

# Water Quality Issues to Watch in 2018:

- Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule
- Soil Loss Regulation

**Moving Ahead: Implementing Best  
Management Practices Proven through  
Research**



# Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule

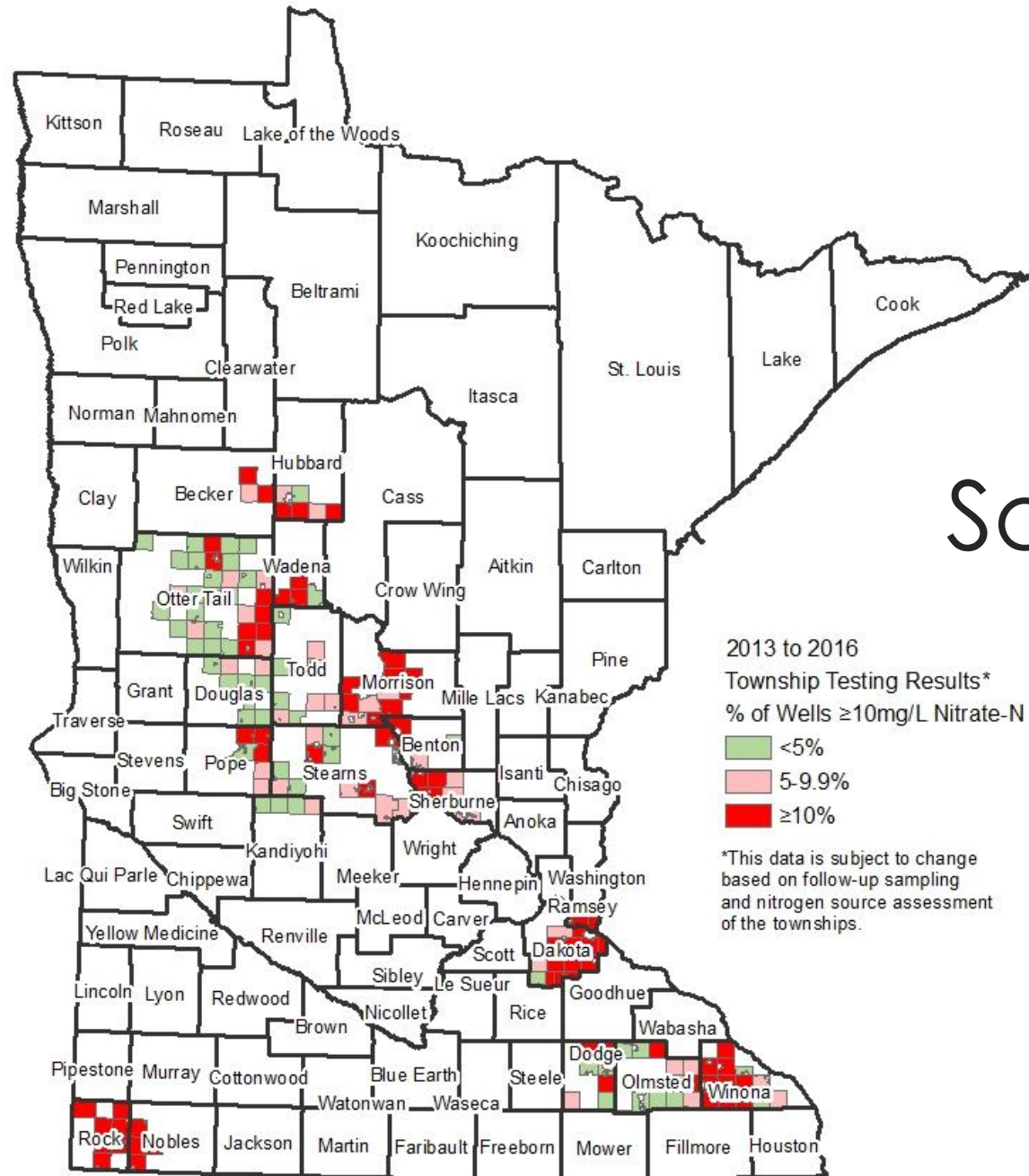
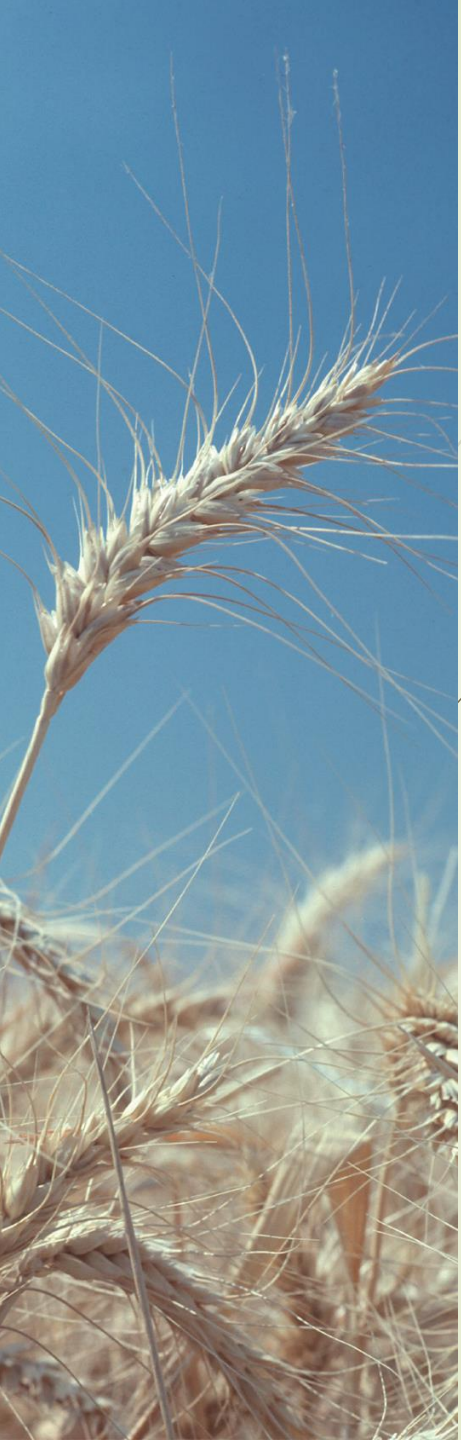
- A product of the Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan as revised in 2014
- The NFMP is the state's blueprint for minimizing groundwater impacts from the use of nitrogen fertilizer
- Approximately 95% of private drinking water wells in Minnesota are safe in terms of nitrate-nitrogen concentrations
- BUT, private wells in about 200 townships may be at risk





# Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule

- MDA leading assessment of private wells, expects to test approximately 70,000 wells in townships considered to be at risk
- To date, 20 townships have been identified where more than 10% of private wells do not meet nitrate-nitrogen standard, this number is likely to grow to around 50 townships (out of 2,775)



Source: MDA



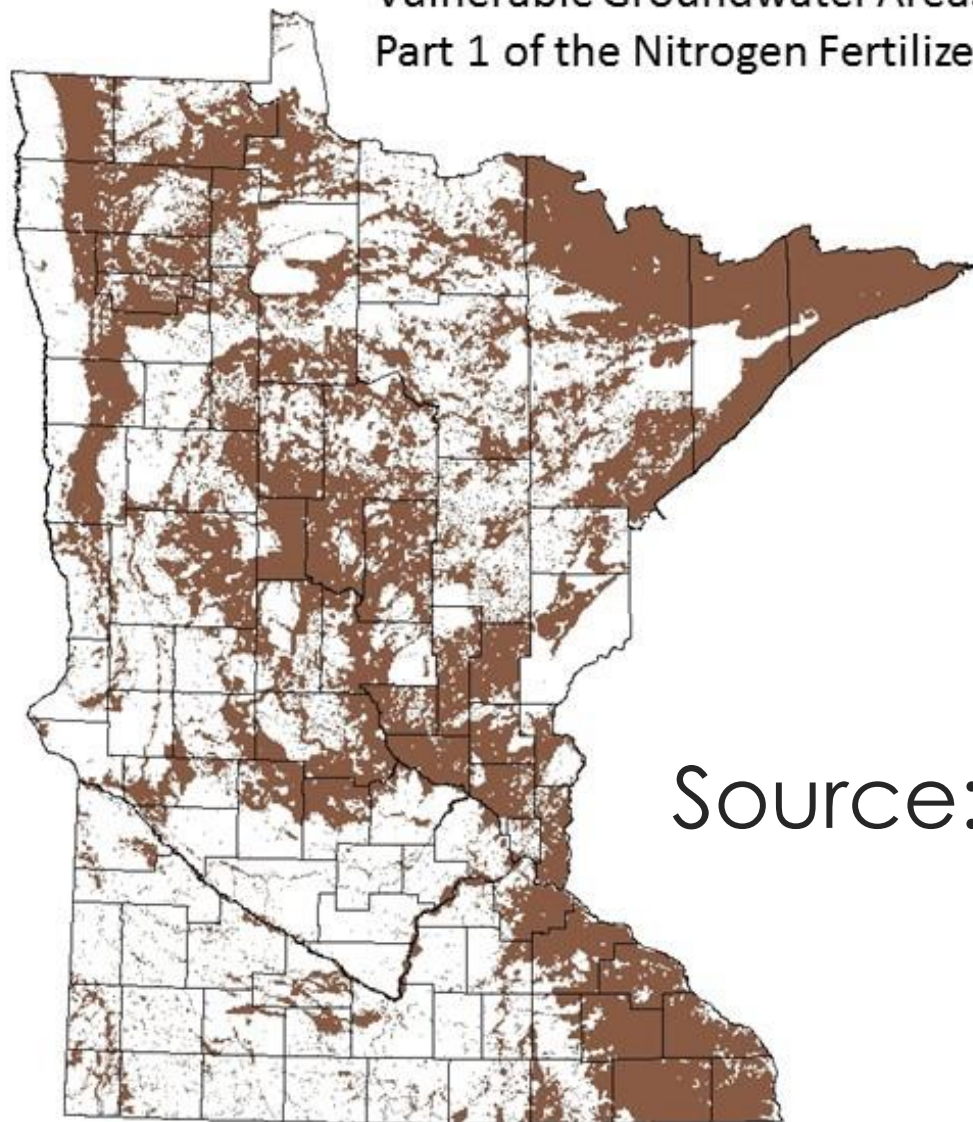


# Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule

- Draft Proposed Rule includes 2 parts
- Part 1 prohibits all fall commercial nitrogen fertilizer applications on vulnerable soils as identified by the MDA
- Part 2 provides for additional restrictions where more than 10% of private wells in a township exceed drinking water standard or a public water supply well is approaching the standard



## Vulnerable Groundwater Areas Subject to Part 1 of the Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule



Source: MDA

 DRAFT Vulnerable Groundwater Areas





# Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule

- According to the MDA, the plan is a “logical and flexible approach”, and
- “as long as farmers readily adopt voluntary BMPs, it is very unlikely regulations on nitrogen fertilizers will be developed”



# Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule

- More than 800 comments submitted during preliminary comment period
- Comments will be reviewed by MDA
- Rule will be released in final form for 30-day comment period
- Highly likely that the rule will result in a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge





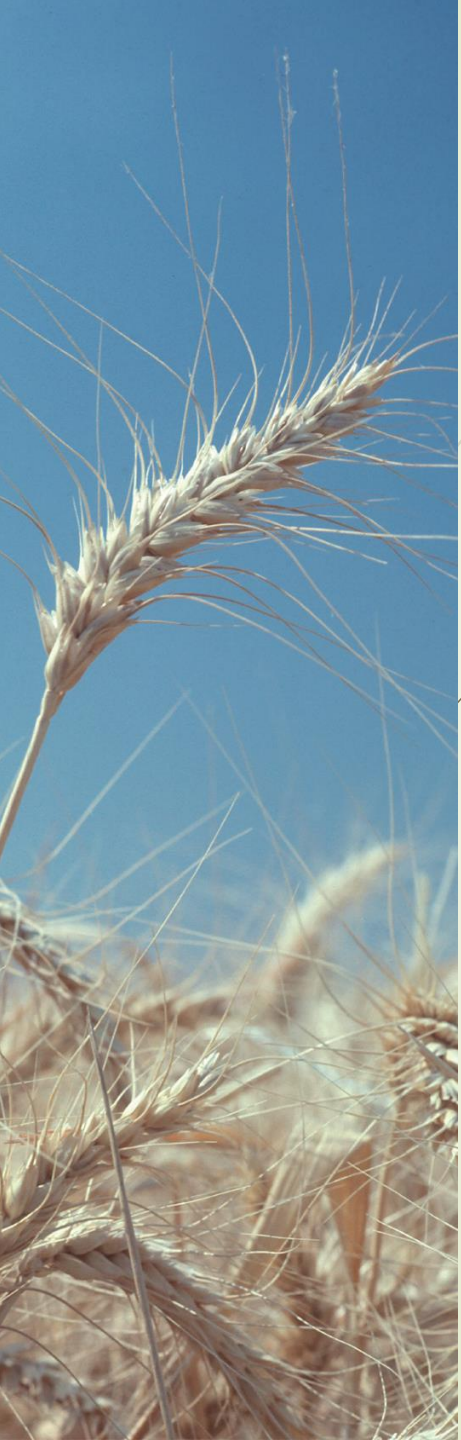
# Soil Loss Regulation

- Included in 2015 Buffer Legislation
- BWSR has developed Interim Guidance and in process of further developing the rule
- Complaint based
- Landowner required to address soil loss through cost-share programs or be subject to administrative penalty up to \$500

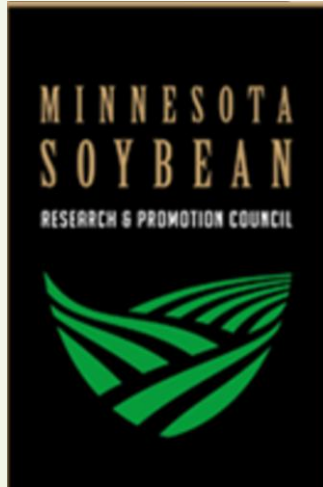
# What to do?

- **Are all regulated issues addressed?**
  - **Keep informed**
- **Is soil loss under control?**
  - **No visible soil loss**
- **How do your yields stack up?**
- **What are your nutrient efficiency numbers?**
  - **Gather information from your own fields**
  - **Compare to relevant research numbers**





# A Big THANK YOU to our funders-



More info at [www.discoveryfarmsmn.org](http://www.discoveryfarmsmn.org)





# Questions??

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