

## **Report from March 1, 2006 Ag Workgroup Meeting**

The Ag Workgroup met on March 1, 2006 to discuss issues related to Nutrient Trading. The workgroup prioritized several issues and reached a consensus that the top issue to focus on and discuss was *What is Tradable*. The discussion resulted in the group deciding to move forward with the creation of an initial "Top 10 BMP List". This list needs to address and include the following factors:

- Defined BMPs that will be accepted.
- Nutrient Load Reduction Value of BMPs
  - Recognition of real values vs. estimated values when actual nutrient load reductions can be measured for individual operations.
- Defined Lifespan of BMPs
  - Account for increase/decrease of load reduction value over time.
- Conversion or retirement of farmland is not a tradable BMP.
- A buffer is tradable if it is above baseline compliance.

### Issues to clarify

- Any list adopted by the Department must have an expedient process for modification, by which new BMPs can be added and unsuccessful BMPs should be removed.
- Will, and if so, how will credit be given to historical/previously installed BMPs that are still currently functioning?
- Will BMPs be treated differently for earning credits, or how much of a credit does a farmer own depending on funding source i.e., Federal, State, Private

The Ag workgroup is planning to meet again later this month to begin development of an initial BMP list that will meet the above requirements and to discuss positions on the issues that still need clarification.