

Water Quality Partnerships:

How farmers, the state &
the public can find a better
way forward

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The background of the slide is a photograph of the Wisconsin State Capitol building, a large white neoclassical structure with a prominent dome. In the foreground, there is a green lawn with a circular bed of red and yellow tulips. A vertical white line separates the title text on the left from the bulleted list on the right.

Where the legislature can help

- Support farmer-led conservation groups
- Rethink the nonpoint program
- Provide resources for soil-depth mapping and groundwater testing
- Revise standards for wells and septic systems
- Open the door to innovation & new technology
- Ensure proposed rule revisions will help

Support farmer-led conservation groups

- What are farmer-led conservation groups?
- Why do they matter and how do they help?
- State funding was recently increased to \$750,000.
- Small investments are paying big dividends.
- DBA is involved in making these groups a success.



Rethink the nonpoint program



- Are we getting the results we need from ATCP 50 & NR 151?
- The program has never been adequately funded.
- With low adoption rates, how do we know what is working?
- What is the right direction for the program going forward?

Provide resources for soil-depth mapping and groundwater testing



- We need up-to-date information to make decisions.
- Data needed for NR 151.
- We also need to understand the scope of our challenges.
- Baseline information is essential to charting our progress.

Revise standards for wells and septic systems

- We all have a role to play.
- There are improvements that can be made statewide.
- We may want to consider targeted regional standards.
- Rural residential growth makes this discussion even more important.



Innovation & new technology

- Promote the use of manure irrigation
- Allow the use of vegetated treatment areas (VTAs)
- Rethink how we classify feed pad runoff
- Simplify approvals for manure treatment systems
- Create a viable future for digesters on dairies



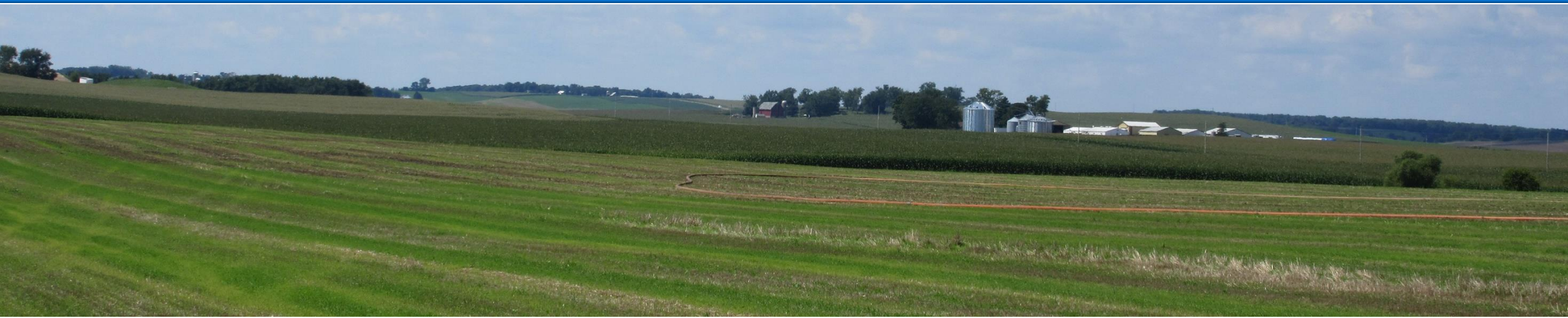
Ensuring proposed rule revisions help



- ATCP 51 – Livestock facility siting
 - Concerns about how VTAs are treated
 - Concerns about setbacks
- NR 151/NR 243 – Targeted nitrate standards
 - NR 151 & NR 243 don't reach many farms.
 - How can we tackle nitrate concerns?



And now a few words about CAFOs...



- Question your assumptions about large farms
- Make sure all farms are performing as they should, regardless of size
- CAFOs may be a big part of the solution, not the problem
- This not mean that we can't rethink some aspects of our CAFO program
- This will need this to be a collaborative process to be successful

Any
questions?

