

The same training is likely to cost significantly more after the initiative ends in June 2009.

Register at
<http://tsp.umn.edu>

For More Information

Go to <http://tsp.umn.edu>,
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Sponsorship and Partners

The Minnesota Conservation Training Initiative is funded by the state's Clean Water Legacy Act through June 2009 with the objective of increasing the state's capacity to help farmers and other private landowners address impaired waters. The funds are provided through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR).

Major partners in the design and delivery of the Minnesota Conservation Training Initiative include:

- University of Minnesota Extension
- UM Water Resources Center
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR)
- Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)
- Great Lakes Regional Water Quality Conservation Training Program

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Minnesota Conservation Training Initiative

<http://tsp.umn.edu>

Conservation Training Opportunities

for:

- Private agricultural consultants
- Technical Service Provider certification
- Other private and public-sector conservation and ag professionals

The MN Conservation Training Initiative. . .

. . .provides a low-cost path to certification or credentials for private and public technical professionals who advise farmers and other landowners on conservation practices and programs.

Technical Service Provider (TSP) Certification

Some of these courses help prepare professionals seeking certification or re-certification by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as TSPs in Minnesota. Once certified, TSPs can provide the technical assistance needed by farmers and other private landowners to plan and implement practices funded by USDA conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). For more information about TSP certification, go to <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/> and click on "Technical Service Provider".

Demand for these services is likely to grow as more Minnesota waters are designated impaired by nonpoint source contaminants such as excess sediment, nutrients, bacteria and pesticides.

Minnesota Nutrient Management Planning

January 22, 2009 in Owatonna

This course provides most of the training necessary to become certified to prepare nutrient management (NRCS Practice 590) plans for USDA conservation programs. A "case farm" approach gives participants a working understanding of plan components. The course covers NRCS program policies, manure and fertilizer management, sensitive area identification and management, and plan implementation.

RUSLE2 Soil Loss Model: Part I - Introduction Part II - Advanced with MNPI

Introduction:

January 21, 2009 in New Ulm

Advanced, with MN P Index:
February 4, 2009 in New Ulm

These sequenced courses provide a basic understanding of the principal tool for estimating sheet and rill soil loss rates on fields. Familiarity with RUSLE2 is **required** for professionals who work on nutrient and/or pest management plans, the Land Treatment component of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs), and Land Treatment-Tillage and Erosion for tillage and erosion control practices. This year, the advanced session will include an introduction to using the MN Phosphorus Index.

Field Evaluation for Conservation Practices (formerly "Land Treatment")

April 1, 2009, New Ulm

This course focuses on identifying and reducing soil loss and runoff on crop fields receiving nutrient applications. It is **required** for professionals working on the Land Treatment component of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) or Land Treatment-Tillage and Erosion for tillage and erosion control practices, and **recommended** for those who work on nutrient or pest management plans.

Ag Resource Assessment

February 18, 2009, Hutchinson

This course trains participants to assess the production resources and natural resources of a farm operation using a combination of existing indices, spreadsheets, and ratings. The course is targeted at ag consultants and other professionals who work with farmers. Participants will learn to provide clients with a concise description of the environmental impact of their operation. A resource assessment is the first step in preparing a whole farm conservation plan.

Livestock Environmental Quality Assurance (LEQA)

March 24-25, 2009, Mankato

Learn the assessment, planning, and assurance skills needed to be a LEQA technician and rate farms for the 5-Star Livestock Environmental Quality Assurance Program. Participants will learn how to assess a farm operation and describe how it stacks up with regard to environmental issues. The course is presented by Ag Resource Strategies (www.agresourcestrategies.com) and funded by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Prescribed Burning and Wildland Fire Control

February 2009, Willmar

Three courses are offered in February that meet training standards for private contractors who burn on lands of CRP and RIM, MN DNR, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service.