Contact Us for More Information

If you are interested in finding out about publications related to water quality issues in Minnesota, contact your local county extension office, or write the Distribution Center, 3 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, 1420 Eckles Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

The Minnesota Extension Service, the statewide education outreach arm of the University of Minnesota, uses research from the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station to focus on central issues that affect the lives of Minnesotans.

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CLEAN WATER

Everybody's Concern

Agricultural Experiment Station
Minnesota Extension Service

University of Minnesota

CLEAN WATER

Everybody's Concern

We Minnesotans have taken a lot of pride in our natural resources. But, we may also have taken the quality of our water for granted. Lately we've become increasingly aware of its importance. Like our "10,000" lakes, our ground water has been recognized as a priceless resource.

Our ground water can be contaminated from many sources. And water quality problems can't be solved by just one community, agency, or research group. The Minnesota Extension Service and the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station understand that a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach is the only way to research the problem, suggest solutions, inform and educate.

How Does the Minnesota Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station Address Water Quality Concerns?

We draw on many of our specialists, from county agents to soil scientists, 4-H youth development specialists to agricultural engineers, and Sea Grant researchers to forest resource specialists. We draw on our network of cooperative relationships with state and local agencies throughout Minnesota. We build on our tradition of producing research-based, practical educational programs for communities, youth, farmers, home-owners, and citizen-action and professional groups.

The Minnesota Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station Focuses on Priorities

- Assessing the impacts of agricultural practices on water quality.
- Assuring safe drinking water for families and communities.
- Managing waste, including agricultural, industrial and household waste, to prevent water contamination.

Experiment Station Research Helps Find the Answers

The University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Stations' Center for Agricultural Impacts on Water Quality, with the cooperation of state agencies, local communities, individual farmers and industry, is:

- Determining the impact of nitrogen fertilizers and pesticides on ground water.
- Studying infiltration and water movement through agricultural soils to ground water.
- Evaluating the potential use of sludge incinerator ash as a fertilizer source.
- Testing and refining agricultural management recommendations for maintaining water quality.

Extension Provides the Education

The Minnesota Extension Service is providing specific and practical education on several water quality issues, for many different audiences.

- MES Conducts programs and produces publications for rural residents an other homeowners on water quality, including well-water testing.
- MES trains pesticide users in safe and proper use of pesticides.
- MES teaches children in 4-H camps about water quality and conservation.
- MES trains installers of on-site sewage treatment systems.

We Look at the Issue Comprehensively

We can't maintain or increase the quality of our water by looking at the problem from only one angle, or considering only one solution. The Minnesota Extension Service and the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station are actively involved in bringing together all the resources needed to assure the quality of our most precious resource, water.