

FY2014 SE MN Soil Health Providing Accelerated Technical Assistance (C14-6698)
ELINK report – first 50% expended and next 40% requested

January 1 to September 30, 2016

- Completed EQIP applications and seeding plans for 10,722.2 acres in eight counties totaling \$1,682,342.00 in EQIP funds.
- Participated in four teleconferences with GLCA and the grazing specialists.
- Attended Winter Crop Days, GLCA/Grazing Specialists meeting, Forage for U workshop, 2016 Crop Management meeting, and State Soil Health meeting.
- Coordinated sign up of 16 cooperators for the LCCMR SE MN Cover Crop and Soil Health Initiative who enrolled 1049 acres in demonstration plots for a two-year study. Completed maps, seeding plans and contracts. Helped organize two winter workshops in St. Charles and Owatonna. Assisted BWSR staff with purchase of rain simulator. Conducted rain simulator demonstrations at the Mower County Fair, Tim Walz field day, Freeborn County field day, LCCMR field day and the MASWCD Area 7 fall meeting. Participated in a teleconference (May) and meeting (June) for project planning. Met with the cooperators and U of M staff who are conducting an economic analysis of cover crop use. Prepared soil sampling maps for the plots.
- Provided technical assistance for grazing management plans for four producers in Winona County and two in Fillmore County. Attended the Grazing School in Grand Rapids. Provided a tour for U of M veterinary students of pasture grazing systems and a feedlot. Assisted NRCS with grazing checks and GPSing a fence.
- Assisted NRCS with cover crop and grazing standards and attended two CSP committee meetings in the state office in September.
- Attended NRCS Local Work Group meetings in two counties.
- Attended one NRCS MRBI meeting.
- Updated Ecological Sciences TAA with NRCS.
- Helped coordinate Fillmore SWCD cover crop program; nine contracts covering 711 acres.
- Attended four meetings of the Fillmore/Mower Soil Health Team and was interviewed by AgriNews about the soil health team. A tour was held in August with the team. Traveled to Carlton County with NRCS to present information there about soil health teams.
- Presented soil health information at Cow/Calf Days in Rochester and LeSueur, Midwest Forage Association in Rochester, spring and fall MASWCD Area 7 meetings, SE MN Envirothon, and MN Beginning Grazing School. Conducted rain simulator demonstrations at the Mower County Fair, Tim Walz field day, Freeborn County field day, LCCMR field day and the MASWCD Area 7 fall meeting. Also interviewed on KAAL Channel 6 news during the Mower County Fair.
- Assisted NRCS with trainings for NRCS and SWCD staff: seed training Feb. 23-24, seed ID in July in Albert Lea and Rochester, and fence and pipeline training in July in the same two locations.