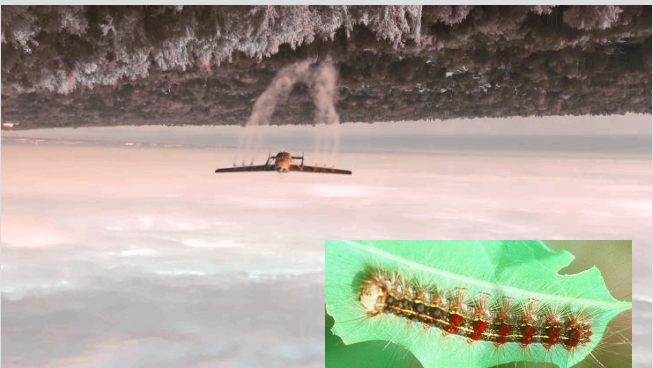


# SWCD STREAM

## Early Notice of Proposed Spongy Moth Treatment

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is proposing seven areas for spongy moth management in Wabasha County. Spongy moth management is done to control the spread of spongy moths, an invasive, destructive forest pest that can cause damage to trees, has economic impacts, and can cause human health problems. You can find more information and register for a virtual public meeting on April 7 from 6-7 p.m. by visiting [www.mda.state.mn.us/smmaanagement](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/smmaanagement).



NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WABASHA MN  
PERMIT NO. 5

## March - April 2026 News

- We are still accepting orders for our plant and tree sale. Check out current inventory by looking on the website or calling the office. We have a lot of containers left to choose from!
- Tree Tubes are still available to order but may arrive after tree pickup
- Free well tests are still available through the MN Dept of Health. Call to learn more.
- We are still conducting our well inventory, inventory your well today to protect your water for generations to come.
- Interested in no-till cost share at \$20 an acre? Call the office and ask for Ella to learn more.

## GOLDEN OYSTER




## WANTED

Golden Oyster mushrooms, with their sunny yellow caps and nutty flavor, have become wildly popular for being delicious and easy to grow at home. This food craze has also unleashed this invasive species into the wild. Mushroomers have not been studied much as invasive species, but mycologists have demonstrated that this invasive fungus can cause environmental harm and can take over ecosystems. They displace native fungi and disrupt food webs at the very base level. Currently, there are no management strategies to control Golden Oyster mushrooms at this time but people are encouraged to forage where they have been accidentally released into the wild and to not purchase home grown kits. To ID, look for bright yellow to golden brown caps, which become deeply depressed or funnel shaped. Golden Oyster mushrooms are often found in dense, clustered groups on dead hardwood logs. They feature white to pale yellow gills that run down the stem. While relatively easy to distinguish, check for lookalikes before consuming.

Contact Katelyn Abts at 651-560-2045 or [Katelyn.Abts@mn.nacdn.net](mailto:Katelyn.Abts@mn.nacdn.net) for questions

## WABASHA SWCD'S MOST WANTED INVASIVE SPECIES



Wabasha County Soil & Water Conservation District  
611 Broadway Ave #10  
Wabasha, MN 55981  
(651) 565-4673  
[WabashaSWCD.com](http://WabashaSWCD.com)

## Join a Local Farmer Led Group- The Driftless Area Ag Alliance

We would like to spotlight the Driftless Area Ag Alliance (DAAA), a local farmer-led group in our area. DAAA currently has 18 farmer/supporter members who are committed to conservation work here in southeast Minnesota. The group looks to improve soil and water health in our area by adopting innovative conservation technologies in their fields, and on their farms, and sharing those experiences with one another. DAAA hosts multiple events each year to provide up-to-date information about conservation technologies and topics, as well as showcasing efforts

being made by group members. Visit their website to learn more about becoming a member of the DAAA and to find information on upcoming events! [driftlessareaag.org](http://driftlessareaag.org)



## Clarification from our Jan/Feb Newsletter

The winter manure application guide that we published in our Jan/Feb Newsletter are the guidelines for large livestock facilities over 1,000 Animal Units. For those with less livestock numbers, the manure spreading guidelines are a bit more relaxed. Please refer to the MPCA Land Application: Minimum Requirements publication, with the web link below. This publication details manure management requirements such as manure nutrient testing, nitrogen and phosphorus application rates, manure management plans and record keeping. See page 5 of the publication for more information on setback requirements. For more information on other sensitive land features for manure applications, Page 5 of the publication provides a link to more details on "Applying Manure in Sensitive Areas". Read the publication with this link <https://rb.gy/76kcoe>. Questions, please contact Deanna at (651) 560-2060

## Tight Profit Margins?

### How to Reduce Inputs & Increase Net Profit

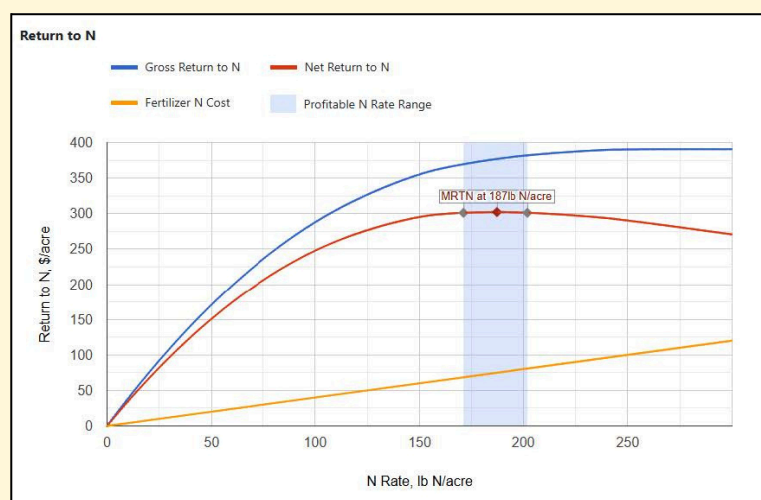
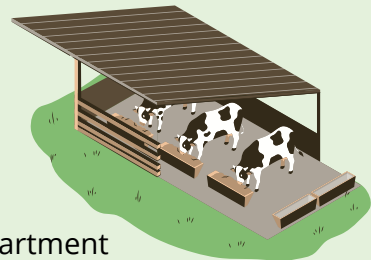
Each year the cost of cropping inputs (seed, fertilizer, fuel, herbicide) increase but crop prices remain the same, causing tight profit margins. Looking closer at our inputs; specifically nitrogen, where can cuts be made while maximizing profits?

In 1974, University of MN Extension recommended applying 1 pound of nitrogen for each bushel of corn you hoped to harvest. This recommendation only took corn yield into account and not economics because fertilizer was relatively cheap and yield goals were lower. Over the years, corn hybrids have become more efficient at utilizing nitrogen, providing higher yield goals with less nitrogen. Today's U of MN Extension's nitrogen rate recommendations take into account over a decade of research and farm economics to determine the best nitrogen rates to achieve your yield goals while considering costs.

Applying a profitable nitrogen rate can be a win-win for farmers and the environment by limiting the overapplication of fertilizer and manure. **Does it make sense to put on another 10 pounds of nitrogen, if your expected yield response for this addition doesn't pay for the added fertilizer expense?** Applying nitrogen to

## Participating in our Well Inventory Can Protect You and Your Herd

We encourage people in the county to submit a well inventory form for a variety of reasons; to ensure that their water supply is mapped and accounted for in case of emergency like a chemical spill and to provide possible outreach on solutions for well owners in areas where water contaminants may be present. Both of these factors also apply to not only human health but livestock too. Like humans, livestock can also face side effects of poor water quality. Nitrates in water can affect overall herd productivity. Nitrate levels in water alone often don't cause issues for cattle, but when combined with feed that may be high in nitrate side effects can occur. Toxicity from nitrates cause cattle to eat less, therefore lowering their performance. Whether that means not gaining as much weight for beef cattle or producing as much milk for dairy cattle. Iron and manganese are also pollutants found in groundwater which can have negative effects on livestock such as reduced milk production. Overall, here at Wabasha SWCD we not only want to protect the humans we work with here in Wabasha county but their animals too! By submitting a well inventory form your helping protect water for generations to come (both people and animals)! Free well testing is currently available through the Minnesota Department of Health. Check our website for more details on well testing and our well inventory! Or give us a call!



maximize yields can cost you money and may lead to significant nitrogen loss to the environment through leaching to groundwater and denitrification into the atmosphere.

### Maximum Return to Nitrogen (MRTN)

Current U of MN Extension's nitrogen fertilizer guidelines are based on studies conducted around Minnesota. The U of MN Extension in partnership with other midwestern universities have developed an online calculator that provides your Maximum Return to Nitrogen (MRTN) rate, which is the nitrogen rate local research shows will maximize your net profit on corn. The graphs above depicts the data behind the tool's calculations.

**Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator:**  
<https://www.cornnratecalc.org/>

To use the tool, select your state and crop rotation, then enter your nitrogen source, cost and crop price. If you don't know your prices, the tool does have default numbers, you can use. Check out this tool, it may prove profitable for you.