tender was filled with 28% then overnight leaked 1,000 gallons through an open inductor valve. As a result, 25 yards of soil was removed but soil N concentration remained above cleanup goals so additional soil was removed. After preapproval from the MDA, the soil was land spread.
- A complaint was received that an ag-chemical facility was washing sprayers in their yard and that pesticide contaminated runoff destroyed the crop in an adjacent field. The MDA collected soil samples from the field as well as the area of the facility where sprayers were washed. Pesticide matches were discovered between the field and the facility. The pesticide concentrations in the field were high enough to be the likely cause of the crop death. The facility was requested to enter the MDA's Agricultural Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Program.
- While field injecting ammonia, the toolbar hitch pin broke causing the nurse tank to separate stretching the withdrawal hose. The hose ruptured because the break-away coupling device (BACD) did not function properly. The resulting ammonia cloud was spotted by a passerby who alerted emergency responders. No injuries nor evacuations were caused as a consequence of the 4,200 pound release. Violations were for the failure to immediately report an incident and a non-functioning BACD.

For more information, please contact Pat Kelly at 651-201-6387 or Patrick.Kelly@state.mn.us or Lucy Hunt at 651-201-6637 or Lucia.Hunt@state.mn.us.

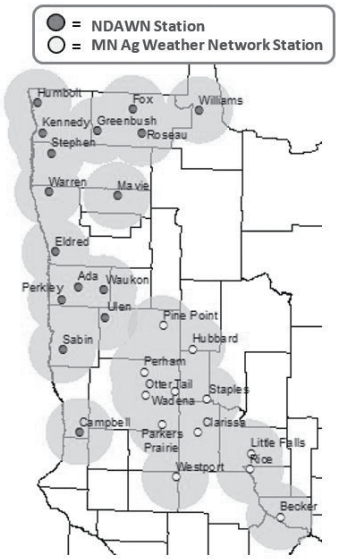
Minnesota Ag Weather Network Upgrades for 2019 Season

Luke Stuewe, Hydrologist

The East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District and the MDA are proud to announce their collaboration with the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN). Through this partnership, the MN Ag Weather Network Stations will be integrated into the NDAWN crop modeling and mapping applications and provide real-time (5-minute interval) weather data. Current Minnesota station data is available on the NDAWN website and work is underway to connect with the mapping and crop model applications before the 2019 growing season. Take a look at: ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu.

Ag Weather Stations in MN

(Stations where temperature inversion sensors will be in place before the 2019 growing season)



The Ag Weather Network is also being upgraded to provide air temperature inversion information to assist with crop protection product use decisions. The MDA is supporting the installation of additional air temperature sensors at all agricultural weather stations in Minnesota for the 2019 growing season. Once installed, this data will be accessible on the NDAWN Inversion application available for free download at both the App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android). Users of this application can choose the stations they are interested in and receive notification when inversion conditions exist. For some crop protection products, use is restricted when an inversion is in place. This real-time resource can help applicators make safer product use decisions.

Benefits from this collaboration include:

- Real-time data access (5 minute interval)
- Access to crop model and mapping applications
- User-friendly online and mobile platforms
- Air temperature inversion notifications
- Soil temperature under bare soil and turf (4 inch depth)

For more information, please contact Luke Stuewe, 218-850-9454, Luke.Stuewe@state.mn.us.

Supported by: CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT; East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District; DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Changes for Use of Dicamba-Tolerant (DT) Soybean Crops in 2019

Matt Sunseri, Pesticide Management Unit Supervisor

Persons that use the new dicamba products in Minnesota in 2019 must adhere to three sets of legal requirements: 1) the new federal label (revised for 2019-2020), 2) the additional use restriction set forth in the Special Local Needs Registration by the MDA, and 3) the applicator requirements specified in the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law. Users must take care to ensure they follow all three sets of legal requirements.

The affected formulations are only the dicamba products labeled for use while the DT soybean crop is in the field: XtendiMax by Monsanto, Engenia by BASF, and FeXapan by DuPont.

Applicators must obtain and comply with the new federal label. All older versions of the label have expired and cannot be used. Changes to the federal label include:

- New expiration date of December 20, 2020.
- Applicators must complete label-required training prior to using these products in 2019, even if they completed training in 2018. The label-required training is separate from applicator requirements specified in the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law. For information about dicamba training, visit the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers website at https://mcpr-cca.org/dicamba-information-trainings/.
- In-crop application of dicamba more than 45 days after planting is now prohibited. This means applicators now can only apply dicamba in-crop 45 days or less after planting, before beginning bloom (R1 stage), or until the Minnesota cutoff date of June 20, 2019. Whichever cutoff time occurs first will determine how late in the season a person can apply dicamba.
- Applications can only occur from one hour after sunrise to two hours before sunset.
- A new 57-foot buffer in certain counties where endangered species may exist.

Applicators must also obtain and comply with the new 2019 Minnesota Special Local Need label for the product they are using. The Minnesota labels are available at www.mda.state.mn.us/fifra-section-24c-special-local-need. The decision follows the MDA's ongoing investigation into reports of crop damage from alleged dicamba off-target movement. The Minnesota label restriction for the 2019 growing season is:

- Cutoff date: Do not apply after June 20, 2019.

For current information visit: www.mda.state.mn.us/dicamba-frequently-asked-questions-faq

Given each product is a Restricted Use Pesticide, they are subject to the requirements specified in the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law. An applicator must first hold a Commercial or Noncommercial Pesticide Applicator License or a Private Pesticide Applicator Certification to purchase and apply these products. Additionally, licensed Commercial/Noncommercial applicators must meet the record keeping requirements specified in the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law. The MDA maintains samples of these records online. These requirements differ from the EPA label restrictions. Applicators must meet the state and federally mandated record keeping requirements for Restricted Use Pesticides.

For more information, please contact Matt Sunseri at 651-201-6292 or Matthew.Sunseri@state.mn.us.

Trends in Emergency Incidents – Truck Washing

Lucia Hunt, Emergency Response Unit Supervisor

In 2018, there was a spike in the number of investigations that implicated truck washing areas as the source of emergency incidents. The MDA recommends that tenders and applicators be rinsed in the field where residues end up in the environment they were meant for. Unrinsed vehicles returned to the facility for a more thorough power-washing are potentially contaminated with pesticides and fertilizers which could harm the environment if allowed to run off.

Runoff from washing should be treated and managed as rinsate. Wash equipment in a containment area and test wash water as you would for precipitation management before releasing into the environment. Rinsate should be used as makeup water for your next application. If your procedures direct wash water to a municipal sanitary sewer, be aware that treatment systems are powered by living organisms which can be harmed by agricultural chemicals.

Airports and airstrips with wash areas should ensure that runoff does not allow water contaminated with pesticides or fertilizers into the environment.

The cost of cleaning up an area contaminated by wash water rinsate can vary. Even if contaminated wash water doesn't leave the property or gravel surfaces, the accumulation of chemicals over the years may require a major cleanup.

For more information, please contact Lucy Hunt at 651-201-6637 or Lucia.Hunt@state.mn.us.

Bar Codes and Scanners and Smart Phones, Oh my

Erin Smilanich, Recertification Project Manager

Who would have thought that checking in and out of a workshop would be just like checking out at the grocery store? After years of having applicators hand in illegible attendance cards, forgetting to turn them in, having friends turn theirs in so they could sneak out early, and so much more, we decided to try barcode scanners.

Workshop attendees seem to enjoy the swiftness of check-in and check-out, and we appreciate the face time with applicators. Staff scan the applicator's license, which enters the license number into a spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is then uploaded into the state licensing database the next day to track attendance. This cuts down on so much time. Staff no longer need to sort, scan and load data from the old attendance cards. Scanning licenses also allows staff to check for any expiration discrepancies and to ensure attendance is correct.

For more information, please contact Erin Smilanich at 651-201-6146 or Erin.Smilanich@state.mn.us.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55155-2538
Ph: 651/201-6021 Fax: 651/201-6105

LICENSE IDENTIFICATION CARD

COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR

VALID: 3/29/2019- 12/31/2019

Categories/Recertify By:

A	12/31/2021
E	12/31/2021
F	12/31/2021
P	12/31/2021

DOE, JOHN
PEST FREE
1010 MAIN STREET
HOMETOWN, MN 55111

License # 21234567

Precipitation Management

Matthew Parins, Agricultural Advisor

The collection of water inside fertilizer permitted dike/load pad areas occurs from melting snow or rainfall events. Minor drips from pumps, hoses, and overflowed drip pans is enough to contaminate this water in containment areas. Proper management techniques are required to protect our water resources from this contaminated water.

Before discharging precipitation from a containment area, be sure to test the water. This testing is required in most situations. A common violation occurs when individuals place sump pumps inside a dike and discharge the precipitation into the environment. A sump pump in this situation is considered an open drain and open drains are not allowed. The potential for unintended discharge of fertilizer and environmental damage is too high in this situation.

If testing indicates levels of fertilizer are too high to discharge, the precipitation must be collected and stored until proper land disposal or other allowed methods can be completed.

For more information, please review the Precipitation Management fact sheet: www.mda.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/inline-files/precipitation%20mgmt.pdf

or contact Matt Parins, 651-201-6587, Matthew.Parins@state.mn.us.

Recent MDA, Pesticide & Fertilizer Management Division, Enforcement Actions – January 2019

Andrew Murphy, Agricultural Advisor

Fridley, MN

A structural pest control company paid a $3,150 penalty for applying a pesticide in a residential setting for insect control inconsistent with the pesticide label and in a manner resulting in pesticide overspray and human endangerment.

Little Falls, MN

An agricultural facility paid a $250 penalty for reusing mini-bulk pesticide containers to store waste oil, inconsistent with the pesticide labels that noted, "Refillable Container. Refill this container with pesticide only. Do not reuse this container for any other purpose."

Cooperstown, ND

A right-of-way vegetation management control company paid a $1,000 penalty for applying pesticides in a manner resulting in run-off and damage to adjacent properties.

Westbrook, MN

A farmer paid a $500 penalty for applying XtendiMax herbicide, active ingredient dicamba, inconsistent with the pesticide label by not maintaining the required 110 foot downwind buffer.

Belle Plaine, MN

An agricultural facility paid a $2,000 penalty for storing multiple full pesticide mini-bulk containers without secondary containment.

Park Rapids, MN

A commercial greenhouse paid a $850 penalty for failing to provide the required Worker Protection Standard pesticide safety training to some of its workers prior to the workers completing tasks in a pesticide treated area where a pesticide had been applied within the last 30 days or a Restricted Entry Interval (REI) was in effect, and for applying a pesticide to plants not listed on the pesticide label.

Twin Valley, MN

A farmer paid a $500 penalty for applying a pesticide inconsistent with the label resulting in pesticide drift damage to an adjacent Scientific Natural Area property managed by The Nature Conservancy.

Terryville, CT

A pesticide registrant paid a $500 penalty for distributing an unregistered pesticide in Minnesota prior to registration.

Waseca, MN

A farmer paid a $325 penalty Action for failing to maintain a break-away quick coupler on an anhydrous ammonia (NH3) toolbar owned by the farmer. During the course of application the NH3 nurse tank, owned by an area facility, separated from the NH3 tool bar and the break-away quick coupler failed to disconnect, causing the withdrawal hose to rupture and release NH3.

Lewiston, MN

An agricultural facility paid a $1,250 penalty for applying the Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) Corvus, EPA Registration #264-1066, inconsistent with the Minnesota Product Bulletin that accompanied the product label and stated, in part: "Use is prohibited in Dakota, Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Wabasha, and Winona counties and north of Interstate 94." The MDA documented the facility had made two applications of Corvus in Winona county and also had not recorded all RUP sales on their RUP sales report.

Andover, MN

A lawn care company paid a $250 penalty for failing to have a backflow prevention device on the water supply used to fill pesticide application equipment.

How Licensing and Certification is using Technology to Make Things Easier

Erin Smilanich, Recertification Project Manager

One of the biggest statements we hear is, 'I don't know my license number'. With the scanning of applicator cards now a reality and the norm at workshops, licensees are expected to have their cards on them or know their license number. This can prove difficult for those that have lost their cards. Part of our educational push this license cycle is to show applicators how to look up their license on the MDA website. This not only helps us during workshops, but it also helps the applicator know if they are in good standing.

Applicators can look up their license from any computer, tablet, or smart phone using www.mda.state.mn.us/licensing/license-lookup. They can also save a screen shot on their phone for later use. During our presentation, we show them the steps to get to the license look-up page and how to effectively find themselves. With the majority of society carrying around a web-enabled device, showing applicators how to look up their license on the fly can ensure that they will always be in compliance.

For more information, please contact Erin Smilanich at 651-201-6146 or Erin.Smilanich@state.mn.us.

MAWQCP Updates Pest Management Standard

Clarissa Levi, Agronomy and Conservation Coordinator, Peter Gillitzer, Assessment and Research Coordinator

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. As part of the process to become Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certified, farms go through a whole farm risk assessment. One part of the assessment looks at pest management practices and how they impact water quality. Staff periodically review the assessment process to ensure each component aligns with the types of farms assessed and the most recent research. The pest management assessment was recently updated.

This update aims to create a more user-friendly assessment that lists out detailed management practices that both reward farmers who already employ Integrated Pest Management strategies and encourage farmers to adopt additional practices that benefit water quality. It also creates standards for all pesticide use rather than focusing in on specific pesticides of concern. Lastly, it provides a logical risk assessment process for farming operations that depend on mechanical and biological pest control such as conservation, grazing and certified-organic lands.

Updates to the pest management assessment are expected to be fully implemented by March 2019. For more information, please contact Clarissa Levi at 651-201-6086 or Clarissa.Levi@state.mn.us. Supported by: CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Update on Dicamba

Christine Wicks, Chemical Supervisor

As the lead regulator of pesticide use in Minnesota, the MDA receives complaints of possible violations from concerned citizens. Complaints address problems with applicator certification as well as pesticide misuse, exposure, or contamination. The number of complaints and concerns related to dicamba, specifically Engenia, XtendiMax, and FexaPan decreased by 30% from 2017 to 2018. The number of counties reporting complaints and concerns also decreased. In 2018, 19 counties reported complaints, while 49 counties reported complaints in 2017. Also, the highest number of complaints and concerns reported from an individual county decreased by 70%. In 2017, Jackson County had the largest number of reports (22), while in 2018 Lincoln County had the highest number of reports (7). All of reports submitted were reviewed and analyzed to evaluate the future use of dicamba. The MDA will register these products in 2019 and the MDA will continue to respond to complaints and concerns.

Individuals filing a complaint may choose to have the MDA investigate the complaint or to submit the complaint for informational purposes only. Complaints are made by phone or online.

- Complaint hotline: Call 651-201-6333 between 8:00-4:00 Monday thru Friday
- Online dicamba complaint form: www.mda.state.mn.us/dicamba-complaint-form

For more information, please contact Christine Wicks at 651-201-6390 or Christine.Wicks@state.mn.us.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division
625 Robert St. N.
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538

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Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Update

Bill Fitzgerald, Operations and Training Coordinator

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) has certified more than 700 farm operations in the state, representing over 450,000 acres of agricultural land. The producers who have gone through the MAWQCP assessment have committed to or installed 1,335 new Best Management Practices on those agricultural lands in order to gain MAWQCP certification. These new practices might be things such as adopting strip till, planting cover crops, variable rate applying phosphate fertilizer, or constructing grass waterways to control erosion. Together, these new practices are keeping 64,000 tons of soil in place and keeping 25,000 tons of sediment and 30,000 pounds of phosphorous out of Minnesota's waters annually.

Producers participating in MAWQCP are eligible for dedicated financial assistance to help with those new practices, from either NRCS' EQIP program or a grant from MDA for up to $5,000 or 75% cost share. MAWQCP Certifiers can also guide program participants to any of the other available sources of technical and financial assistance while pursuing certification. Anyone interested can begin the process of becoming MAWQCP certified by contacting their local Soil and Water Conservation District, or visit MyLandMyLegacy.com to see a list of our Area Certification Specialists.

For more information, please contact Bill Fitzgerald at 651-201-5159 or Bill.Fitzgerald@state.mn.us.