



April 25, 2012

Teresa Lang
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RE: NMPP Ver 1.0 Public Comments

As the CAR protocols are developed, they come about more clearly, directly, and expediently, familiar. This Version of the Nitrogen Management Protocol is intended to establish not only the framework for future versions of the Nitrogen Management protocol, but perhaps to get interested parties thinking about additional activities that might pass muster with CAR. I applaud your work which so certainly plants the seed for north central growers, surely our largest nitrogen users, potential conservation of nitrogen fertilizer and unintended, detrimental consequences.

There are certain other dimension's that could be considered. Firstly, the intimate relationships between water management, soil microbiology, as well as other macro-nutrients relative to soil nitrogen and NUE. In irrigated agriculture, it is almost unheard of to consider nitrogen use efficiency without water management. Likewise, it is difficult to image water use efficiency without consideration of nitrogen and phosphorus nutrition.

If we could next focus upon the fertigation activity, we might begin to shape the realities of western growing conditions. Because we can nearly perfectly account for water movement through the rootzones of irrigated/fertigated crops, we can therefore directly improve yield while accounting for most of the nitrogen. Teasing apart which is the largest contributor to those yield metrics is only possible with prescription fertigation, with very formal mapping of rootzone monitoring.

I found what seemed to be sentence misconstructions or errors, and expect those will be checked.

Tom A. Reynolds, NRCS-TSP, CID, PIC
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