

UMN-AFREC Communications Update

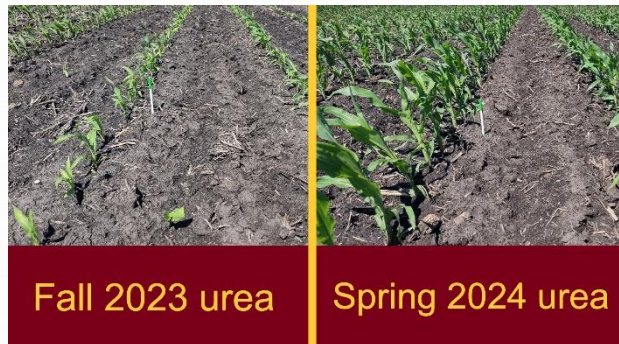
Here is a recap of UMN-AFREC communications work in April, May and June 2024, and a look at what is happening in the months ahead

QUICK NOTES

- In May, the Minnesota Legislature extended the AFREC program through 2030, with some changes. Contact AFREC Research Coordinator Bruce Montgomery (afrecmonty@comcast.net) with any questions.

APRIL

- Fabian Fernandez presented to the Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy about [AFREC's role in protecting water quality](#). Two print handouts on this topic were also made and distributed to legislators.
- In our April podcast episode, Dan Kaiser, Jeff Vetsch, and Seth Naeve discussed [soybean fertility](#), garnering over 1,000 clicks.
- Dan Kaiser wrote about nutrient management issues to watch out for in fields with [unharvested sugarbeets](#). He also discussed sugarbeet nutrient management on NDSU's [Sugarbeet Report podcast](#).
- Dan Kaiser promoted [FRST \(the Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool\)](#) on the blog. Dan was interviewed about the tool for articles in [AgWeek](#) and [DTN/Progressive Farmer](#).
- Brad Carlson's blog post on [fertilizer costs, profitability, and overapplication](#) tallied 1,800 views. It led to a [Linder Farm Network video](#) with Brad.
- Dan Kaiser's post about [sulfur for soybean](#) earned over 1,300 views.



Fall 2023 urea

Spring 2024 urea

U of M researchers and educators have been actively responding to the latest conditions as farmers and advisors seek to make informed supplemental nitrogen decisions.

- Anna Cates and colleagues summarized their research on [field workability and soil health](#) in a blog post.
- In AgWeek, AFREC Ex Officio member Jeff Kosek sounded the alarm about [what losing AFREC would mean for Minnesota](#), Dan Kaiser discussed [nitrogen requirements for dry edible beans](#), and Jeff Strock and Lindsay Pease addressed [drain tile and disease reduction research in dry edible beans](#).

MAY

- Dan Glessing, president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, talked about AFREC in the Minnesota Legislature on the [Linder Farm Network](#).
- Warren Formo recapped the 2024 AFREC-funded nutrient management conferences for [The Farmer Magazine](#).
- Dan Kaiser, Jeff Coulter, Yuxin Miao, and Fabian Fernandez examined [current research on nitrogen and sulfur](#) for the May podcast episode.

- Brad Carlson and Dan Kaiser debuted the Advancing Nitrogen Smart series of podcasts and videos with an [introductory post](#). The first two podcast episodes were on [nitrogen placement](#) and [statewide nitrogen BMPs](#).
- Lindsay Pease did three AFREC-sponsored Soil Fertility Minute radio spots on the Red River Farm Network this quarter, including one on her [AFREC drainage research project](#).

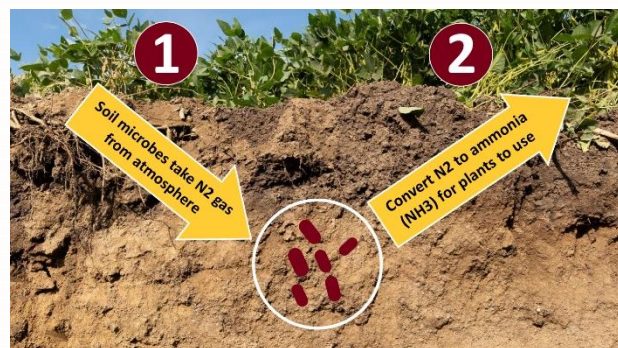
JUNE

- Brad Carlson's blog post on [supplemental nitrogen](#) received over 2,200 clicks and was highlighted in [DTN/Progressive Farmer](#).
- Our June podcast episode on [nitrogen-fixing biological products](#) featured Dan Kaiser, Carl Rosen, and two out-of-state guests: Emerson Nafziger from the University of Illinois and Dave Franzen from North Dakota State University. The post garnered over 2,000 clicks and was covered in a [DTN/Progressive Farmer feature article](#).
- In the middle of June, we put out an emergency podcast on [supplemental nitrogen](#) with Dan Kaiser, Fabian Fernandez, Jeff Vetsch, and Brad Carlson. The episode received over 1,700 clicks.
- Advancing Nitrogen Smart continued with podcast episodes on [nitrogen carryover](#) and [sidedressing](#), as well as several timely [short videos](#).
- Vasu Sharma blogged about [irrigation timing after a rainy start](#).

- There were three AFREC Spotlight radio segments on the Linder Farm Network this quarter: Fabian Fernandez on [sidedressing nitrogen](#), Vasu Sharma on her [AFREC nitrogen and irrigation study](#), and Dan Kaiser on [sulfur availability](#).
- For media appearances, Melissa Wilson was interviewed for an article in the print edition of [Manure Manager](#) on her ManureDB project and Brad Carlson was interviewed by [Brownfield Ag News](#) about nitrogen loss.

LOOKING AHEAD

- George Rehm will be posthumously awarded the Agricultural Communicators Network's [2024 Distinguished Service Award](#) in August. Members of George's family will accept the award at ACN's conference.
- The AFREC summer meeting will take place on August 12-13 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and the Rosemount Research & Outreach Center.



Our June podcast on nitrogen-fixing biological products was one of the most popular in recent years. The episode was downloaded 522 times in the first 30 days.

