



Funding Available for Nutrient Management Farmer Education Trainings

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MADISON – Applications are now available for the Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant Program, formerly known as MALWEG. The program awards grant funding to agencies and other organizations to train farmers in nutrient management principles and planning.

“The Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) program is a great way to help farmers develop their own nutrient management plans that fit the way they run their operations,” says Sara Walling, Nutrient Management and Water Quality Section Chief at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). “When farmers write their own nutrient management plans they understand it, value it, and are more likely to follow it.”

Applications are available at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/malweg/> and are due by midnight Sunday, Sept. 16. Applications must be submitted electronically.

Grants will be awarded for programs in fall and winter of 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. One application will cover both periods. There are two grant categories:

- Tier I grants fund projects that offer incentive payments to farmers for soil testing and other elements needed to complete a nutrient management plan. These grant projects also include workshops, on-farm visits, developing methods for farmers to measure their manure application rates, completion of a plan, and post-harvest on-farm consultations.
- Tier II grants fund projects that educate farmers about soil testing and nutrient management without providing financial incentives.

About \$137,400 is available for the first year and \$175,000 for the second year. Eligible applicants include conservation districts; county, state and federal agricultural and natural resources agencies; colleges and universities; University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX); nonprofit organizations; and lake organizations and similar place-based groups.

Previously, UWEX received the funding from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and administered the grants. Beginning with the 2014-15 grant year, DATCP will administer the program directly rather than through UWEX. DATCP encourages groups to apply to this grant program to help our state’s farmers better manage manure and fertilizer to improve profitability and meet program requirements associated with the farmland preservation program, manure storage permits, and local and state cost-share programs.

For more information about NMFE funding, contact Sara Walling at Sara.Walling@wisconsin.gov or 608-224-4501 or Kevan Klingberg at kevan.klingberg@ces.uwex.edu or 715-983-2240.

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