



“Helping bring YOU clean water”

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For immediate release

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Funding Opportunities Available for producers in the Verdi Wellhead Protection Area

The Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District applied for and received a Clean Water Fund Grant for the Verdi Wellhead Protection Area Project.

The goal of this project is to reduce nitrate levels in the drinking water at the Verdi Well Field. Implementation projects through this grant are designed to decrease surface runoff and filter nutrients, sediment, and pesticides before reaching surface and ground water. Nutrients that are not effectively utilized by crops have the potential to leach into ground water or enter nearby surface waters via overland runoff or subsurface agriculture drainage systems.

Project elements available for funding include the following: *Nutrient Management Plans, Variable Rate Technology, Nitrogen stabilizers (or inhibitors) and split nitrogen fertilizer application practice, and Filter Strips.*

These incentives are for the entire Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) with the High Vulnerability Area and the Groundwater Capture Zone areas being priority for the incentive payments.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is also making available to the producers in the Verdi wellhead protection area the use of suction tube lysimeters. These lysimeter tubes will measure the N efficiency used by the crops at different stages in the growing season and the potential N leaching to the groundwater.

Producers in the Verdi Wellhead Protection Area and the Drinking Water Supply Management Area are encouraged to contact **Randy Kraus at 507-694-1630, x3** for more information about the project or to sign-up for the various project elements.