

Minnesota BMP CHALLENGESM & Water Quality Credit Trading (WQT) Workshop

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007
Holiday Inn, Alexandria, Minnesota*

Summary Agenda

- 10:00 AM **Introduction - BMP Challenge and Water Quality Trading: Opportunities for Farmers, Advisors and Educators**
Brian Brandt, Director, Agricultural Conservation Innovation Center
Brian will introduce the BMP CHALLENGE, a project funded by USDA- NRCS has opened innovative opportunities for farmers to try Best Management Practices (BMPs) without risk to income, and earn incentives from water quality credit trading.
- 10:15 AM **Water Quality Trading 101**
Jim Klang, PE, Senior Project Scientist, Kieser & Associates, LLC
Water quality credit trading can be confusing and is often misunderstood. Jim will clarify how trading can provide cash to farmers, including upcoming opportunities for Minnesota Farmers.
- 11:30 PM **Break for lunch**
- 12:00 PM **Water Quality Trading Rule Development in Minnesota**
Marco Graziani, Pollution Control Specialist, MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
Building on an introduction of WQT, Marco will present on the rationale and goals for the development of Minnesota's water quality trading rules, providing an overview of the process of developing water quality trading rules in Minnesota, a quick review of the state's experience with water quality trading to date, and discussion of current water quality trading drivers.
- 1:00 PM **Looking under the Hood at the BMP CHALLENGE: Understanding the Mechanics**
Brian Brandt, Director, Agricultural Conservation Innovation Center
Brian will provide a roadmap to how educators and advisors can take advantage of the BMP CHALLENGE as an educational tool for use with corn farmers concerned about income risk. He will also present information on the new UM Extension recommendations for nitrogen.
- 1:30 PM **Water Quality Trading in the Sauk River Watershed**
Lynn Nelson, BMP Program and Data Analysis, Sauk River Watershed Partnership
Lynn will speak about the process and experience of establishing a pilot water quality credit trading program with in the Sauk River Watershed.
- 1:50 PM **Closing Remarks - Lori Steckervetz**

2:00 PM

Adjourn