

09 - 0154



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

2008-2009 Cooperative Agreements

*Agreements Entered Into Pursuant to
M.S. 17.03, Subdivision 12*

Finance & Budget Division, 651-201-6002
625 Robert St. N., St. Paul, MN
www.mda.state.mn.us

January 15, 2009

Background

This report concerns work done by the Department of Agriculture with money provided by other entities pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 17.03, Subdivision 12, which states:

The commissioner may accept money as part of a contract with any public or private entity to provide statutorily prescribed services by the department. A contract must specify the services to be provided by the department and the amount and method of reimbursement. Money generated in a contractual agreement under this section must be deposited in a special revenue fund and is appropriated to the department for purposes of providing services specified in the contracts. Contracts under this section must be processed in accordance with section 16C.05. The commissioner must report revenues collected and expenditures made under this section to the chairs of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee in the house of representatives and the Environment and Agriculture Budget Division in the senate by January 15 of each odd-numbered year.

These contracts are referred to as Cooperative Agreements.

Contracts in effect during the 2008-2009 biennium

For the 2008-2009 biennium, three contracts are in effect pursuant the authority in M.S. 17.03, Subd. 12.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - \$50,000 contract

08-09 Revenues to date: \$ 621.36 (\$20,000.00 was received in 2007)

08-09 Expenditures to date: \$ 4,385.05

MDA receives revenues from TNC and provides infrastructure improvements to agricultural drainage systems on private agricultural land. The improvements at sites in Mower County include a woodchip bioreactor (2007), and two infiltration basins (2008). The primary purpose for these practices and designs are to filter nutrients, sediment, and reduce flows to the Root River.

Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition - \$277,400 contract

08-09 Revenues to date: \$22,627.09

08-09 Expenditures to date: \$17,515.40

Controlled drainage (structures raising water in tile lines within two feet from soil surface) are compared to conventional pattern tiling designs and practices. Results are generated to provide education material and accelerate the adoption of conservation practices. To date, these conservation drainage designs and infrastructure improvements have reduced in-flows and associated nutrient loads by 25%.

Organic Farm Performance - \$6,052.50 contract

08-09 Revenues to date: \$ 6,052.50

08-09 Expenditures to date: \$ 3,101.74

The Organic Farming Research Foundation of Santa Cruz, California awarded the MDA \$6,052.50 to produce, disseminate and publicize print and electronic versions of a report that summarizes the 2006 and 2007 financial and production performance of certified organic farms.