

UMN-AFREC Communications Update

Here is a recap of UMN-AFREC communications work in January, February and March 2025, and a look at what is happening in the months ahead.

QUICK NOTES

- In 2025, attendance at the Nitrogen Conference reached 168 (82 in person, 86 online), and the Nutrient Management Conference was 185 (80 in person, 105 online).
- Four new members joined the AFREC Board: Craig See, Craig LaPlante, Warren Formo, and James Checkel. Learn more in [this post](#).

JANUARY

- January's podcast on [the last 25 years of nutrient management](#) featured Fabian Fernandez, Dan Kaiser, Brad Carlson, Jeff Vetsch, and Carl Rosen. It had 243 listens and over 1,200 clicks on the accompanying blog post.
- Fabian Fernandez and Brad Carlson discussed [the economics of nitrogen management](#) in a Strategic Farming: Let's Talk Crops webinar, which was picked up by Worthington Globe.
- Dan Kaiser discussed the results of a [nitrogen and sugarbeet timing study](#) with the Red River Farm Network, Fabian Fernandez promoted the [2025 Nitrogen Conference](#) on the Linder Farm Network, and Brad Carlson talked about post-2024 N loss concerns and the results of [ad hoc N loss studies conducted at Waseca](#), also with Linder Farm Network.
- In January media appearances Farm Connections featured Dan Kaiser discussing [fall fertilizer best management](#). Paul McDivitt was interviewed for an Agweek article on [communicating nutrient management](#)



Brigid Tuck
Senior Economic Analyst, University of Minnesota Extension

Senior Economic Analyst Brigid Tuck outlines a potential \$159M benefit for the State of Minnesota's economy and an environmental reduction of 33,000 tons of N fertilizer in a new video.

[research](#), and Brad Carlson and Fabian Fernandez also appeared in Agweek about [fertilizer management after the excessive rainfall in 2024](#). Brad Carlson discussed [farm fertilizer costs in 2025](#) with The Farmer, and Melissa Wilson [made a case for sidedressing](#) in Manure Manager.

FEBRUARY

- Lindsay Pease, Melissa Wilson, Jeff Vetsch and podcast newcomer Bailey Tangen discussed [recent research on cover crops and nutrient management](#) for the February Nutrient Management Podcast episode.
- Fabian Fernandez summarized his [top four takeaways from a decade of nitrogen research on corn](#) in a popular blog post. It also appeared in No-Till Farmer and Farms.com.
- Dan Kaiser recorded two radio spots for the Red River Farm Network - a research

update on [N and dry bean in NW MN](#), and the [economics of enhanced efficiency fertilizers](#). On the Linder Farm Network, Fabian Fernandez promoted the [2025 Nutrient Management Conference](#), and Melissa Wilson reported on takeaways from [liquid dairy manure on sugarbeet research](#).

- In other media appearances, Brad Carlson and Jeff Strock each spoke about the snowfall deficit's impact on farmers; Brad Carlson on [KTTC TV in Rochester](#), and Jeff Strock to both [MPR](#) and the MilleLacs Messenger. Dan Kaiser discussed [ammonium and K research](#) for The Minnesota Corn Podcast. KSMQ Public Television ran a Farm Connections segment on [plant tissue sampling with Dan Kaiser](#).

MARCH

- The Spring [2025 Soil Fertility Podcast](#) annual episode featured Dan Kaiser, Fabian Fernandez, Brad Carlson, and Jeff Vetsch. It was also the topic of a feature article by [DTN / Progressive Farmer](#).
- Fabian Fernandez and Paul McDivitt authored a blog post about the [Probing Our Soil Health project](#). It was originally published Feb 6, and republished on March 17 due to demand, earning a combined 1,300 clicks and appearing in Morning Ag Clips.
- Chryseis Modderman's [manure composting article](#) was posted to the blog, and Jack Wilcox published links to

[conference videos](#) - both posts appearing in Morning Ag Clips.

- Paul McDivitt contributed a newly produced [AFREC economic analysis video](#) and [handout](#) to the Insights Blog.
- In media appearances for March, Jack Wilcox promoted the MN Crop News Blog to corn growers on the [Linder Farm](#) and [Red River](#) networks. Brad Carlson appeared on KSMQ TV discussing [N application in saturated soils](#), and his N Smart event in Rochester focusing on nitrates in groundwater was promoted on [RRFN](#), in [Agweek](#) and by [The Land](#). Chryseis Modderman's [spreader calibration article](#) was posted again in Manure Manager, and the Nutrient Management Podcast was listed as one of the top 100 [best agronomy podcasts](#) by Million Podcasts.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Watch for updates to MNSoilFertility.com, like plain-language content, optimizations to help make articles easier to discover, and lots more.
- Upcoming articles and podcasts include Lindsay Pease summarizing the 2025 Drainage Convention, Dan Kaiser, Carl Rosen and Fabian Fernandez discussing cation balancing on a podcast episode, Anna Cates providing a Soil Erosion Summary, and Brad Carlson recommending caution when considering using yield maps with VRN.



the [Nitrogen and Nutrient Management](#)