August 13 Deadline for Clean Water Partnership Grant

St. Paul, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is seeking grant proposals from local government units and other entities interested in leading a nonpoint-source, pollution-control project. Priority for funding will be given to projects that protect waters currently meeting state water quality standards.

Eligible applicants may apply to the MPCA through a competitive application process. The due date for proposals is 4:30 p.m., August 13, 2010.

The MPCA anticipates there will be \$2 million available for grants and \$2 million for loans this year. Eligible applicants include watershed districts, tribal authorities, cities and counties, joint powers organizations and watershed management organizations. There is a \$500,000 limit on each grant funding request and no limit for a loan request. Proposals must be sent electronically to CWP.Grant.PCA@ state.mn.us.

This year, the MPCA will offer funds for two types of projects:

- -- Resource investigation to monitor, assess and develop a diagnostic study for water bodies, along with a plan to implement activities that address the needs of the water bodies. These projects are only eligible for grant funding.
- -- Implementation of activities already identified by a comprehensive assessment and planning process in the watershed or area around the water body of concern. These projects are eligible for both grant and loan funding. Proposers who are awarded funds will be able to begin project work as early as the fall of 2010.

For more information, see the CWP Resource Investigation and Implementation Projects section on the MPCA's Financial Assistance for Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Projects: Clean Water Partnership and Section 319 Programs Web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-319.html.

Field Day near Lakefield on July 7 Will Address Agronomic Management for Alfalfa-Corn

By Jeff Coulter - Extension Corn Agronomist, Michael Russelle - USDA-ARS Soil Scientist, and Matt Yost - Graduate Research Assistant

Each year, corn is grown after alfalfa on an estimated 250,000 acres in Minnesota. Although this amounts to only 3% of total field corn acreage in the state today, it may represent the path to a more secure future. This is because including alfalfa in crop rotations is useful for reducing soil erosion, enhancing soil tilth and carbon storage, reducing weed seedbanks, disrupting the life cycles of disease and insect pests of corn, and supplying nitrogen to subsequent crops.

Current on-farm research being conducted by the University of Minnesota and the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) that is funded by the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council, and the Minnesota Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council is investigating agronomic management practices that increase the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of alfalfa-corn rotations. This year, there are eleven on-farm research sites across the state. Results from this research and related research projects will be presented at an on-farm field day near Lakefield, MN on July 7th.

This field day is free and open to the public. Refreshments and informational packets will be provided. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m., with presentations and a plot tour from 1:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Presentations will include:

- Potassium Management for Alfalfa by Matt Yost, Graduate Research Assistant;
- Conservation Tillage Considerations by Liz Stahl, Extension Educator;
- Corn Agronomics to Optimize Production and Reduce Risk by Jeff Coulter, Extension Corn Agronomist;

- Starter Fertilizer Management for Corn by Dan Kaiser, Extension Soil Fertility Specialist;
- Cover Crops in Southern Minnesota by Jill Sackett, Extension Educator:
- On-Farm Experience with Alfalfa-Corn Rotations by Jerry and Nancy Ackermann, Growers;
- Nitrogen Cycling in Alfalfa-Corn Rotations and Plot Tour by Michael Russelle, USDA-ARS Soil Scientist.

This field day will be located at 39750 820th Street, Lakefield, MN. From Lakefield, MN, this is 5.3 miles west on Co. Hwy. 14 or 820th Street. From Heron Lake, MN, this is 8 miles south on Co. Hwy. 9, then 1.6 miles east on Co. Hwy. 14 or 820th Street. From Brewster, MN, this is 2 miles south on 10th Street or Zeh Ave., then 8.6 miles east on Co. Hwy. 14 or 820th Street. From Worthington, MN, this is 13.5 miles east on Co. Road 35 or Co. Hwy 34, then 4 miles north on Co. Hwy. 9, then 1.6 miles east on Co. Road 14 or 820th Street.

In the event of inclement weather, call the University of Minnesota Extension Farm Information Line at 1-800-232-9077 or listen to KDOM (1580 AM or 94.3 FM), KKOJ (1190 AM), or KRAQ (105.7 FM), as the field day will be postponed. If you are unable to attend, consider joining us at Montevideo, MN on June 25, Chatfield, MN on June 28, or Norwood, MN on July 9. For more information, visit http://z.umn.edu/fielddays or contact Liz Stahl at stah0012@umn.edu or 507-372-3900, or Jeff Coulter at coult077@umn.edu or 612-625-1796.

Events:

June 16th, 22nd & 23rd (Wednesday, Tuesday & Wednesday) is the **Conservation Drainage Sessions** at 3 locations in the Minnesota River Watershed. If you are an agricultural producer, ditch and tile contractor, watershed professional, etc. you will have the opportunity to learn about the very latest drainage technology design which has the ability to save ground water and many other things. Session 1: LeSueur County Environmental Services Center in LeSueur, MN. Session 2: Arlington Community Center in Arlington, MN. Session 3: Redwood Falls Community Center in Redwood Falls, MN. All session begins at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. There is no charge.

<u>June 23rd (Wednesday)</u> is the "**Wheat Day" Walk-n-Talk** at 1:00 p.m. at the Stangler farm near Kilkenny, MN. Lunch will be provided and served at 12:30 p.m. The field day will begin with presenters (Doug Holen, Phil Glogoza, Dick Stangler and Jill Sackett) and end with a tour of small grain fields. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507.238.5449 or by email at sacke032@umn.edu or you can contact Diane Stouffer at 507.380.6098 at stouffer-edu is the "Wheat Day" Walk-n-Talk at 1:00 p.m. at the Stangler farm near Kilkenny, MN. Lunch will begin with presenters (Doug Holen, Phil Glogoza, Dick Stangler and Jill Sackett) and end with a tour of small grain fields. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507.238.5449 or by email at sacke032@umn.edu or you can contact Diane Stouffer at 507.380.6098 at sacke032@umn.edu or you can contact Diane Stouffer at 507.380.6098 at sacke032@umn.edu

<u>June 24th (Thursday)</u> is the **Women Rockin' Conservation** at the Chippewa County Courthouse from 4:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Come and enjoy an evening out focusing on women landowners and natural resource protection.Dinner included. Bring a friend! RSVP by June 22nd. For more information call 320.269.2139 ext. 3 or email <u>jean.diggins@mn.nacdnet.net</u> <u>June 24th (Thursday)</u> is a **Redwood River Paddle** from County Road 6 to Lake Redwood sponsored by Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). Please register by June 16th by calling RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext. 2.

<u>June 25th (Friday)</u> is **On-Farm Field Day: Agronomic Management for Alfalfa-Corn Rotations**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m (12:30 p.m. registration) in Montevideo, MN. Learn about corn agronomics, starter fertilizer, conservation tillage, potassium management for alfalfa and nitrogen cycling. A plot tour will also be included. For more information contact Jeff Coulter at <u>coult077@umn.edu</u> or 612-625-1796 or Jodi DeJong-Hughes at <u>dejon003@umn.edu</u> or at 507-337-2816.

<u>June 25th, 26th & 27th (Friday, Saturday & Sunday)</u> is **Riverfest in Dawson**. Enjoy many free events at Riverfest. You will need a \$5 Riverfest Button to enjoy the opening and the Celebrate Dawson! show. More information can be found at

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Dawson-Riverfest/124127390943146?ref=ts.

<u>June 29th (Tuesday)</u> is **Weed Watchers Awareness Training** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Danver's Community Conter. For more information visit http://www.popeswcd.org/

June 29th (Tuesday) is a **Beyond Coal to a Clean Energy Future** presentation from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the New Ulm Public Library. Come for a presentation on how Minnesota can lead the way beyond coal power to a clean energy future. Learn about Minnesota's progress in alternative energy, discuss New Ulm's energy future, and find out how you can take action. To RSVP or for questions contact Jessica Tatro at jessica.tatro@sierraclub.org or call 612-659-9124. For more information visit www.northstar.sierraclub.org

<u>July 9th (Friday)</u> is **On Farm Field Day: Agronomic Management for Alfalfa-Corn Rotations**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (12:30 p.m. registration) in Norwood, MN. Learn about potassium management for alfalfa, dairy forage nutrition, weed management and alfalfa stand termination, starter fertilizer and nitrogen cycle. A plot tour will also be included. For more information contact Jeff Coulter at coult077@umn.edu or 612-625-1796 or Nathan Winter at wint0146@umn.edu or at 800-587-0770.

<u>July 12th (Monday)</u> is **Ginkgo Propagation**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Madelia, MN. A tour of a Ginkgo propagation farm right here in Minnesota. Kun Hung will share his experiences with propagating and growing Ginkgos in the colder climate of Minnesota. Attendees will also be able to see bonsai, lotus and water lily species. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

<u>July 15th (Thursday)</u> is **Valuing Ecosystem Services – MN Happenings**. 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Jordan, MN. The event focuses on what we are doing to better link agriculture, the environment, and our communities in the Lower and Middle Minnesota River Watersheds and throughout Minnesota. There will be many speakers and discussions of environmental programs as well. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

<u>July 17th (Saturday)</u> is **Kimball Corner Pasture Walk**. 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Ordin, MN. The tour features a demonstration of high tensile fence building, a pasture walk and grazing discussion. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn from experts in the industry and to visit with other farmers/ranchers and see some ideas that may work on your farm/ranch. For more information and/or to preregister by July 15 call Rural Advantage at 507-238-5449 or send an email to kim.ruraladvantage.org

<u>July 19th (Monday)</u> is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in New Ulm, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

<u>July 20th (Tuesday)</u> is **Direct Marketing from the Farm**. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Belle Plaine, MN. Join Heidi Morlock and Ann Houghton to hear about their experiences with marketing their goods directly from the farm. Other local experts will be available to answer questions on marketing, licensing and much more. For more information contact Jeff Jensen at 507-238-5449.

<u>July 20th (Tuesday)</u> is a **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.at the Max's Grill (2425 West Lincoln Avenue) in Olivia. For more information visit www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com

July 29th (Thursday) is **Ecosystem Services in the Greater Blue Earth**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Mountain Lake, MN. A field day devoted to ecosystem services and markets. Attendees will hear about the development of CMM, visit a CMM demonstration site, and learn more about ecosystem services and market-based opportunities in the Greater Blue Earth and Minnesota River Watersheds. For more information contact Brooke Hacker at 507-345-4744 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

<u>July 30th (Friday)</u> is **Moths at Midnight** from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Learn about moths and observing them.

For more information call Molly Stoddard at 218-998-4486 or email her at molly_stoddard@fws.gov

<u>August 3rd, 4th & 5th (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)</u> is **Farmfest 2010** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Gilfillan Estate, Redwood County. For more information visit http://www.farmshows.com/ffst/index.po

<u>August 18th (Wednesday)</u> is **RiverNight 2010**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Harriet Island in St. Paul, MN. Join us as we honor individuals and groups have achieved great things for their lake or river. Help celebrate Minnesota's spectacular and unique waterscape with great food, great company, and a sunset cruise down the Mississippi. For more information or to request an invitation call 800-515-5253.

<u>August 20th (Friday)</u> is the **Agroecology Summit**. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Windom, MN. Come and enjoy speakers on the topic of "Farming for Ecological Services and Maximum Yield". Stay for lunch and tours. For more information contact Tony Thompson at 507-831-3483.

<u>August 23rd (Monday)</u> is **Cover Crops and Alfalfa Mulch**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Madison, MN. Attendees will hear an explanation of Fernholz's alfalfa mulch research and will learn about utilizing various cover drops in organic or conventional agriculture systems. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

<u>September 3rd & 4th (Friday & Saturday)</u> is **Riverblast 2010** in New Ulm, MN (Center and Front Streets). For more information visit <u>www.riverblast.org</u>

<u>September 10th (Friday)</u> is **Waterfest** at Barsness Pak in Glenwood. An event for 6th grade students from Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit http://www.popeswcd.org/

<u>September 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 28th & 30th (Tuesdays and Thursdays for two weeks)</u> is **Outdoor Education Days** located in the Bisek Woods near New Prague. For more information visit http://www.scottswcd.org/

<u>September 16th (Thursday)</u> is **U of M – Waseca SROC Open House**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Visit the Rural Advantage booth! Learn more about 3rd crops, the Madelia Model, cover crops and more. For more information contact Jeanette Williams at 507-837-5612.

<u>September 18th (Saturday)</u> is a **Minneopa State Park Prairie Restoration** from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Harry Meyering Center staff and individuals served invite the public to gather, sort, and scatter the seeds of wild flowers and grasses at Minneopa State Park in a project to restore areas of prairie land. For more information go to http://www.greatermankatoevents.com/event-details.php?id=9307

<u>September 20th (Monday)</u> is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Montevideo, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

<u>September 22nd (Wednesday)</u> is **Perennials for Biomass**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Attendees will watch short videos of the biomass harvests from fall 2009. We will then drive to the demonstration site from last fall to view the re-growth of the hybrid poplar and hybrid willow after a year of growing time. Landscape position plots will also be available for viewing as well as other close by biomass plots utilizing grass species. For more information contact Dr. Gregg Johnson at 507-837-5614 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

<u>September 23rd (Thursday)</u> is **Conservation Day** at SWELL located in rural Cyrus. This even is for 5th grade students in Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit http://www.popeswcd.org/

October 5th & 6th (Tuesday and Wednesday) is a **Nobel Conference - Making Food Good** at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. For more information visit http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2010/

November 2010 are the Prairie Harvest Field Days. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, Morris and

Windom, MN. Learn about research being done by Dr. Clarence Lehman and colleagues, discuss benefits of using prairie plants for renewable fuels, view the harvest plots, hear about fall 2009 results and observation. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449 or at sacke032@umn.edu

<u>November 15th (Monday)</u> is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Gaylord, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

<u>Program gives jobs to teens, fresh produce to restaurant</u> (MPR). On a vacant lot in a run-down Duluth neighborhood, two raised beds are set on a sloping expanse of sand. The beds are full of soft, rich-looking soil.

<u>Crews monitor Minn. waterways as part of 10-year project</u> (MPR). Waterway monitoring crews have begun their work throughout the state to track the health of the state's rivers, streams and lakes over a 10-year period.

<u>Klobuchar formaldehyde bill clears Senate</u> (MinnPost). Legislation sponsored by Sen. Amy Klobuchar that aims to create the toughest standards in the world on formaldehyde levels in wood products passed the Senate today by unanimous consent.

Klobuchar, Franken join colleagues in urging oil spill clean-up fund (MinnPost). Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken joined most of their Democratic colleagues in demanding that BP create a \$20 billion fund for clean-up and environmental damage repair from the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

Oberstar, Bachmann react to Obama's speech (MPR). MPR's Morning Edition interviewed Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar and Republican U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann on Wednesday for their reaction to President Barack Obama's speech on the Gulf Coast oil spill.

<u>Take-a-Kid fishing a fun lesson for all involved</u> (Star Tribune). How do you get kids hooked on fishing? Start by giving them a chance.

<u>A direct talk on oil disaster</u> (Mankato Free Press). President Barack Obama's decision to speak to the nation tonight in a televised speech from the Oval Office is an indication of the seriousness — environmentally, economically and politically — of the growing disaster in the Gulf.

<u>Can Minnesota have a renewable energy supply?</u> (MPR). In his Oval Office address, President Obama urged the country to unleash American innovation to create a green energy future. How can Minnesota get from here to there?

Minnesota's quiet energy pigs (MPR). A study finds 75 percent of desktop computer electricity use occurs when no one is actually using their computer.

<u>2,600 deer test negative for chronic wasting disease</u> (MPR). More than 2,600 deer tested during deer hunting last fall were negative for chronic wasting disease, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said Tuesday.

<u>Ban on feeding deer moves forward</u> (New Ulm Journal). Putting food out for deer could soon be illegal in New Ulm.

Are mosquitoes bugging us less this summer? (Star Tribune). Metro area residents may be slapping themselves less silly this mosquito season. "So far it's shaping up to be a medium-size brood," said Metropolitan Mosquito Control District spokesman Mike McLean, noting results from the swat team's most recent weekly bug count Monday.

<u>Edible garden sprouts amid Richfield concrete</u> (Star Tribune). Can you grow apples in a tiny garden bed in the midst of a sea of concrete. Or blueberries in a raised bed on a sidewalk?

Gardeners find common ground (Star Tribune). At 27, Kelly Gaspar was in tune with the zeitgeist.

A new foil for the emerald ash borer (MPR). Emerald ash borers are expected to spread in Minnesota.

<u>State plans to introduce wasps to combat ash borer</u> (MPR). The state of Minnesota plans to introduce stingless wasps to help eradicate the emerald ash borer.

<u>Future of parks and public spaces</u> (MPR). City and state government budgets are tight, so where does that leave parks? As it turns out, some parks go from a wild idea to reality with the help of private funds.

Rumored trout lake sparks woodsy trek in the Boundary Waters (Pioneer Press). We took our last spin around Boot Lake at twilight, our canoe paddles knifing through placid waters, our fishing rods rigged for smallmouth bass and pike.

Minnesota-made beach cleaning machines help in gulf (MPR). Machines made in Minnesota, are being used to clean up beaches affected by the Gulf Coast oil spill.

<u>Duck-killing snail found in Crow Wing</u> (Star Tribune). A species of snail linked to the deaths of tens of thousands of ducks in Minnesota has spread to a popular recreational river, prompting the state to draw up restrictions.

<u>From farm to fork</u> (Star Tribune). Whether it's a farmers market, a back-yard garden, or a share in produce from Community Supported Agriculture delivered weekly, you don't have to go far to find fresh fruits and vegetables.

<u>Climate-energy bill cost for consumers: up to \$146 a year</u> (MinnPost). A stalled climate-energy bill in the Senate got a boost this week from federal regulators who reported it would not be too costly, then from President Obama.

Resolution on greenhouse gases fails, could boost energy bill (MinnPost). Democrats and environmentalists took satisfaction in the defeat in the U.S. Senate Thursday of a resolution that would have stripped the Environmental Protection Agency of its authority to regulate greenhouse gases.

<u>DNR acquires 200 acres in western Minn. in \$2M deal</u> (MPR). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has finished a \$2 million deal to acquire 200 acres of land on Dead Lake near Fergus Falls.

New Ulm wins energy makeover (New Ulm Journal). The City of New Ulm's streak of luck continued this week.

Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz leads national mayors' group to check Gulf oil spill (MinnPost). Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, who's also the president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, will lead a delegation of the nation's mayors to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast on Monday.

Keep pressure on BP (New Ulm Journal). Oil continues to spew into the Gulf of Mexico from a BP deepwater oil well that went bad in April.

<u>State widens raw milk investigation</u> (MPR). The state's raw milk investigation apparently has expanded beyond the farm linked to an E. coli outbreak that sickened eight people.

<u>From nature preserve to ATV track?</u> (Star Tribune). Grant Yonke's back yard borders pristine Sandhill Crane Natural Area in East Bethel, filled with hundred-year-old trees, nesting cranes, rare turtles and wildflowers.

<u>Summer looms at Minnesota State Parks</u> (MPR). Minnesota's newest park, Lake Vermilion State Park, opens for limited activities later this summer.

A better way to clean up old dry-cleaning sites (MPR). Pollution control crews began using a new technique on Wednesday to clean up tainted soil and water at a site near Duluth, hoping they have found a simpler and cheaper way of dealing with cancer-causing chemicals often traced to old dry-cleaning sites.

Red River pollution threatening Lake Winnipeg (MPR). The harbor here comes alive before dawn, as commercial fishing boats head out to harvest walleye, whitefish, northern pike and perch, plying the waters before winds kick up on 250-mile-long Lake Winnipeg.

<u>Despite occasional lulls, wind energy sails ahead in Minnesota</u> (MinnPost). Stately rows of wind turbines towering over Minnesota corn and soybean fields might be looking a bit more attractive — and even patriotic — these days, as we watch tens of thousands of barrels of crude spewing each day into the Gulf of Mexico, and see pictures of those oil-spattered birds.

<u>Bill McKibben on global warming</u> (MPR). Environmental activist Bill McKibben warned of the dangers of global warming 20 years ago.

<u>Science of cleaning oil from ocean marshes</u> (MPR). Booms, manmade sand banks and flushing fresh water into the Gulf are some of the options for attempting to restore the coastal environment after the oil has seeped in.

<u>The Mears Park revival</u> (MPR). Kae Peterson went almost a century without swearing. But when she saw a skateboarder strutting around Lowertown's Mears Park, beer in hand, she told him to get out.

Park officials offer 14 options for trail through Edina (Star Tribune). The sprawling, much-loved metro trail system is finally at Edina's door.

<u>Toxic algae found in Little Canada lake</u> (Star Tribune). Round Lake in Little Canada is not a lake the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District typically monitors.

The marsh, to him who enters it in a receptive mood, holds, besides mosquitoes and stagnation, melody, the mystery of unknown wates, and the sweetness of Nature undisturbed by man. - Charles William Beebe

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance: http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

Thanks,		

Scott Kudelka

Scott

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