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MCGA offering conservation innovation grants for the second year

Farmers who are interested in improving nitrogen reduction, water quality, soil conservation, or comparing farming software should apply by Dec. 15, 2016

SHAKOPEE, Minn. (Aug. 24, 2016)- Minnesota corn farmers will once again have the opportunity put their innovative conservation ideas into action through the Minnesota Corn Growers Association's (MCGA) Conservation Innovation Grant Program. Proposals on how to better manage nitrogen, protect water quality, or compare farming measuring tools are being accepted through Dec. 15, 2016.

MCGA, working alongside the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC), is offering a total of \$255,000 in Conservation Innovation Grants to any Minnesota corn farmer seeking to test or develop an innovative or best practice in the following areas:

- Nitrate loss reduction
- Improved nitrogen management practices for Minnesota soils
- Maintaining or improving water quality
- Innovative soil conservation practices, or
- Comparing and contrasting the measurable values of large data set decision tools.

“These innovation grants are a great opportunity for Minnesota farmers to develop and showcase their ideas to better manage nitrogen and reduce loss towards protecting water quality,” said Dr. Paul Meints, MCGA’s Research Director.

Corn farmers in Minnesota support about \$4 million every year through respected research institutions like the University of Minnesota to address issues that corn farmers are facing every day. The Conservation Innovation Grant Program would allow farmers to put their own ideas to the test and examine how other farmers in Minnesota might be able to replicate that idea on their farm.

“We know there are great new ideas out there and we want to assist those farmers to develop them and discover better options for Minnesota corn farming,” Meints said.

The deadline to apply is 3 p.m. on Dec. 15, 2016. Successful and non-successful applicants will be notified by March 15, 2017.

For additional details about the program, including a complete application packet, go to www.mncorn.org and click on “Research RFPs” under the research menu. Applicants can also contact Dr. Paul Meints at (952) 460-3601 or pmeints@mncorn.org.



Cutline: “This farmer used a MCGA Conservation Innovation Grant to modify a piece of equipment so he can plant cover crops while also applying in-season nitrogen fertilizer.”