

# Minnesota BMP CHALLENGE<sup>SM</sup> & Water Quality Credit Trading (WQT) Workshop

Thursday, January 10, 2008

Redwood Falls, Minnesota

## Summary Agenda

- 10:00 AM     **Minnesota River Watershed: Opportunities for Progress**  
*Dr. Shannon Fisher, Executive Director, MN River Board/MSU Water Resources Center*  
Shannon will present an introduction to the Minnesota River watershed project, including current environmental issues, a progress report, and opportunities for improvement.
- 10:20 AM     **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.
- 10:45 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.
- 11:45 PM     **Break for lunch**
- 12:15 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.
- 1:15 PM     **MN Nutrient Management Initiative**  
*Brian Williams, Water Planning Coordinator, MN Dept. of Agriculture*  
Brian will provide information on this program as another tool for available to producers in Southern Minnesota to reduce risk and increase stewardship.

1:30 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.

2:00 PM

**Adjourn**