

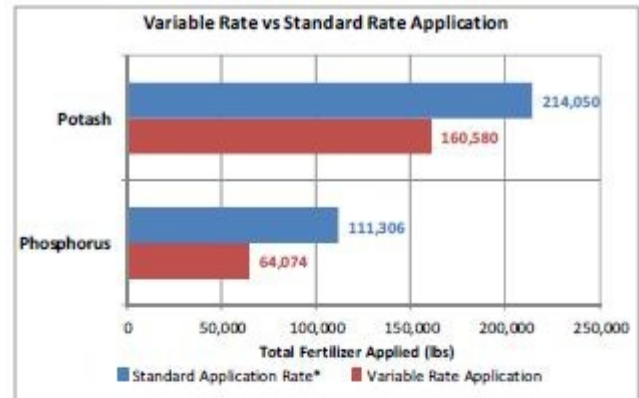
Watershed District Begins Expanded Targeted Fertilizer Program

The Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) is excited to announce an expansion of their targeted fertilizer program. Begun in 2009, the initial phase focused on demonstrating the environmental and economic benefits of assisting agricultural producers in the switch from a standard fertilizer application approach to a targeted, variable fertilizer application approach for their fields. The results demonstrated that less fertilizer was used to achieve maximum yield results. Less fertilizer equals cost savings for the producer and less polluted runoff entering CRWD waters from fields—a true win-win.

As such, the CRWD applied for and received a federal grant to assist in expanding the program. The program focuses on two things: 1) Enrolling 16,000 acres in the watershed above Lake Betsy into the program, 2) Demonstrating that the results from the initial phase carry over to the expanded program area. Preliminary estimates hold that a potential phosphorus reduction of 700,000 lbs. is possible, which translates into a massive benefit for water quality in the CRWD lakes and streams. Check out the map on the back of this flyer to see the program service area.

The CRWD is working with local cooperatives in the actual delivery of the program. They will be working with producers from enrollment through soil testing through fertilizer application. Flip to the back of this flyer to read more about how the program works.

The CRWD is looking for producers in this area to enroll their acreage into the program. The benefits, for water quality and for the producers bottom line, have been demonstrated. Now let's realize these benefits on a large scale! Contact the CRWD office or your local co-op for more information about enrolling.



Data from 2010 indicates that the variable-rate fertilizer application resulted in a 42% reduction in applied phosphorus and a 25% reduction in applied potash when compared to standard-rate application.



Data from 2010 indicates that the variable-rate fertilizer application resulted in an average cost savings of \$14.60 per acre for phosphorus fertilizer and \$5.96 per acre for potash.

Looking for more information?

Flip to the back of this flyer to see answers to frequently asked questions, as well as a map of the program service area.

Frequently Asked Questions: Targeted Fertilizer Program

Question (Q): How do I enroll my acreage?

Answer (A): You can enroll by contacting your local co-op to see if they are offering the program. Enrollment is contingent on your acreage being within the program service area. See the map below. If your co-op does not offer the program, contact the CRWD office (320-274-3935) to discuss enrollment.

Q: How does the program work?

A: Once enrolled, the co-op conducts gridded soil testing on your acreage. These tests determine the amount of fertilizer each grid needs for maximum yield potential. Then, the co-op returns to apply the correct amount of fertilizer for each grid across your fields using GPS-aided application technology. The process is repeated twice in a five year period, with final application no later than Spring of 2016. The program expires that year. Talk with your co-op to learn more about how the program works.

Q: What is the program going to cost me?

A: The District will cover the cost of the soil testing, and \$2.50 per acre for the GPS-aided fertilizer application. You cover the difference on said application plus the cost of fertilizer. However, based on the initial phase of this program, that cost will more than be offset by cost-saving

from the purchase of less fertilizer and/or an increase in yield due to better fertilizer uptake by field crops.

Q: What are the long-term goals of the program?

A: The program seeks to accelerate the adoption of targeted fertilizer application over standard fertilizer application by producers in the program area. By providing an initial incentive, the CRWD hopes to see producers adopt this practice as a new standard for fertilizer application.

Q: Has this been done on neighboring fields?

A: Yes! Before this program was expanded, a pilot program was conducted on 1,427 acres near Watkins and Kimball, MN. The results indicated environmental and economic benefits were realized by a producer switching from standard fertilizer application to targeted variable application. The CRWD has secured a federal grant, allowing the program to expand.

Q: How is this program being financed?

A: The program is being financed by a federal grant administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the CRWD through the Clearwater River Chain of Lakes Restoration Project.

**Program
Service
Area
Map**

