

## Counties, Tech Colleges Awarded Grants To Provide Nutrient Management Training

Release Date: 12/3/13

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MADISON – Nearly \$356,000 has been awarded to counties and technical colleges in Wisconsin to provide farmers with training and assistance in nutrient management planning, helping keep contaminated runoff from reaching the state's waterways and groundwater. The awards are for training in 2013 and 2014.

Nutrient Management Farmer Education grants, formerly known as MALWEG, are awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

"These grants will help farmers develop plans that fit their operations," says Sara Walling, Nutrient Management and Water Quality Section Chief with DATCP. "The training is done at the local level, by people who are familiar with the terrain and the challenges that farmers face in Wisconsin's widely varying landscapes."

Two different types of grants are awarded – tier 1 and tier 2. Both require workshops, individual mapping of farms showing soil types and nutrient application restrictions, and individual manure spreader calibration for each farmer. In addition, tier 1 grants may offer farmers incentive payments for soil testing and other elements needed to complete a nutrient management plan and on-farm visits.

For example, Vernon County's Land and Water Conservation Department will continue a relationship with Western Technical College as a tier 1 recipient. Participants will attend a series of six workshops in the college's computer lab on soil sampling, interpreting maps, and the role of nitrogen and phosphorus in nutrient management. They will also get training in SnapPlus software for nutrient management, in addition to on-farm visits to calibrate manure spreaders and answer questions specific to the farm.

By contrast, as a tier 2 recipient, Dodge County will offer three types of workshops: one for farmers who do not have nutrient management plans, a refresher for those who have attended training previously, and one focusing on SnapPlus.

Counties receiving tier 1 grants are:

**Barron** -- \$15,000

**La Crosse** – \$21,250

**Columbia** – \$28,000

**Lafayette** – \$9,400

**Dane** – \$17,000

**Sauk** – \$26,400

**Door** – \$2,664

**St. Croix** – \$12,000

**Eau Claire** – \$13,200

**Taylor** (with **Marathon, Clark and Lincoln** counties) – \$29,463

**Grant** – \$16,550

**Trempealeau** (with Western Technical College) – \$28,900

**Green** – \$26,250

**Vernon** (with Western Technical College) – \$28,606

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Other technical colleges receiving tier I grants are:

**Chippewa Valley Technical College** – \$30,000

**Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College** – \$11,030

**Southwestern Wisconsin Technical College** – \$29,750

Counties receiving tier 2 grants are:

**Adams** – \$2,000

**Dodge** – \$2,400

**Jefferson** – \$2,000

**Manitowoc** – \$2,000

**Washburn** – \$2,000

Farmers interested in the training should contact their county land and water conservation offices.

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