



UMN-AFREC Communications Update

Here is a recap of UMN-AFREC communications work in April, May and June 2026

April

- The annual Spring Fertilizer Outlook episode of the Nutrient Management Podcast ran in April. Dan Kaiser, Brad Carlson, Lindsay Pease and Jeff Vetsch discussed [fertilizer planning and recent market volatility](#). The episode earned over 1,500 clicks.
- Brad Carlson and Jeff Vetsch went in-depth on the [pre-sidedress nitrate test](#) in an Advancing Nitrogen Smart podcast episode. Carlson was also featured in two short videos: one on [denitrification in early June soils](#) and the other on the [effectiveness of nitrification inhibitors](#).
- AFREC member Warren Formo wrote for The Farmer about [Minnesota farmers' progress on production and sustainability](#).
- On the blog, Vasu Sharma outlined several considerations as Minnesota farmers weigh [investing in variable rate irrigation technology](#) while Extension educator Tim Gieseke summarized a March [precision drainage event](#) which provided resources and tools for farmers.
- Media appearances included Dan Kaiser in AgWeb on [sulfur deficiency](#), Melissa Wilson in Agweek on [manure application sensors, the ManureDB database, and more](#), and Brad Carlson on the Red River Farm Network on [nitrogen application best management practices](#).



A group of AFREC members and partners toured northwest Minnesota ag and research sites in May. A photo tour of the trip is available on [AFREC's Facebook](#).

May

- Professor emeritus John Lamb joined Melissa Wilson and Dan Kaiser for a podcast episode all about [sugarbeet nutrient management](#).
- An article summarizing [Dan Kaiser's four-year AFREC-funded study on potassium application for corn and soybeans](#) earned over 1,100 clicks and was picked up by Agri-View and Strip-Till Farmer.
- Two "AFREC Spotlight" radio spots ran on the Linder Farm Network: Dan Kaiser on [phosphorus recommendations](#) and Vasu Sharma introducing her [new AFREC-funded project studying irrigation and conservation practices like cover crops and reduced tillage](#). On the Red River Farm Network, Dan Kaiser talked about [dry edible beans' nitrogen needs](#) in an AFREC-sponsored "Soil Fertility Minute" radio spot.

- May was a busy month for media appearances. [AFREC's northwest Minnesota tour](#) led to two articles in Agweek: one on Lindsay Pease's AFREC research on the [effects of drain tile installation on yields and nutrient loss](#) and the other on research addressing [soybean challenges in the Red River Valley](#). Brad Carlson, Jeff Vetsch, Emerson Souza and Fabian Fernandez were quoted in an Agweek article on the [pre-sidedress nitrate test](#). Lastly, Dan Kaiser lent his [expertise on nutrient management](#) on the Hoard's Dairyman Podcast.



Dan Kaiser's oat nitrogen plots near Rochester already show some clear differences in June of year one of this AFREC-funded project.

June

- An article highlighting Dan Kaiser's data and insights on the [nitrogen to sulfur ratio corn](#) earned over 1,300 clicks and was picked up by No-Till Farmer and Farms.com.
- Vasu Sharma, Carl Rosen and Tim Gieseke paneled the Nutrient Management Podcast in June, discussing [irrigation practices and the importance of nutrient management BMPs](#).
- Brad Carlson and Dan Kaiser discussed [sidedressing nitrogen](#) in a timely podcast episode. Kaiser also appeared in two short videos from his Rosemount research plots: one on [optimal timing for the pre-sidedress nitrate test \(PSNT\)](#) and the other on [interpreting PSNT results](#).
- Jack Wilcox wrote a feature article about ["the manure prof" Melissa Wilson and her research](#) for Extension News. Wilson's research on manure timing and nitrogen availability was also covered by [Agweek](#).
- Three AFREC-sponsored radio spots ran on the Linder Farm Network and the Red River Farm Network: Brad Carlson on [sidedressing tips](#), Lindsay Pease on [nutrient management in a strip-till sugarbeet system](#), and Dan Kaiser on [efficient phosphorus management](#).
- A handout summarizing [key takeaways from the Minnesota Ag Retail Survey](#) was produced and shared on the AFREC website.
- In other media, research by Dan Kaiser and Seth Naeve was cited in an article on [iron deficiency chlorosis in Minnesota](#) by Sergio Cabello Leiva, research director at the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council. Dan Kaiser [cautioned about the risks of boron toxicity for soybeans](#) in an AgWeb article, AFREC member Warren Formo wrote about [farmers leading the way to cleaner waterways](#) for The Farmer, and AFREC member Craig LaPlante was interviewed by [Agweek](#) about his experience converting to no-till.