



NORTH CENTRAL REGION WATER NETWORK

THE DROP

A monthly e-newsletter from the North Central Region Water Network

November 2020



Network News

Happy Thanksgiving from our North Central Region Water Network family to yours! We hope you are able to take some time to reflect and connect with those you hold near - even if it's virtually. Here at the Network, we are thankful to all of you who work so hard to protect our natural resources, especially water.

Read on for the latest water-related news, events, and happenings and if you have a chance - be sure to take this [brief 5-minute survey](#) to help us plan our 2021 webinars!

Stay safe,

-Rebecca Power, Network Director and Anne Nardi, Network Communications

P.S. Want your water questions answered by colleagues? Use the North Central



The Current

Nutrient Management Practices and their Co-Benefits

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 2pm CT

Nutrient management practices are critical for reducing nutrient loads downstream. But what about the other benefits nutrient management practices provide outside of water quality improvement? Tune into this month's *The Current* webinar to hear about the co-benefits of nutrient management practices including pollinator habitat creation, carbon sequestration and flood mitigation. [Register here](#)



Network Spotlight

Virtual Harmful Algal Bloom Research Symposium Scheduled for January 6-7, 2021

In the summer of 2018, the North Central Region Water Network teamed up with Water Resources Research Institutes (WRRIs) in the twelve North Central Region States to document existing resources and programs dedicated to raising awareness for and curbing the impact of harmful algal blooms or HABs. Together, the team cataloged existing HAB research and outreach activities and created recommendations for future educational messaging and research which they outlined in a 2019 whitepaper. [Read on](#)



Leadership Spotlight

[Missouri Strip Trial Program Provides Key Insights Into Cover Crops' Impact on Corn/Soybean Rotation](#)

The Missouri Strip Trial program had its beginnings in 2016 in response to Missouri grower questions concerning the use of cover crops in their crop rotations. Producers were curious about cover crop stand establishment, species to use, spring termination strategies and the impact cover crops have on cash crop yield. [Read on](#)

In The News

Upcoming Events

University of Minnesota Crop & Pest Management Connect December 8-10, 2020

The University of Minnesota Crop & Pest Management Connect is a three-day online educational conference for ag professionals scheduled for December 8 - 10. Certified crop advisors can earn up to 12 continuing education units in soil & water, nutrient management, pest management, and crop management over the three day period. [Learn more](#)

Drought Decision Calendars for Specialty Crops December 14, 2020

This webinar will highlight a recent project engaging specialty crop growers in the Midwest to better understand the seasonality of their decisions and drought information needs. It will also discuss how decision calendars can be used to communicate and improve the usability of drought/climate monitoring and prediction science. [Learn more](#)

**Just in Time Soil Health Digital Cafe
Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

There is a lot of focus on soil organic matter levels, but what if the flow of carbon through the soil is just as important for soil health? What if this flow is more important? Building and maintaining soil organic matter levels can be a long, slow process. Similarly, maintaining a large warehouse inventory is expensive. In manufacturing, a cost-cutting concept called just-in-time production allows smaller inventory levels and has been widely adopted. Could the same concept be applied to soil management for just-in-time soil health? Tune in to find out! [Learn more](#)

**Intro to Lakes Online Class
January 19 - March 26, 2021**

This 6-week self-paced online course is designed for anyone interested in inland lakes, including lakefront property owners and lake managers. Course topics include lake ecology, watershed management, shoreline protection, Michigan water law, aquatic plants, and community engagement. [Learn more](#)

Funding and Opportunities

Watershed Specialist Training Program

The Watershed Specialist Training program delivers an online training course for current and aspiring water resource professionals and supports ongoing networking among alumni. The program aspires to continually build capacity to address Minnesota's water resource challenges. [Learn more](#)

Senior Environmental Extension Scientist, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant as part of the University of Illinois Extension is seeking a person to expand an outreach program on Great Lakes contaminant remediation and restoration activities being conducted under the Great Lakes Legacy Act. A Master's degree related to subject matter emphasis is required. The closing date is December 4, 2020. [Learn more](#)

**WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP)
Phase I Grants**

The Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP), Reclamation provides funding to watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs. By providing this funding Reclamation promotes water reliability and cooperation between stakeholders to reduce conflict, facilitate solutions to complex water issues, and stretch limited water supplies. Those in western states including the Dakotas, Kansas, and Nebraska are eligible to apply. The closing date for applications is January 19, 2021. [Learn more](#)

Illinois-led Research Aims to Clean Agricultural Drainage Water - University of Illinois ACES News

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has awarded \$1.12 million to support University of Illinois-led research to clean agricultural drainage water through saturated buffers and denitrifying bioreactors. The investment, part of NRCS's Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program, was matched by numerous stakeholder partners in Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota, for a total of nearly \$2.25 million. [Read on](#)

Prolonged or Intense Drought Triggers Relief Options Through Livestock Forage Program - University of Nebraska-Lincoln IANR News

Nearly 86% of Nebraska is experiencing moderate drought or worse, and that nearly 12% of the state is experiencing extreme or exceptional drought, according to the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor map. Prolonged or intense droughts during normal grazing periods can negatively impact resources that livestock owners and contract growers depend on. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency offers a relief program meant to help offset forage loss, and it is triggered by the Drought Monitor. [Read on](#)

Heavy Rainfall Drives One-third of Nitrogen Runoff, According to New Study- National Science Foundation via Phys.org

Heavy rain events that occur only a few days a year can account for up to one-third of the annual nitrogen runoff from farmland in the Mississippi River basin, according to a new study by Iowa State University scientists. [Read on](#)

Record-breaking Atlantic Hurricane Season Draws to an End - NOAA News and Features

The extremely active 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is drawing to a close with a record-breaking 30 named storms and 12 landfalling storms in the continental United States. While the official hurricane season concludes on November 30, tropical storms may continue to develop past that day. [Read on](#)

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